

The Gifts of the Kingdom

Notes on Chapter 7 from *A Course in Miracles*

With Jon Mundy

As we go along on this journey through the Course please read through each chapter month by month, perhaps several times. This is very deep and profound work as it is the “undoing of what never was” (T-18.V.1:1), namely the ego.

Students of the Course, sometimes talk about “the hidden messages in the Course.” The messages are not hidden. They are also not immediately obvious because they are “blocked” by the ego, which cannot see the deeper meaning behind the “seeming” reality of the dream. The Course uses the words “seem,” “seems,” and “seemingly” 415 times. We, thus, read in Chapter 7:

To be in the Kingdom

is merely to focus your full attention on it.

As long as you believe you can attend to what is not true, you are accepting conflict as your choice.

Is it really a choice?

It seems to be, but seeming and reality are hardly the same.

You who “are” the Kingdom are not concerned with seeming.

Reality is yours because you are reality.

This is how “having” and “being” are ultimately reconciled, not in the Kingdom, but in your mind.

T-7.III.4:1-7

It is important to monitor our minds very carefully to catch our “mis-thoughts.” We don’t realize how much we are using our minds to keep misperceptions **seeming** real. The Course is about becoming more and more aware.

A Course in Miracles represents a clear path Home. If we follow this path we’ll not only find our way Home, we’ll more fully enjoy the journey.

I. The Last Step

Chapter 7 begins by talking about our Oneness. We then take a look at the *tactics* and *schemes* of the ego to maintain its illusory self. The tactic of the ego is, through the use of projection, to attack outward or inward. Projecting or attacking outward, we verbally do through thinking ill about another through overt accusations, blaming another to physically harming another, and by providing justification for genocide.

The word “genocide” did not exist sixty years ago. It was coined by Polish-born U.S. jurist Raphael Lemkin (1900-1951) in his work, *Axis Rule in Occupied Europe of 1944*. “genos” comes from the Greek meaning a “race” Genocide, therefore, means the systematic annihilation of a nation.

The body is our most obvious symbol of separation. There are three main ways in which the ego uses the body. **One is for attack.**

The whole world as other than God is, therefore, an attack on God. History is the story of one nation attacking another, one pope stepping on another pope, one leader defeating another, one schoolyard bully picking on someone weaker than himself.

Oneness

The creative power of God and His creations is limitless, but they are not in reciprocal relationship.

You communicate fully with God, as He does with you.

This is an ongoing process in which you share, and because you share it, you are inspired to create like God. Yet in creation you are not in a reciprocal relation to God, since He created you but you did not create Him.

T-7.I.1:1-8

King of the Hill

There was a game we used to play in grade school called, “King of the Hill.” One boy would stand on a mound of dirt and others would try to push him off. In Medieval Europe, various Lords would create massive castles with an enormous rampart, surrounded by moats and more. They would then defy anyone who would try to enter without permission. This is the way the ego works.

The ego thinks that it is stronger than God. It has succeeded in establishing a kingdom outside of the realms of God. God is then not the first cause, “I” am the first cause.

Aristotle asserted that God was the *prima causa* or the unmoved mover. Saint Thomas Aquinas, (1225 – 1274), picked up on the theme. According to Aquinas, there is nothing before God. God is the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end, and even more than that. God and Heaven stand outside of time and space - time and space being “limitations in form.”

The ego is “self-created” instead of “God created.” We are self-made men and women and we “worship our own image.” God created us, we did not create Him. This truth is a basic violation of the ego’s belief system.

*As God's creative Thought proceeds from Him to you,
so must your creative thought proceed
from you to your creations.
Only in this way can all creative power extend outward.*
T-7.I.2:3-4

This section begins by talking about **Creation**.
Creation is the extension of Christ.
It is also the extension of our Spirit.
As we **extend** our love – that is our **creation**.

God created us by extending himself. Creation is ongoing in Heaven, but again, not as we understand creation as something occurring in time. There is no time in Heaven, so it's not an evolutionary process though the ego sees it as evolutionary. **Thinking outside of time is very difficult for the ego as the ego lives innately in time – in a story in history.**

The extensions of Christ in the Course are creations. Remember: God, The Holy Spirit, and Christ are One, as you are One with them. There is no separation. We love those who precede us in death though they are not as we are, bound in space time.

*God's accomplishments are not yours,
but yours are like His.
He created the Sonship and you increase it.
You have the power to add to the Kingdom,
though not to add to the Creator of the Kingdom.*
T-7.I.1:2-5

God created the Sonship and we increase the Sonship. Again increase does not mean something which happens quantitatively. Love is already perfect, whole, and complete and it cannot be added on to.

*You claim this power when you become
vigilant only for God and His Kingdom.
By accepting this power as yours
you have learned to remember what you are.*
T-7.I.2:8-9

One of the things we can say the Course is *all about* is vigilance. One of the Lessons of the Holy Spirit, which we saw in Chapter 6, was *Be Vigilant Only for God and His Kingdom*. The Course refers to the importance of being *vigilant* or *vigilance* 37 times and most of those references occur in Chapters 4, 5, 6 and 7. It is obvious here in the beginning of the Course, we are being called upon to become more aware.

We are to be more and more aware of the ego and its silly games so that we can stop playing these silly games. A first step is “remembering” that we have a mind.

We are not talking about some creative act like writing or painting, though obviously if one puts one's love into one's creative endeavors, it would be an extension of love.

We can add to the power of the kingdom but we cannot add to the power of the creator. We claim this power when we become vigilant **only** for God and his Kingdom.

Creation, extension, or loving is something we do automatically, without thinking about it because it is the most *natural* thing in the world. There is God and his son who is you.

What we have here is a “reflection” of Heavens Oneness. We do not have “Oneness.”

God's creations always have been. Your creations always have been, not in time, but in eternity. There is no “twoness.” There is only Oneness. Our coming to this Oneness can only happen through our choosing to “remove the blocks to an awareness of our Oneness.”

The ego, on the other hand, always demands reciprocal rights, because it is competitive rather than loving.
T-7.I.4:1

The following is obviously Jesus speaking of himself:

*I gave only love to the Kingdom
because I believed that was what I was.
What you believe you are determines your gifts,
and if God created you by extending Himself as you,
you can only extend yourself as He did.
Only joy increases forever, since joy and eternity are
inseparable. God extends outward beyond limits and
beyond time, and you who are co-creator with Him
extend His Kingdom forever and beyond limit.
Eternity is the indelible stamp of creation.
The eternal are in peace and joy forever.*
T-7.I.5:1-5

II. The Law of the Kingdom

*What you project or extend is real for you.
This is an immutable law of the mind in this world
as well as in the Kingdom.*

T-7.II.2:4

Let's review – to project is to throw something outside of the mind, thus, making the world we envisage real for us. To **extend** means to love – whatever we see. This is a LAW of the mind in this world and in Heaven.

*Outside the Kingdom,
the law that prevails inside is adapted to
"What you project you believe."*

*This is its teaching form,
because outside the Kingdom learning is essential.
This form implies that you will learn what you are from
what you have projected onto others,
therefore believe they are.*

*In the Kingdom there is no teaching or learning,
because there is no belief.
There is only certainty.*

T-7.II.3:1-5

III. The Reality of the Kingdom

*How can you who are God's meaning perceive
yourself as absent from it?*

*You can see yourself as separated from your
meaning only by experiencing yourself as unreal.*

This is why the ego is insane.

It teaches that you are not what you are.

T-7.III.2:4-7

The body is as unreal as is the thought which made the body. The only way we can be absent from God's meaning is to be absent from the Mind. We are in a mindless state we call a body. The body is transitory, fleeting, and impermanent. In perceiving ourselves as a body, we also experience ourselves as being unreal – yet, we suspect that there is something “more than” the body. For this reason, we also repeatedly look for meaning outside of ourselves in the world of form.

If the ego is insane, then everything that comes from it must be insane. Everything which is separated and dualistic comes from an insane thought.

Yet you are always teaching.

*You must, therefore, be teaching something else,
even though the ego does not know what it is.*

*The ego, then, is always being undone,
and does suspect your motives.*

T-7.III.2:9-10

The “good news” is that there is always a right mind inside us, which will eventually get us Home. The “your” in the last quote above refers back to the decision-making part of the mind. This is the only place where real change can occur. The right mind will eventually lead all of us out of this mess, which the ego has created.

*Your mind cannot be unified in allegiance to the ego,
because the mind does not belong to it.
Yet what is "treacherous" to the ego is faithful to peace.
The ego's "enemy" is therefore your friend.*

T-7.III.2.12-14

When the mind decided for the ego – at the point of separation (which never occurred) the mind ceased to be a decision-maker. It then got trapped in the ego's story. As the ego came into power, the other part of our mind was not lost but it was suppressed, buried, and hidden away. Our task is to go back to the decision-making mind and to then decide for the ego.

We are afraid of the decision-making part of the mind or the Holy Spirit because that part of our mind is “calling us back” to reality, which means the loss of the ego. The ego is afraid that we will “choose once again,” and this time ego will be left out. Our real friend is the power of our mind to choose the Atonement instead of the separation.

There is no enemy because there is no ego.

The ego, however, is suspicious that there is a something (The Holy Spirit) who will one day usurp its power. Practicing the Course is a long slow process of undoing. We undo the ego as we become progressively more aware of what an incredible hold it has on us. This is why we are to be **Vigilant “only” for God and his Kingdom.** The ego does not want us to focus on the Kingdom and it keeps us from doing so by keeping our attention focused on the body and the world.

*As long as you believe you can attend to what is not true,
you are accepting conflict as your choice.*

Is it really a choice?

*It seems to be, but seeming and reality
are hardly the same.*

*You who “are” the Kingdom
are not concerned with seeming.*

*Reality is yours because you are reality.
This is how “having” and “being” are ultimately
reconciled, not in the Kingdom, but in your mind.*

The altar there is the only reality.

*The altar is perfectly clear in thought,
because it is a reflection of perfect Thought.*

Your right mind sees only brothers.

because it sees only in its own light.

T-7.III.4:1-10

IV. Healing as the Recognition of Truth

*Truth can only “be” recognized
and “need” only be recognized.*

*Inspiration is of the Holy Spirit,
and certainty is of God according to His laws.
Both, therefore, come from the same Source,
since inspiration comes from the Voice for God
and certainty comes from the laws of God.*

T-7.IV.1:1-3

***The Holy Spirit must work “through” you to teach you
He is “in” you. This is an intermediary step toward the
knowledge that you are in God
because you are part of Him.***

T-7.IV.2:1-2

***When you heal,
you are remembering the laws of God
and forgetting the laws of the ego.
I said before that forgetting is merely
a way of remembering better.***

T-7.IV.2:6-7

The Course is incredibly redundant. The phrase “I said before” appears 17 times in the Course as in, “*I said before that you must learn to think with God.*” (T-5.V.4:5).

We are forgetting what we are not – the ego and all of its problems. We forget the mask, the charades – eventually even the body is forgotten and laid aside so that we might remember **only** the truth of our reality as Spirit at one with God.

All incorrect perception introduces the idea of difference. There is a kind of perception which the Course calls, **Proper perception or correct perception**, which can lead us out of the maze that the ego pulled us into. The Course draws a distinction between the kind of perception which is of the senses, and therefore, limited and the kind of perception which is of the mind, *a priori*, thus, uncontaminated by the ego.

***The Holy Spirit teaches you to use
what the ego has made, to teach the opposite
of what the ego has “learned.”***

T-7.IV.3:3

The ego has learned how to fight. The ego has learned differences. The ego knows of anger and can easily be pushed to anger. It can get mad. It can and will attack. The ways of war are, however, never the ways of peace.

Interfaith is the only way that religion can proceed because only interfaith sees similarities rather than differences. Any religion which looks for differences is a separatist religion. The ego seeks to divide and separate. The ego knows only of division. Holy Spirit knows only oneness – only an expansion of the Kingdom.

It is insane to think one can oppose the Will of God. God has given us a gift that we both *have* and *are*. If, however, we do not use it – we cannot have it. We become by doing. A blacksmith hammers a hammer and the hammer hammers the blacksmith. A seeker after God must become that which he seeks. If anyone ever completed this process, Ken Wapnick did.

***Healing, then, is a way of approaching knowledge
by thinking in accordance with the laws of God,
and recognizing their universality.***

T-7.IV.6:9

We heal as we become whole. As we become whole, we heal the whole of the universal.

V. Healing and the Changelessness of Mind

The Course, like any effective process of growth and development is alchemy. It must be a kind of “working,” “growing,” “cooking” that goes on inside in order for it to come to fruition.

***When you heal, you are remembering the laws of God
and forgetting the laws of the ego.***

T-7.V.2:6

***To think you can oppose the Will of God is a real
delusion. The ego believes that it can,
and that it can offer you its own “will” as a gift.
“You do not want it.”***

***It is not a gift. It is nothing at all. God has given you a
gift that you both “have” and “are.”***

***When you do not use it, you forget that you have it.
By not remembering it, you do not know what you are.
Healing, then, is a way of approaching knowledge by
thinking in accordance with the laws of God,
and recognizing their universality.***

T-7.IV.6:1-9

V. Healing the Changelessness of Mind

The body is nothing more than a framework for developing abilities, which is quite apart from what they are used for. "That" is a decision.

The effects of the ego's decision in this matter are so apparent that they need no elaboration, but the Holy Spirit's decision to use the body only for communication has such a direct connection with healing that it does need clarification.

T-7.V.1:1-3

While the body is **nothing more** than a framework for developing abilities, it is also nothing less than a framework for developing abilities.

The ego uses the body as an APP

A = Attack, P = Pleasure and P = Pride.

All form of pleasure must be temporary. They last only for the moment – eating, drinking, sex – whatever the bodily pleasure may be, it lasts only as long as it is experienced. The pleasure must then be repeated, which opens up the possibility for addiction. Real pleasure, which comes in doing the Will of God, is ongoing.

Due to its heavy investment in the body and believing the body can give us pleasure; we also believe it can give us pain. (T-19.IV.A.17.11). Pain, the Course says *is the only "sacrifice" the Holy Spirit asks, and this He "would" remove* (T-19.IV.B.12:7). Pleasures of the body are, (because they are temporary) the Course says, as illusory as pain. The ego teaches that pleasures are of the body. Pain and pleasure are both means of making the body real.

Another "P" word we might use along with pride is *power*. The ego uses the body to obtain power for itself. The only power, of course, is that of the mind in line with the mind of God. This is an issue the Course discusses later on "the Authority problem."

Only minds communicate.

Since the ego cannot obliterate the impulse to communicate because it is also the impulse to create, it can only teach you that the body can both communicate and create, and therefore does not need the mind.

The ego thus tries to teach you that the body can act like the mind, and is therefore self-sufficient.

T-7.V.2:1-3

I do not want to share my body in communion because this is to share nothing.

Would I try to share an illusion with the most holy children of a most holy Father?

Yet I do want to share my mind with you because we are of one Mind, and that Mind is ours.

See only this Mind everywhere, because only this is everywhere and in everything.

It is everything because it encompasses all things within itself.

T-7.V.10:7-9

VI. From Vigilance to Peace

That is why attack is never discrete, and why it must be relinquished entirely. If it is not relinquished entirely it is not relinquished at all.

T-7.VI.1:3-4

The mind that accepts attack cannot love.
That is because it believes it can destroy love, and therefore does not understand what love is.

If it does not understand what love is, it cannot perceive itself as loving.

T-7.VI.2:1-3

True learning is constant, and so vital in its power for change that a Son of God can recognize his power in one instant and change the world in the next.

That is because,

by changing his mind, he has changed the most powerful device that was ever given him for change.

T-7.V.7:5-6

I have repeatedly emphasized that the ego does believe it can attack God, and tries to persuade you that you have done this.

T-7.VI.8:1

This goes back to the original moment when we chose the ego instead of the Holy Spirit. This is a choice we make over and over again thousands of times each day. The ego tells us that we have succeeded in separating ourselves from God and God is going to get us. God, of course, has never had anything but love for us and he is waiting for us to awaken from our dream of separation.

Keep in mind that what we really are is the Mind. Attack is now coming from all of the bodies around us.

Aware of its weakness the ego wants your allegiance, but not as you really are.

T-7.VI.8:4

On its own, the ego has no power. It, therefore, persuades us that we are better off – that we are safer as a body than as a mind. This is, of course, pure foolishness.

The ego therefore wants to engage your mind in its own delusional system, because otherwise the light of your understanding would dispel it.

T-7.VI.8:5

Your delusional system or my delusional system is simply the belief that it is possible to separate from God build my own world.

The ego seduces us into thinking that we can be autonomous, independent, free of God and special. We, thereby, identify the ego's delusional system. We, thus, affirm that we are a body and in so doing, we also see ourselves as mindless. Once we see ourselves as special, as a body, we also sense that we are homeless – not whole.

It wants no part of truth, because the ego itself is not true.

If truth is total, the untrue cannot exist.

*Commitment to either must be total;
they cannot coexist in your mind without splitting it.*

***If they cannot coexist in peace,
and if you want peace, you must give up the idea of
conflict entirely and for all time.***

*This requires vigilance only as long as you do not
recognize what is true.*

*While you believe that two totally contradictory thought
systems share truth, your need for vigilance is apparent.*

T-7.VI.8:6-9

We have aligned ourselves with an insane system of separation and allowed ourselves to become mindless.

*The Oneness of the Creator and the creation is your
wholeness, your sanity and your limitless power.*

***This limitless power is God's gift to you,
because it is what you are.***

***If you dissociate your mind from it you are perceiving
the most powerful force in the universe as if it were
weak, because you do not believe you are part of it.***

T-7.VI.10:4-6

Again, the Course places importance on the power of the mind and the importance of our giving the little “m” mind back to “the Mind.”

Perceived without your part in it, God's creation is seen as weak, and those who see themselves as weakened do attack. The attack must be blind, however, because

***there is nothing to attack. Therefore they make up
images, perceive them as unworthy
and attack them for their unworthiness.***

T-7.IV.11:1-3

This is where the special relationship comes into play. We find fault with our spouse, our child, our boss, our society, our friends, etc.

Complaining

One day I had breakfast with a local minister near where I live. All he wanted to talk about was how bad things were at his church. Mostly, he was complaining about how unwilling the leaders of his church were to accept responsibility for the terrible financial situation the church found itself in.

I left my friend and went to the post office where I listened to the postal clerk - also a friend, who told me how bad things were at the post office. The prices of stamps were being raised and everybody was asking about it and he said that the employees had been left in the dark as to when it was going to occur or how it would affect things like bulk mail.

I left and went to the bank where the teller – another friend, wanted to tell me about all of the trouble she was having with her wayward daughter.

I went to the grocery store and when I went to check out I asked the clerk how she was doing. She replied, “*I can't think of anything to complain about.*” It sounded like she wanted to complain – there just was nothing she could think of at that moment. We are complaint animals – looking out for a possible object for our projections.

*Talking was invented
to satisfy man's deep need to complain*
-- Lilly Tomlin (1939-present)

We want what we stole from God – our own individuality. We also want to get rid of the guilt. Guilt demands punishment; so we look out at the world and we find those on whom we can project our guilt. It is usually those closest at hand; and thus, it is that we find so many abused, wives, husbands, and children.

We do not realize that we are making up the world we see. We do not realize as **Lesson 30** says, “**God is in all things because God is in my mind.**” This lesson should be taken very literally. If God is in me then I literally look out on the world through God's eyes and I see only love.

We think that what we see out there is *actually* out there. My husband, wife, daughter, son, sister, bother is not being nice to me. He or she is an idiot and I want to point it out to him, which just gets my “ego” into a bigger problem. We can’t understand how human psychology works – yet we play with it all the time.

Seeing separation on the “outside,” I don’t have to look at it on the inside. Therefore, I do not have to accept responsibility for my projections.

Therefore they make up images, perceive them as unworthy and attack them for their unworthiness.

That is all the world of the ego is. Nothing.

It has no meaning. It does not exist.

Do not try to understand it because, if you do, you are believing that it can be understood and is therefore capable of being appreciated and loved.

That would justify its existence, which cannot be justified.

You cannot make the meaningless meaningful.

This can only be an insane attempt.

T-7.VI.11:3-10

**The following is crucial
in our understanding the Course.**

The ego does not exist. The ego has no meaning.

I do not exist. You do not exist in an egocentric separated way. No one exists as an ego. The body does not exist, the world does not exist. All of the problems of the world, all your personal problems do not exist. This is not, of course, the way the ego sees the world. To the ego, there are always problems and if I can’t find anything to complain about right now – I will.

The world is constantly played out in front of us in such a way that we have to learn this lesson over and over again, which is why this world seems to be so complicated – why we have so much trouble understanding this Course. **We don’t want to do the work.** We don’t want to fix our vision. If we did, it would mean the end of the ego, and thus, the end of me. The truth is that the only thing which can ever be lost is an illusion. This world is a classroom in which I am learning that I am not here.

VIII. The Unbelievable Belief

**We have said that without projection
there can be no anger, but it is also true that
without extension there can be no love.**

*These reflect a fundamental law of the mind,
and therefore one that always operates.*

It is the law by which you create and were created.

*It is the law that unifies the Kingdom,
and keeps it in the Mind of God.*

T-7.VIII.1:1-4

We are always either cursing or blessing the world we see. Whatever is in the Mind must continually extend just as the ego must project.

To the ego, the law is perceived as a means of getting rid of something it does not want. (guilt)
To the Holy Spirit, it is the fundamental law of sharing, by which you give what you value in order to keep it in your mind. To the Holy Spirit it is the law of extension.

T-7.VIII.1:5-8

As we give, so do we receive. This is especially true when it comes to giving our ideas away.

To the ego it is the law of deprivation.

*It therefore produces abundance or scarcity,
depending on how you choose to apply it.*

T-7.VIII.1:6-7

I either project the Love of God or I project or extend the scarcity. **If I chose the ego I am projecting sin and guilt** (You did something wrong). Scarcity is the belief that we are empty and incomplete. Feeling incomplete, we look to fulfill ourselves in idols and/or in special relationships.

If I chose the Holy Spirit, I am extending Love.

A child of God can never be lacking in anything as God’s gifts given eternally in creation are always with him.

Abundance and scarcity are important concepts in the Course. As egos, we think that there is something missing in us (namely the Love of God). It is not that God’s Love is really gone, it is just that we have blocked his Love out. The ego says that there is something missing in me and “my brother, my father, my mother, my child took it.” Deprivation is the projection of the idea of scarcity.

*This choice is up to you, but it is not up to you to decide
whether or not you will utilize the law.*

***Every mind must project or extend,
because that is how it lives, and every mind is life.***

T-7.VIII.1:10-11

Most minds are caught in projection. It is, however, much more fun to extend love.

The ego's use of projection must be fully understood before the inevitable association between projection and anger can be finally undone.

The ego always tries to preserve conflict.

It is very ingenious in devising ways that seem to diminish conflict, because it does not want you to find conflict so intolerable that you will insist on giving it up.

The ego therefore tries to persuade you that "it" can free you of conflict, lest you give the ego up and free yourself.

T-7.VIII.2:1-4

The ego's big fear is that we will get so sick of it that we will then give up on it. Thus, Bill Thetford turned to Helen Schucman and said, "There must be another way." There is always conflict in this world but the ego thinks that it can manage it. What cannot be managed is the conflict in our minds – our secret sins and hidden hates.

We like to have enemies outside.

Using its own warped version of the laws of God, the ego utilizes the power of the mind only to defeat the mind's real purpose.

It projects conflict from your mind to other minds, in an attempt to persuade you that you have gotten rid of the problem.

T-7.VIII.2:5-6

The Mind's real purpose is to make a choice for the Holy Spirit and return Home. **By making guilt real and then projecting it out, we feel safe.** God will not destroy me because I am not a bad person. You are! The purpose of this Course is to strip away the whole veil of insanity of the ego.

The belief that by seeing it outside you have excluded it from within is a complete distortion of the power of extension.

T-7.VIII.3:8

The belief that we can get rid of our guilt by casting it out onto someone else is completely insane.

That is why those who project are vigilant for their own safety. They are afraid that their projections will return and hurt them.

Believing they have blotted their projections from their own minds, they also believe their projections are trying to creep back in.

T-7.VII.3:9-12

What Jesus is describing here is paranoia. We believe that others are going to do to us what we secretly believe we have done to them. This then gets us caught in the attack/defense cycle. You hit me, I hit you and so it goes. We like to fight because we want to make someone else responsible for the way we feel.

Since the projections have not left their minds, they are forced to engage in constant activity in order not to recognize this.

T-7.VIII.3:12

Everything is inside. "Ideas leave not their sources" means I am constantly engaged in renewing my attack through my guilt.

You cannot perpetuate an illusion about another without perpetuating it about yourself.

There is no way out of this, because it is impossible to fragment the mind.

T-7.VIII.1-2

We are all dreaming the same dream and we think we are individuals who have *been cast out of Heaven* – and it is **your** fault. We are all one mind. There is only one Mind in Heaven.

To fragment is to break into pieces, and mind cannot attack or be attacked.

The belief that it can, an error the ego always makes, underlies its whole use of projection.

It does not understand what mind is, and therefore does not understand what "you" are.

Yet its existence is dependent on your mind, because the ego is your belief.

The ego is a confusion in identification.

T-7.VIII.5:3-7

All the ego is, is a belief. We are terrified of the guilt of the ego.

"Do not be afraid of the ego."

It depends on your mind, and as you made it by believing in it,

so you can dispel it by withdrawing belief from it. Do not project the responsibility for your belief in it onto anyone else, or you will preserve the belief.

T-7.VIII.5:1-3

This is why we made up a fragmented world of seemingly intimate pieces and a personal world we call our life.

When you are willing to accept sole responsibility for the ego's existence you will have laid aside all anger and all attack, because they come from an attempt to project responsibility for your own errors.

T-7.VIII.5:4

Everyone loves to hate. We need other people in order to have someone we can project on to. There must be someone toward whom I can have some form of aversion.

*But having accepted the errors as yours,
do not keep them.*

Give them over quickly to the Holy Spirit to be undone completely, so that all their effects will vanish from your mind and from the Sonship as a whole.

T-7.VIII.5:1-6

The ego is afraid that we will change our mind and stop playing its games.

The Ego's Strategy

The Course now gives us the first description of the ego's strategy of making up a body and a world peopled by innumerable other bodies. In order to have an awareness of oneself both as the Christ and the Mind, we have to have some way to get beyond the regressive thinking of the ego and look not backward any more.

This in no way contradicts the changelessness of mind as God created it, but you think that you have changed it as long as you learn through the ego.

This places you in a position of needing to learn a lesson that seems contradictory;

—you must learn to change your mind about your mind.

Only by this can you learn that it "is" changeless.

T-7.V.7:7-9

Only as we realize that we have a mind can we then realize that that mind is split. I must now recognize:

1. My mind is very powerful.
2. I can choose to change my mind and see things differently.

Your thinking has done this because of its power, but your thinking can also save you from this because its power is not of your making.

Your ability to direct your thinking as you choose is part of its power.

If you do not believe you can do this you have denied the power of your thought, and thus rendered it powerless in your belief.

T-7.VI.2:1-7

This is the heart of the Course.

The ingeniousness of the ego to preserve itself is enormous, but it stems from the very power of the mind the ego denies.

This means that the ego attacks what is preserving it, which must result in extreme anxiety.

T-7.VI.3:1-2

(In other words, the ego attacks the Mind not recognizing what it is doing – undermining its own *seeming* reality.)

The ego depreciates the mind by saying, "what Mind?" There is no mind. There is a brain but the brain is not the mind. Science only studies what it can observe. You cannot see the mind. Therefore, there is no Mind. The body was made so it would not know what the Mind is.

The Course talks about the ego as though it were a separate thing. In fact the ego is simply a thought in our own mind. That is all it is and like all thoughts of yester year it will disappear as it is replaced by another thought – more secure – "I am as God created me. That is my only reality."

IX. The Extension of the Kingdom

*You may not know your own creations,
but this can no more interfere with their reality
than your unawareness of your spirit
can interfere with its being.*

T-7.IX.3:7

In other words, the separation never happened. When we open our eyes at last we see Reality is what it always has been. The Holy Spirit is the "thought of God" we took with us when we fell asleep. It is the "reminder" of who we are as Christ.

*Disobeying God's Will is meaningful
only to the insane. In truth it is impossible.*

Your Self-fullness is as boundless as God's.

*Like His, It extends forever and in perfect peace.
Its radiance is so intense that It creates in perfect joy,
and only the whole can be born of Its Wholeness.*

T-7.IX.6:5-8

Be confident that you have never lost your Identity and the extensions which maintain It in wholeness and peace.

T-7.IX.7:1

This truth is what the ego is trying to counteract. We do not want to be told that being separate is insane.

The Fear of the Atonement

The ego is afraid that it is nothing without the mind and it is right. It, therefore, strives to keep us in a state of mindlessness. Chapter 7 gives us the most detail of any chapter on the ego's plan to keep us mindless. Keeping us focused on the world rather than looking within is, thus, the way to keep us distracted by illusion. I often suggest going to Las Vegas, not to condemn it but simply to look at what can be created "on the outside." This outer manifestation will continue as long as the ego continues to have its "play" with us.

X. The Confusion of Pain and Joy

The Kingdom is the result of premises, just as this world is. You may have carried the ego's reasoning to its logical conclusion, which is total confusion about everything.

If you really saw this result you could not want it. The only reason you could possibly want any part of it is because you do not see the whole of it. You are willing to look at the ego's premises, but not at their logical outcome.
T-7.X.1:1-5

The problem is that we do not look at the full ego system. Jesus is telling us that the whole thought system which made up this world is, in fact, insane. If you look at the world, if you watch the news, if you see how much fighting there is going on – not just in the world but in your own family, at work, and in many of our relationships we can see that the ego definitely has control and this whole world is indeed insane.

The ego's system seems to be logically consistent and coherent – which is why we cannot find freedom from it. It may be logically consistent from its own point of view but underneath, it is all insanity. It is, in fact, not possible to be separate from God. You just can't do it.

The reason this insane system has lasted for as long as it has is because no one really looks at it. No one is saying, "But look here, the Emperor has no clothes." We must be willing to look at the whole system of projection and attack to see that the whole system is insane. This is where the Course differs from earlier similar philosophy like Buddhism. It helps us understand why it is insane.

If someone does not know how to behave in the world, we put them in prison to stop them for hurting others. As it is, we do not know how to engage in true reform. On the whole, correctional institutions do not

really provide "correction." Reformatories do not "reform." They are penitentiaries – where people go to be punished.

What the church took from our mind its holy function by placing it in the world of form – in a body or a church. Remember, you are not a body. Ultimately, bodies have no reality. I once went to a Funeral Mass for a Catholic friend and when the time came for the Mass, in what I thought was respect for my deceased friend, I got up and partook of the Mass in the same way as the others did. The family of the deceased got angry with me saying I had no right to do that because I was not a Catholic.

The ego loves to make external objects and acts holy. Thus, we have holy relics, i.e., bones of saint. The truth is a bone is a bone is a bone – just as an illusion is an illusion is an illusion.

The Holy Spirit will direct you only so as to avoid pain. Surely no one would object to this goal if he recognized it. The problem is not whether what the Holy Spirit says is true, but whether you want to listen to what He says.
T-7.X.1-3

I said before that you are the Will of God His Will is not an idle wish, and your identification with His Will is not optional, since it is what you are.
T-7.X.6:4

XI. The State of Grace

The Holy Spirit will always guide you truly, because your joy is His. This is His Will for everyone because He speaks for the Kingdom of God, which "is" joy. Following Him is therefore the easiest thing in the world, and the only thing that is easy, because it is not of the world. It is therefore natural. The world goes against your nature, being out of accord with God's laws.
T-XI.1:1-4

Grace is the natural state of every Son of God. When he is not in a state of grace, he is out of his natural environment and does not function well. Everything he does becomes a strain, because he was not created for the environment that he has made.
T-XI.2:1-3