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III. The Borderland

T-26.III.1. Complexity is not of God. 2 How could it be, when all He knows is One? 3 He knows of one creation, one reality, one truth and but one Son. 4 Nothing conflicts with oneness. 5 How, then, could there be complexity in Him? 6 What is there to decide? 7 For it is conflict that makes choice possible. 8 The truth is simple; it is one, without an opposite. 9 And how could strife enter in its simple presence, and bring complexity where oneness is? 10 The truth makes no decisions, for there is nothing to decide *between*. 11 And only if there were could choosing be a necessary step in the advance toward oneness. 12 What is everything leaves room for nothing else. 13 Yet is this magnitude beyond the scope of this curriculum. 14 Nor is it necessary we dwell on anything that cannot be immediately grasped.

T-26.III.2. There is a borderland of thought that stands between this world and Heaven. 2 It is not a place, and when you reach it is apart from time. 3 Here is the meeting place where thoughts are brought together; where conflicting values meet and all illusions are laid down beside the truth, where they are judged to be untrue. 4 This borderland is just beyond the gate of Heaven. 5 Here is every thought made pure and wholly simple. 6 Here is sin denied, and everything that *is* received instead.

T-26.III.3. This is the journey's end. 2 We have referred to it as the real world. 3 And yet there is a contradiction here, in that the words imply a limited reality, a partial truth, a segment of the universe made true. 4 This is because knowledge makes no attack upon perception. 5 They are brought together, and only one continues past the gate where oneness is. 6 Salvation is a borderland where place and time and choice have meaning still, and yet it can be seen that they are temporary, out of place, and every choice has been already made.

T-26.III.4. Nothing the Son of God believes can be destroyed. 2 But what is truth to him must be brought to the last comparison that he will ever make; the last evaluation that will be possible, the final judgment upon this world. 3 It is the judgment of the truth upon illusion, of knowledge on perception: "It has no meaning, and does not exist." 4 This is not your decision. 5 It is but a simple statement of a simple fact. 6 But in this world there are no simple facts, because what is the same and what is different remain unclear. 7 The one essential thing to make a choice at all is this distinction. 8 And herein lies the difference between the worlds. 9 In this one, choice is made impossible. 10 In the real world is choosing simplified.

T-26.III.5. Salvation stops just short of Heaven, for only perception needs salvation. 2 Heaven was never lost, and so cannot be saved. 3 Yet who can make a choice between the wish for Heaven and the wish for hell unless he recognizes they are not the same? 4 This difference is the learning goal this course has set. 5 It will not go beyond this aim. 6 Its only purpose is to teach what is the same and what is different, leaving room to make the only choice that can be made.

T-26.III.6. There is no basis for a choice in this complex and overcomplicated world. 2 For no one understands what is the same, and seems to choose where no choice really is. 3 The real world is the area of choice made real, not in the outcome, but in the perception of alternatives for choice. 4 That there is choice is an illusion. 5 Yet within this one lies the undoing of every illusion, not excepting this.

T-26.III.7. Is not this like your special function, where the separation is undone by change of purpose in what once was specialness, and now is union? 2 All illusions are but one. 3 And in the recognition this is so lies the ability to give up all attempts to choose between them, and to make them different. 4 How simple is the choice between two things so clearly unlike. 5 There is no conflict here. 6 No sacrifice is possible in the relinquishment of an illusion recognized as such. 7 Where all reality has been withdrawn from what was never true, can it be hard to give it up, and choose what *must* be true?

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