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THE HIDDEN JEWEL

God bequeaths to each of His children a *jewel*, a portion of His Being and Eternal Spirit. The purpose of meditation and all other spiritual disciplines and worship-dedications is to enable one to remove the many layers of sin-debris between his consciousness mind and the Jewel.

One *always* has the jewel. It is God's Eternal Gift to him. However, through ignorance, immaturity, and selfish motives, one adds layer after layer of dark thoughts, emotions and actions that cover the jewel with shadowy veils. These veils must be removed, one by one, until the aspirant becomes cognizant of the dazzling light of the jewel.

A Teacher of Truth gives his students the powerful scriptural tools with which to remove, quickly and effectively, each shadowy veil between the consciousness mind and the jewel.

Sacramental meditation, combined with prayer, fasting, and alms giving, produces mighty healing energies that remove veil after veil. Thus, he who dedicates his life to God as Truth comes into increasing clarity in thought, purity in emotion, and compassion in action. These noble expressions indicate that the devotee is drawing nigh to the jewel, which is God in him.

The ancient mantram, "*Hail to the jewel in the lotus*" is based up on the knowledge of the inner jewel that is experienced through love for the Creator – a love expressed through reverent meditation and through works of righteousness.

Meditation centered in Holy Law provides the perfect way one ceases to add new layers of darkness between him and the jewel. Jesus said, "*Go, and sin no more.*" The cessation of sinning enables one to work to remove the existing layers of darkness and to experience the joys and grace of expanding freedoms and gifts.

The aspirant who heeds his Teacher's instruction progresses through the diminishing and eliminating of the dark layers and the increasing of the sacred rewards and enlightenment-ecstasies that radiate from the jewel.

THE JEWEL IN THE LOTUS

Om Mani Padme Hum. -Ancient Mantram

"*Be still, and know that I am God*" (Psalm 46:10). For ages, the words *Om Mani Padme Hum*, meaning "Hail to the jewel in the lotus," have been contemplated, chanted, and

spoken by enlightened personages and by those seeking enlightenment. Through the sacred silence of sacramental meditation and through dedicated, selfless service to one's fellow man, the mysteries and secrets related to the *jewel in the lotus* are gradually discovered and eventually experienced.

Every thing, principle, law, virtue, and person imaged and created by God follows and fulfills the basic pattern of a lotus with its outer petals and central jewel. This central jewel within all that IS, is the *Godhead*.

The Godhead is the promised land; the land of milk and honey; the land of holiness and righteousness.

Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device.
-Acts 17:29

"Behold, the kingdom of God is within you" (St. Luke 17:21). The seeking of the Kingdom of God within oneself draws one ever closer to the Godhead. The classic route toward this inner Kingdom of Light, Grace, and Truth is called the Path: The Path of Righteousness, the Path of Virtue, the Path of the Higher Life. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus presented this important directive to His followers:

But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.
-St. Matthew 6:33

From the time of early Christianity until the present day, the symbol for a dedicated follower of the Christ has been the fish, for when one is devoted to the principles and worship observances taught by the Lord Jesus, he swims as a fish in the *ocean of divine grace*. The ocean of divine grace consists of infinite degrees and dimensions of holiness and righteousness.

"*I am the door*" (St. John 10:9). Jesus is the Door to all degrees and dimensions of holiness and righteousness within the ocean of divine grace. "*I am the good shepherd*" (St. John 10:11). As the Good Shepherd, He guides each sincere follower from the outer rim of the ocean toward the inner jewel or Godhead. "*The kingdom of God is within you*" (St. Luke 17:21). ❖

