

## A CHILD'S EXPLANATION TO "THE PATH OF PROCESS"\*

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My nine year old daughter looked at the manuscript in my hand then up at me. "Daddy, what is the Path of Process?"

This one has always been curious. Even before she learned to read she took an interest in my work as soon as she realized I was a writer. I collected my thoughts before I ventured an answer. I am usually careful here, and treat such moments when she expresses the desire to know something with the utmost seriousness since they are like my acid tests, as I cannot hide behind big words and vague concepts here. If I truly understand what I am writing about I should not have any difficulty explaining it to a curious, intelligent child. So I ventured my answer:

"Long ago, people who were interested in religion did so believing that when they died they would go to Heaven. To them, Heaven was like a far-off place, just like another country, only that it 'was not on the Earth.' For such people, life on Earth was seen as a test which they had to pass before they could go to Heaven.

"The problem with this way of living was that people were always fearful of making God mad, just like a child may be afraid of a very strict parent. But you see, that is a very childish way to look at what life should mean for us and the way we should relate to God. Because, Heaven is not really another place. It is really something that happens to us. You know, like when you are having a bad dream and then you wake up to find that the bad things that are happening to you are not really true. Heaven is just like that. It is another way of waking up from ordinary life as we know it. In a way, it is like another life that lies inside of this outer life that we are living.

"When I talk about 'The Path of Process,' I am really talking about a way that we can live so that we *wake up* in this other life. I use the word 'path' just to give the reader an idea of something like a place where you walk to get somewhere, but only in this case you are not actually walking, but *living* your way to Heaven.

"The other word in the title is 'Process.' By it I mean "changing from one thing into another;" you know, just as you can make all different kinds of things with milk — yogurt, cheese, ice cream. It is as if all these different things are already there in the milk. To make any one of them you have to 'process' the milk. You have to use a recipe to tell you what different things you have to do to the milk to get it to become

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\* *The Path of Process* was the working title to my book which was eventually published as [\*The Pilgrim's Companion\*](#) (available for purchase on this website)

what you want.

“With life, we—you and me—are like the milk that has to be changed into something else. When someone wants to change in such a way that they wake up in the other life we call Heaven, such a person is on “The Path of Process.”

I suddenly realized that I may have said too much. “Did you understand all that?” I asked.

“Oh sure daddy! It’s like when I practice my music because I want to get good at it. I sometimes have this day dream of playing to a whole bunch of people and they are all clapping and saying how wonderful I play. But I know that if I want that to come true I have to practice a lot.”

“Exactly”, I said, “and it is as if each time you practice is one more step on an imaginary path to your fantasy”. We looked at each other and smiled. It was a smile that transcended words. It was a smile that said “That wasn’t so hard to explain, was it Daddy?”

Sometimes I wonder if the questions she puts to me and the explanations they brings forth aren’t just a ruse of Consciousness to get me to refine and clarify my own expressions. Or perhaps, it could be that the questions are ‘planted’ just to focus our attention on the answer. Or maybe, vice versa? I felt a twinge of joy rising up in me as I think of all those questions out there which the ‘answers’ that may exist in this book may have already triggered.

**Written in 1984**

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