

## Chapter 16.

### THE FORGIVENESS OF ILLUSIONS

#### I. True Empathy

**T-16.I.1.** To empathize does not mean to join in suffering, for **to join in suffering** is what you must *<refuse>* to understand. 2 **To join in suffering** is the ego's interpretation of empathy, and **to join in suffering** is always used to form a special relationship in which the suffering is shared. 3 The capacity to empathize is very useful to the Holy Spirit, provided you let **the Holy Spirit** use **empathy** in **the Holy Spirit's** way. 4 **The Holy Spirit's** way **to use empathy** is very different. 5 **The Holy Spirit** does not understand suffering, and would have you teach **that suffering** is not understandable. 6 When **the Holy Spirit** relates through you, **the Holy Spirit** does not relate through your ego to another ego. 7 **The Holy Spirit** does not join in pain, understanding that healing pain is not accomplished by delusional attempts to enter into **pain**, and lighten **pain** by sharing the delusion.

**Note # 1:** The Holy Spirit does not want us to feel the pain of our brother because to feel his pain would be to give reality to something that the Holy Spirit knows does not exist. The Holy Spirit utilizes empathy to see the truth about our brother and to accept this truth as reality for both our brother and ourselves within the shared Mind of God. We cannot correct an illusion (our brother's belief that he is a body and thus, could suffer pain) by placing another illusion (our belief that we can share his pain which does not exist) over his original illusion. To do so would only reinforce both illusions and make both illusions appear to be real.

**T-16.I.2.** The clearest proof that empathy as the ego uses **empathy** is destructive lies in the fact that **empathy** is applied only to certain types of problems and in certain people. 2 **It is only** these **certain types of problems and people that egoic empathy** selects out, and joins with. 3 And **the ego** never joins except to strengthen itself. 4 Having identified with what **the ego** thinks it understands, the ego sees itself and would increase itself by sharing what is like itself. 5 Make no mistake about **the ego's** maneuver; the ego always empathizes to weaken, and to weaken is always to attack. 6 You do not know what **true** empathizing means. 7 Yet of **true empathy** you may be sure; if you will merely sit quietly by and let the Holy Spirit relate through you, you will empathize with strength, and will gain in strength and not in weakness.

**Note # 2:** The ego is selective about what it chooses to empathize with. This is because the ego only empathizes with what is understandable to the ego and what will strength it. The ego understands limitation. Since your belief in limitation would strengthen the ego, this is something with which the ego can have empathy. The ego does not understand love and, therefore, the ego chooses not to empathize with love since this would also weaken its control over your mind's decision-maker. The Holy Spirit knows the truth and can utilize the truth that love is all there is. The Holy Spirit knows that what is fearful cannot exist and should not be uplifted in any way that would give reality to the illusion of fear. The Holy Spirit, therefore, empathizes only with love and only about the truth.

**T-16.I.3.** Your part **in the Holy Spirit's use of empathy** is only to remember this; you do not want anything you **egoically** value to come of a relationship. 2 You choose neither to hurt **a relationship** nor to heal **a relationship** in your own **egoic** way. 3 You do not know what **true** healing is. 4 All you have learned of empathy is from the past, **which**

**is based on the ego's misperception.** 5 And there is nothing from the past that you would share, for there is nothing from the past that you would keep **since your past is based on your ego's misperception.** 6 Do not use empathy to make the past real, and so perpetuate **the past.** 7 Step gently aside, and let healing be done for you **by the Holy Spirit.** 8 Keep but one thought in mind and do not lose sight of **this one thought that by yourself, you do not understand how to heal,** however tempted you may be to judge any situation, and to determine your response *<by>* judging **any situation.** 9 Focus your mind only on this:  
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10 *I am not alone, and I would not intrude the past upon my Guest.*  
11 *I have invited Him, the Holy Spirit, and the Holy Spirit is here.*  
12 *I need do nothing except not to interfere.*

**Note # 3:** Our task is to understand that we lack knowledge and are in no position to take action based on our limited perception of the situation. Our task is to turn the situation over to the Holy Spirit and get out of His way. The Holy Spirit will guide us as to what correct perception would have us do. The Holy Spirit can only guide our actions if we freely choose Him as our Teacher. The only judgment that we, the split-minded, should make is that we are incapable of judging correctly and, therefore, should always choose to ask for the Holy Spirit's guidance.

**T-16.I.4.** True empathy is of Him, **the Holy Spirit,** Who knows what **true empathy** is. 2 You will learn **the Holy Spirit's** interpretation of **true empathy** if you let **the Holy Spirit** use your capacity for strength, and not for weakness. 3 **The Holy Spirit** will not desert you, but be sure that you desert not **the Holy Spirit.** 4 Humility is strength in this sense only; that to recognize and accept the fact that you do not know is to recognize and accept the fact that **the Holy Spirit <does>** know. 5 You are not sure that **the Holy Spirit** will do **the Holy Spirit's** part, because you have never yet done **your part of asking for the Holy Spirit's guidance** completely. 6 You cannot know how to respond to what you do not understand. 7 Be tempted not in this, and yield not to the ego's triumphant use of empathy for **the ego's** glory.

**Note # 4:** Our task is to control our fears and turn everything that matters over to the Holy Spirit for His guidance. True humility is realizing that we have chosen to claim that we do not know what we are. We should allow someone who does know the truth of what we are to lead us back to sanity, knowledge and truth. This Someone is the Holy Spirit.

**T-16.I.5.** The triumph of weakness, **in which you follow the ego's thought system,** is not what you would offer to a brother. 2 And yet you recognize no triumph but **of weakness, when you rely on your own egoic belief system, which is based on littleness.** 3 This is not knowledge, and the **egoic** form of empathy, which would bring this **triumph of weakness** about is so distorted that **the ego's form of empathy** would imprison what it would release. **Thus, both you and your brother would remain trapped in the illusion of suffering** 4 The unredeemed cannot redeem, yet **the unredeemed** have a Redeemer, **the Holy Spirit.** 5 Attempt to teach **the Holy Spirit** not. 6 You are the learner; **the Holy Spirit** is the Teacher. 7 Do not confuse your role with **the Holy Spirit's role,** for this **confusion of roles** will never bring peace to anyone. 8 Offer your empathy to **the Holy Spirit** for it is *< the Holy Spirit's >* perception and *< the Holy Spirit's >* strength that you would share. 9

And let **the Holy Spirit** offer you **the Holy Spirit's** strength and **the Holy Spirit's** perception, to be shared through you.

**Note # 5:** The Holy Spirit, if allowed, will work through me. That is why it is important that I understand that by myself, I can do nothing, yet if I ask for the Holy Spirit's help, God can do everything through me.

**T-16.I.6.** The meaning of love is lost in any relationship that looks to weakness, and hopes to find love there **in weakness**. 2 The power of love, which *<is>* **any relationship's** meaning, lies in the strength of God that hovers over **any relationship** and blesses **any relationship** silently by enveloping **any relationship** in **the Holy Spirit's** healing wings. 3 Let this be, and do not try to substitute your "miracle" for **the healing of the Holy Spirit**. 4 I have said that if a brother asks a foolish thing of you to do **the foolish thing**. 5 But be certain that this does not mean to do a foolish thing that would hurt either **your brother** or you, for what would hurt one will hurt the other. 6 Foolish requests are foolish merely because **foolish requests** conflict, since **foolish requests** always contain some element of specialness. 7 Only the Holy Spirit recognizes foolish needs as well as real **needs**. 8 And **the Holy Spirit** will teach you how to meet both **foolish and real needs** without losing either.

**Note # 6:** Not knowing what we truly are, we are inclined to request many foolish things. These foolish things have no relevance to our relearning of what we are and are of no consequence. The Holy Spirit will not do anything that would increase fear in you or your brother. When we increase fear in either party, we hurt both our brother and ourselves because we are linked together. We should do nothing that would increase fear in this world of perception.

Foolish requests always conflict because they are based on the idea that we are the arbitrator of truth. This is predicated on our egoic belief that truth can be made false and that the false can be made true. This claim that truth has become pliable and contingent, adjusting itself to our unstable and ever changing egoic desires is the underlying premise of the ego's thought system. Truth cannot be changed by an egoic whim. The changeless eternal truth just is.

**T-16.I.7.** *<You>* will attempt to do this **meeting of a brother's foolish needs** only in secrecy. 2 And you will think that by meeting the needs of one **brother** you do not jeopardize **another brother's needs**, because you keep **each brother's needs** separate and secret from each other p331 3 That is not the way, for **secrecy and separateness** leads not to life and truth. 4 No needs will long be left unmet if you leave all **needs** to Him, **the Holy Spirit**, Whose function is to meet **all needs**. 5 **To meet needs** is **the Holy Spirit's** function, and not **your function**. 6 **The Holy Spirit** will not meet **needs** secretly, for **the Holy Spirit** would share everything you give through **the Holy Spirit**. 7 **To share everything** is why **the Holy Spirit's** gives **everything**. 8 What you give through **the Holy Spirit** is for the whole Sonship, not for part of **the Sonship**. 9 Leave **the Holy Spirit's** function, for **the Holy Spirit** will fulfill **His function**, if you but ask **the Holy Spirit** to enter your relationships, and bless **your relationships** for you.

**Note # 7:** We should not attempt to correct what we do not understand. Any correction that our ego would attempt must be a judgment, which is based on past, false

misperception. The ego's concept of time focuses on the past. The ego will interpret the present based on our past erroneous beliefs and misperceptions. This only perpetuates past errors into the present. Private thoughts cannot be shared. When we believe that we can change a part, without affecting the whole, we are deluding ourselves. Only the Holy Spirit knows the truth of the perceived events and how they integrate with God's master plan that allows us to reclaim our divine birthright. Because we do not understand the "Big Picture", we need to let the One that does understand, the Holy Spirit, do His "thing", which is His purpose. The Holy Spirit's purpose is to return the split-minded from insanity back to the truth of what they are. The Holy Spirit will correct our misperceptions that arise out of fear and answer them with God's Love.

## II. The Power of Holiness

**T-16.II.1.** You may still think that holiness is impossible to understand, because you cannot see how **holiness** can be extended to include everyone. 2 And you have been told that **holiness** must include everyone to *<be>* holy. 3 Concern yourself not with the extension of holiness, for the nature of miracles you do not understand. 4 Nor do you do **the miracles**. 5 It is **the miracle's** extension, far beyond the limits you perceive, that demonstrates you do not do **the miracles**. 6 Why should you worry how the miracle extends to all the Sonship when you do not understand the miracle itself? 7 One attribute is no more difficult to understand than is the whole. 8 If miracles *<are>* at all, **the miracle's** attributes would have to be miraculous, being part of **the miracle**.

**Note # 8:** We do not have to understand how something works to realize that it does work. The miracle's result, which is the sense of a newfound inner peace, demonstrates that the miracle does exist.

**T-16.II.2.** There is a tendency to fragment, and then to be concerned about the truth of just a little part of the whole. 2 And this **fragmentation** is but a way of avoiding, or looking away from the whole, to what you think you might be better able to understand. 3 For this **looking away from the whole** is but another way in which you would still try to keep understanding to yourself. 4 A better and far more helpful way to think of miracles is this: You do not understand **the miracle**, either in part or in whole. 5 Yet **the miracles** have been done through you. 6 Therefore your understanding cannot be necessary **for the miracle to happen**. 7 Yet it is still impossible to accomplish what you do not understand. 8 And so there must be Something, **the Christ**, in you that *<does>* understand **the miracle**.

**Note # 9:** The Christ-consciousness part of the split-mind is aware and understands the miracle. Our egoic mind does not. Unfortunately, we generally are only listening to the ego's thought system and, therefore, fail to hear the truth of the Christ. This is why ACIM, talks about the reestablishment of the Voice for and the Vision of Christ.

**T-16.II.3.** To you the miracle cannot seem natural, because what you have done to hurt your mind has made **your mind** so unnatural that **your mind** does not remember what is natural to **your mind**. 2 And when you are told what is natural, you cannot understand **what is natural**. 3 The recognition of the part as whole, and of the whole in every part is perfectly natural, for **the recognition of the part as whole, and of the whole in every part** is the way God thinks, and what is natural to **God** is natural to you. p332 4 Wholly natural perception would show you instantly that order of difficulty in miracles is quite

impossible, for **order of difficulty in miracles would involve** a contradiction of what miracles mean. 5 And if you could understand **the miracle's** meaning, **the miracle's** attributes could hardly cause you perplexity.

**Note # 10:** Because God is a Oneness, God's thinking is not dualistic. The Oneness of God is holographic in nature. God recognizes the part as the whole, and of the whole in every part. Any thought that would support the belief in separation is totally alien to God's thinking process and cannot be real. This holographic thought process is only natural if you are a Oneness of everything. How could there be any other way? We, the Christ are host to God. Sharing and being of one Mind, our thinking must be the same as God's thinking. Both the Christ and the Holy Spirit think holographically. In the ego's thought system, the parts do not equal the whole and the whole is different from each part. This is why ACIM is engaged in training the mind that appears split. The concept of a split-mind exemplifies egoic thinking since it attempts to make a distinction in a Oneness and somehow to make the indivisible appear as separate and unequal parts.

**T-16.II.4.** You have done miracles, but it is quite apparent that you have not done **miracles** alone. 2 You have succeeded in **completing a miracle** whenever you have reached another mind and joined with **the other mind**. 3 When two minds join as one and share one idea equally, the first link in the awareness of the Sonship as One has been made. 4 When you have made this joining of **two minds as One mind**, as the Holy Spirit bids you, and have offered **the mind** to **the Holy Spirit** to use as **the Holy Spirit** sees fit to use **the mind**. **The Holy Spirit's** natural perception of your gift of **the mind** enables **the Holy Spirit** to understand **your gift of the mind**, and you to use **the Holy Spirit's** understanding on your behalf. 5 It is impossible to convince you of the reality of what has clearly been accomplished through your willingness while you believe that you must understand **the miracle** or else **the miracle** is not real.

**Note # 11:** The miracle is a change in our mind's perception. This transformation in perception is achieved when the mind moves from the dualistic thought system of the ego to the holographic thought system of the Holy Spirit. The miracle joins the once split mind into right-mindedness. The miracle occurs within the mind. There is no requirement that the outside world of physical form change.

**T-16.II.5.** How can faith in reality be **your faith in reality** while you are bent on making **reality** unreal? 2 And are you really safer in maintaining the reality of illusions than you would be in joyously accepting truth for what **truth** is, and giving thanks for **the reality of truth**? 3 Honor the truth that has been given you, and be glad you do not **have to** understand **the miracle for the miracle to be reality**. 4 Miracles are natural to the One, **the Holy Spirit**, Who speaks for God. 5 For **the Holy Spirit's** task is to translate the miracle into the knowledge which **the miracle** represents, and which **knowledge** is hidden to you. 6 Let **the Holy Spirit's** understanding of the miracle be enough for you, and do not turn away from all the witnesses that **the Holy Spirit** has given you to **the Holy Spirit's** reality.

**Note # 12:** The thought system of the Holy Spirit is based in the reality that there is only a Oneness. The return of an egoic relationship to a holy one is the return to the concept of the joint oneness within the Mind of God. The knowledge of the oneness has remained within

the Christ-consciousness and is recalled by the Holy Spirit's guidance. Although the egoic part of our mind does not understand the miracle, the Christ does. This is why ACIM's goal is to reawaken our decision-maker to the vision of Christ. With the vision of Christ, we, the decision-maker, will side with truth. Truth is the basis for the thought system of the Holy Spirit.

**T-16.II.6.** No evidence will convince you of the truth of what you do not want. 2 Yet your relationship with **the Holy Spirit** is real. 3 Regard this **relationship with the Holy Spirit** not with fear, but with rejoicing. 4 The One, **the Holy Spirit**, you called upon <is> with you. **The Christ is the home of the Holy Spirit.** 5 Bid **the Holy Spirit** welcome, and honor the witnesses who bring you the glad tidings **that the Holy Spirit** has come. 6 It is true, just as you fear, that to acknowledge **the Holy Spirit** is to deny all that you think you **egoically** know. 7 But what you think you **egoically** know was never true. 8 What gain is there **for you to** clinging to **what you think you egoically know, which was never true**, and, **therefore**, denying the evidence for truth? 9 For you have come too near to truth to renounce **truth** now, and you <will> yield to **truth's** compelling attraction. 10 You can delay **the return to truth** now, but only **for** a little while. 11 The Host of God, **the Christ, which is also the home of the Holy Spirit**, has called to you, and you have heard. 12 Never again will you be wholly willing not to listen **the Christ and the Holy Spirit**.

**Note # 13:** With the first allowance of the miracle and its result of peace within our mind, our willingness to listen to the truth of the Holy Spirit will increase. Thus, the reawakening of our decision-maker to the Christ will quicken.

**T-16.II.7.** This is a year of joy, in which your listening will increase and peace will grow with its increase. 2 The power of holiness and the weakness of attack are both being brought into your awareness. p333 3 And this **new understanding of the power of holiness and the weakness of attack** has been accomplished in a mind firmly convinced **by the ego** that holiness is weakness and attack is power. 4 Should not this **new understanding of the power of holiness and the weakness of attack** be a sufficient miracle to teach you that your Teacher, **the Holy Spirit**, is not of you? 5 But remember also that whenever you listened to **the Holy Spirit's** interpretation the results have brought you joy. 6 Would you prefer the results of your **egoic** interpretation, considering honestly what **the results of your egoic interpretation** have been? 7 God wills you better **than the results of your egoic interpretation.** 8 Could you not look with greater charity on **yourself**, whom God loves with perfect Love?

**Note # 14:** ACIM states that we need to compare the results of the two thought systems. Which one has brought us peace? The ego's thought system, which is based of limitation results in our acting the part of a little "s" self. Can someone who is the Oneness of everything be happy with limitation? ACIM states that the peace of God can only be found when we reawaken to what we really are by reclaiming our divine birthright. Only an insane mind would choose limitation over the Oneness of the everything that is our Big "S" Self, the Christ.

**T-16.II.8.** Do not interpret against God's Love, for you have many witnesses that speak of **God's Love** so clearly that only the blind and deaf could fail to see and hear **the witnesses for God's Love.** 2 This year determine not to deny what has been given you by

God, **which is God's Love**. 3 Awake and share **God's Love**, for that is the only reason **God** has called to you. 4 **God's Voice, the Holy Spirit**, has spoken clearly, and yet you have so little faith in what you heard, because you have preferred to place still greater faith in the disaster **your egoic mind has** made. 5 Today, let us resolve together to accept the joyful tidings that disaster is not real and that reality is not disaster. 6 Reality, **which is God's Love**, is safe and sure, and wholly kind to everyone and everything. 7 There is no greater love than to accept **this true reality of what you are** and be glad. 8 For love asks only that you be happy, and **love** will give you everything that makes for happiness.

**Note # 15:** True happiness can only be found in being true to ourselves. We need to cease believing that we can be something that we are not, which is a limited ego-body, and accept the fact of what we are, which is unlimited spirit birthed from the Mind of God. Happiness is the acceptance of our divine birthright. We cannot be happy with less. Instead of asking, "What am I?" we need to be the "I AM" that we are. We are an extension of the Mind of God. We need to be the Christ and start "Christing". By "Christing" we fulfill our function. We, the Host of God, cannot be happy with less. And God wills us to be happy.

**T-16.II.9.** You have never given any problem to the Holy Spirit that the Holy Spirit has not solved for you nor will you ever do so. 2 You have never tried to **egoically** solve anything yourself and been successful. 3 Is it not time you brought these facts together and made sense of **these facts**? 4 This is the year for the application of the ideas that have been given you. 5 For the ideas **that have been given you** are mighty forces, to be used and not held idly by. 6 **The ideas that have been given you** have already proved their power sufficiently for you to place your faith in **these ideas that have been given to you**, and not in their denial of **these ideas that have been given to you**. 7 This year invest in truth, and let **these ideas that have been given to you, which is truth**, work in peace. 8 Have faith in **the Holy Spirit**, Who has faith in you. 9 Think what you have really seen and heard, and recognize **the witnesses for the truth of the Holy Spirit**. 10 Can you be alone with witnesses **for the truth** like these **that the Holy Spirit provides**?

**Note # 16:** ACIM urges us to look for the results of the two opposite and opposing thought systems. Only the thought system of the Holy Spirit speaks for the truth of the Oneness of what we are. The Holy Spirit will not fail to properly answer any call for His Guidance. The ego's thought system will never bring happiness since the ego denies our divine birthright and only brings limitation and egoic witnesses for lack. We are not without God's guidance since even when we are under the influence of the ego and split-mindedness, the Christ, which is the home of the Holy Spirit, still abides in us. We remain the Oneness, which is God. We eternally remain perfect, whole and complete, for this is the Will of God. Our will and God's Will are One.

### **III. The Reward of Teaching**

**T-16.III.1.** We have already learned that everyone teaches, and teaches all the time. 2 You may have taught well, and yet you may not have learned how to accept the comfort of your teaching. 3 If you will consider what you have taught, and how alien **what you have taught, which is the Oneness of the Holy Spirit's thought system**, is to what you thought you knew **based on egoic thinking**, you will be compelled to realize that your Teacher, **the Holy Spirit**, came from beyond your **egoic** thought system. p334 4 Therefore **the Holy Spirit** could look upon **the lesson's of your egoic thought system** fairly, and perceive

**that the lessons of your egoic thought system were untrue.** 5 **The Holy Spirit** must have done so from the basis of a very different thought system, and one with nothing in common with **your egoic thought system.** 6 For certainly what **the Holy Spirit** has taught, and what you have taught through **the Holy Spirit**, have nothing in common with **the ego's lessons that** you taught before **the Holy Spirit** came. 7 And the results **of the Holy Spirit's lessons** have been to bring peace where there was pain, and suffering has disappeared to be replaced by joy.

**Note # 17:** The egoic thought system has resulted in pain and suffering. This is due to the ego's belief in limitation, which birthed sin, guilt, fear and sacrifice. The thought system of the Holy Spirit rests on the abundance of the Oneness of everything and, therefore, brings happiness, peace and joy. Whichever thought system we choose to follow, we will reap the rewards that its teacher offers. And as we believe, we will teach.

**T-16.III.2.** You may have taught freedom, but you have not learned how to be free. 2 I said earlier, "By their fruits ye shall know them, and they shall know themselves." 3 For it is certain that you judge yourself according to your teaching. 4 The ego's teaching produces immediate results, because **the ego's** decisions are immediately accepted as your choice. 5 And this acceptance **of the ego's teachings** means that you are willing to judge yourself accordingly **to the ego's thought system of limitation.** 6 Cause and effect are very clear in the ego's thought system, because all your learning has been directed toward establishing the relationship between **cause and effect.** 7 And would you not have faith in what you have so diligently taught yourself to believe, **which is that you are victim to outside causes?** 8 Yet remember how much care you have exerted in choosing witnesses **for the ego's thought system,** and in avoiding those **witnesses for the Holy Spirit's thought system,** which spoke for the cause of truth and **truth's** effects.

**Note # 18:** The ego teaches that because we are limited, we are not the source or cause of our perceived experiences. Rather, the ego asserts that there are outside forces that are beyond our control. These outside forces cause the events that we observe. We are the innocent victims of these outside worldly forces. In contrast, the Holy Spirit's thought system teaches that we are unlimited mind and, therefore, creators like our Father. We are not victims. Instead, we are the source of all that we perceive. We are the cause; not the effect. The ego teaches the opposite, that we are effect and not the cause.

**T-16.III.3.** Does not the fact that you have not learned what you have taught show you that you do not perceive the Sonship as one? 2 And does **not the fact that you do not perceive the Sonship as one,** not also show you that you do not regard *<yourself>* as one? 3 For it is impossible to teach successfully wholly without conviction, and it is equally impossible that conviction be outside of you. 4 You could never have taught freedom unless you did believe in **freedom.** 5 And it must be that what you taught came from yourself. 6 Yet this **Big "S" Self, your Christ consciousness which taught freedom,** you clearly do not know, and do not recognize **the Christ in you,** even though **your Big "S" Self** functions. 7 What functions must be there. 8 And it is only if you deny what **the Big "S" Self, the Christ in you,** has done that you could possibly deny **the Presence of the Christ in you.**



**Note # 19:** You cannot teach what you do not know. Miracles teach freedom and have been done through you. Because of this, there must be some part within your mind that understands miracles and the resulting peace and freedom that the miracle brings from egoic thinking. This hidden part of your mind is the Christ consciousness. Although the Christ appears to be hidden, it is the home of the Holy Spirit and remains in communication with God. This communication between our high Self and God is ongoing even though we appear to be caught up in the dream of limitation and separation. The dream of separation is the result of our claim that it is possible not to know what we are.

**T-16.III.4.** This is a course in how to know yourself. 2 **Your egoic small “s” selves** have taught what you are, but have not let what you are, **your Big “S” Self, teach your ego that you truly are.** 3 You have been very careful to avoid the obvious **truth about yourself,** and, **therefore, do** not see the real cause and effect relationship that is perfectly apparent, **which is that you are the cause and not the effect of what you perceive.** 4 Yet within you, **the Christ,** is everything you taught. 5 What can it be that has not learned **what the Christ and the Holy Spirit has taught?** 6 It must be this **small “s” egoic part** that is really outside yourself, not by your own projection, but in truth. 7 And it is this **small “s” egoic** part that you have taken in that is not you. 8 What you accept into your mind does not really change **your mind.** 9 Illusions are but beliefs in what is not there. p335 10 And the seeming conflict between truth and illusion can only be resolved by separating yourself from the illusion and not from truth.

**Note # 20:** The ego is the belief that we could not know ourselves. The ego claims that knowledge, which is truth and certainty, has been lost and that we have become the arbitrators for truth. This egoic claim of not knowing ourselves, places us outside and apart from the Mind of God. Nothing real can be outside the mind of God. Thus, it is the ego that is not real and must be a part of the illusionary dream of separation. When we dream, it is possible not to know oneself and the truth because the dreamer is caught up within the dream itself. Yet, once awakened, the dream is quickly forgotten and reality is restored to the dreamer’s mind. The illusion has no reality outside the sleeping dreamer’s mind. In the egoic world of time and space, the idea that you could not know yourself seems possible. ACIM states that when we deny what we are, our denial cannot change what we are but it does affect our awareness to the truth. Our ego’s denial of our true Big “S” Self is the source of the dream of separation. ACIM states that to not know yourself is to make yourself insane. Madness is the claim that you have the ability to decide what truth is. The insane claim that they can make the false, true and the true, false. The egoic world was made to prove that truth was conditional and changeable. To the ego, the world’s purpose is to be a home for those who claim they do not know themselves. In this world of doubt, we can question what it is that we are. Until we accept the Atonement for ourselves, we will choose to return again and again to this imaginary world of time and space.

The Holy Spirit’s thought system utilizes the egoic world of time to reawake God’s sleeping Child to the truth. The Holy Spirit teaches that we are and always will be as we were created. We are the extension of the Mind of God. The Holy Spirit reinterprets our mission on earth to align with Its purpose of our reawakening. The world of time and space now becomes our playschool in which we rediscover that we are the Christ. Prior to the separation, we were in a “I AM” state of awareness. After the separation, we entered into a “WHAT AM I?” state. Time was born out of the belief that we could choose what truth was. Choice arose from the uncertainty that we were an eternal Oneness. Choice is the

decision between illusion and truth. This appears to be a true choice but in reality the only real possibility is the choice for truth. Since illusions have no reality in fact, a choice for illusion is only the delaying of the decision for truth. The Atonement is the acceptance of truth. In the Atonement, we reclaim our divine birthright as the Christ. Being of the Mind of God, we are certain, unchangeable and eternal. Only acceptance of the Atonement is required on our part. Change is not required since we already are and will always be eternally changeless, perfect, whole and complete.

**T-16.III.5.** Your teaching has already done this **by separating yourself from the illusion and not from truth** for the Holy Spirit is part of you. 2 Created by God, **the Holy Spirit** left neither God nor **God's** creation. 3 **The Holy Spirit** is both God and you, as you are God and **the Holy Spirit** together. 4 For God's Answer to the separation added more to you than you tried to take away. 5 **God** protected both your creations and you together, keeping one with you what you would exclude. 6 And **what God protected, your creations and your Big "S" Self**, will take the place of what you took in to replace them, **which was your ego and its illusions made to limit God's Son.** 7 **What God protected, your creations and your Big "S" Self**, are quite real, as part of the Self, **the Christ**, you do not know. 8 **Your creations**, communicate to you through the Holy Spirit, and their power and gratitude to you for their creation they offer gladly to your teaching of yourself, who is their home. 9 You who are host to God are also host to **your creations.** 10 For nothing real has ever left the mind of its creator. 11 And what is not real was never there.

**Note # 21:** This touches of the oneness of everything that is real. God, the Father, God's creation, the Sonship, the Sonship's creation and the Holy Spirit are all one. This demonstrates the difference between egoic thinking and the thinking of God. For God, the parts and the whole are one and neither are less than the whole for they are inseparable. We, being like the Father, continue to create like God even though we believe that we are caught up in the dream of separation. Nothing that is an extension of the Mind of God is ever lost or inseparable. Creation arises from love and is sharing and inclusionary. Making is exclusionary and arises from fear and limitation.

**T-16.III.6.** You are not two selves, **the ego and the Christ**, in conflict. 2 What is beyond God? 3 If you who hold **God** and whom **God** holds are the universe, all else must be outside, where nothing is. 4 You have taught this **oneness**, and from far off in the universe, yet not beyond yourself, the witnesses to your teaching, **your creations**, have gathered to help you learn. 5 **These witnesses'** gratitude has joined with **your gratitude** and God's **gratitude** to strengthen your faith in what you taught. 6 For what you taught is true. 7 Alone, your **egoic selves** stand outside your teaching and apart from **your teachings of oneness.** 8 But with **these witnesses** you must learn that you but taught yourself, and learned from the conviction you shared with **these witnesses.**

**Note # 22:** Again we are joined in the Mind of God. All learning is a shared experience. Giving and receiving are the same. What appeared as split-minded is ultimately of one mind, which is the Mind of God.

**T-16.III.7.** This year you will begin to learn, and make learning commensurate with teaching. 2 You have chosen to **make learning commensurate with teaching** by your own willingness to teach. 3 Though you seemed to suffer for **making learning**

**commensurate with teaching**, the joy of teaching will yet be yours. 4 For the joy of teaching is in the learner, who offers **joy** to the teacher in gratitude, and shares **joy** with **the teacher**. 5 As you learn, your gratitude to your Self, **the Christ**, Who teaches you what **Christ**, your Big “S” Self, is, will grow and help you honor **Christ**. 6 And you will learn **Christ’s** power and strength and purity, and love **the Christ** as **God, the Father of Christ**, does. 7 **God’s** Kingdom has no limits and no end, and there is nothing in **God** that is not perfect and eternal. 8 All this is <you,> and nothing outside of this <is> you.

**Note # 23:** You, being the host of God, must be like God Himself Who is everything. There is nothing outside the shared Oneness of the Mind of God.

**T-16.III.8.** To your most holy Self, **the Christ**, all praise is due for what you are, and for what **God** is Who created you as you are. 2 Sooner or later must everyone bridge the gap he imagines exists between his selves, **the split-minded little “s” self and the Big “S” Self**. 3 Each one builds this bridge, which carries him across the gap as soon as he is willing to expend some little effort on behalf of bridging **this gap he imagines exists between his selves**. p336 4 His little efforts are powerfully supplemented by the strength of Heaven, and by the united will of all who make Heaven what **Heaven** is, being joined within **the united will of Heaven**. 5 And so the one who would cross over is literally transported there.

**Note # 24:** Heaven is the real world. Heaven is not a place, but rather a State of mind. Heaven is the symbol for Truth. It is the acceptance of the truth of the Oneness of the shared Mind of God. There is nothing in eternity that is outside Heaven since there is nothing outside the Mind of God.

**T-16.III.9.** Your bridge is builded stronger than you think, and your foot is planted firmly on **your bridge**. 2 Have no fear that the attraction of those who stand on the other side and wait for you will not draw you safely across. 3 For you will come where you would be, and where your Self, **the Christ**, awaits you.

**Note # 25:** Your Big “S” Self has never lost the remembrance of God and, therefore, awaits your return to truth. For the Christ, the Big “S” Self, never lost the truth of what you are. Christ never believed that it was possible to not know yourself.

#### **IV. The Illusion and the Reality of Love**

**T-16.IV.1.** Be not afraid to look upon the special hate relationship, for freedom lies in looking at **the special hate relationship**. 2 It would be impossible not to know the meaning of love, except for **the special hate relationship**. 3 For the special love relationship, in which the meaning of love is hidden, is undertaken solely to offset the hate, but not to let **the hate** go. 4 Your salvation will rise clearly before your open eyes as you look on **unwillingness to let hate go**. 5 You cannot limit hate. 6 The special love relationship will not offset **hate**, but **the special love relationship** will merely drive **hate** underground and out of sight. 7 It is essential to bring **hate** into sight, and to make no attempt to hide **hate**. 8 For it is the attempt to balance hate with love that makes love meaningless to you. 9 The extent of the split that lies in this **attempt to balance hate with love**, you do not realize. 10 And until you do **realize the extent of the split that lies in**

**this attempt to balance love with hate**, the split will remain unrecognized, and therefore unhealed.

**Note # 26:** The appropriate answer to the cry for love is love. Any cries for love come from fear and may often appear to be disguised as hate. There are only two emotions that we experience. These are love and fear. Fear comes in many shapes sizes and forms. Fear may be disguised as hate or even as a special love relationship. But the appropriate response is only love. The ego believes in a world of opposites. Therefore, to the ego, love and hate are opposites and can exist side by side. To the Holy Spirit the only emotion that is real is love. Fear does not exist in the world of truth. For what is true, which is only love, is not fearful. In the world of perception, choice appears to be possible. The ego states that both love and hate are possible and that they can offset each other and thus, makes our worldly existence bearable. But something that does not exist cannot cancel out something that does exist. Only in illusions can opposites exist and even appear to be able to offset each other. But when truth is brought before illusion, illusions fade away. Both the ego's special love and hate relationships are not real. For how can a special love relationship exist when the ego does not know what love is? And how can there be love, which is the unlimited equal sharing of a Oneness, when the ego demands specialness. They are incompatible ideas. The demand for specialness is a demand to make the illusion of separation real. This can only reinforce the idea of split-mindedness. The only reality in the Mind of God is truth, not illusion.

**T-16.IV.2.** The symbols of hate against the symbols of love play out a conflict that does not exist. 2 For symbols stand for something else, and the symbol of love is without meaning if love is everything. 3 You will go through this last undoing of **the illusory conflict between hate and love's symbols** quite unharmed, and will at last emerge as yourself, **the Big "S" Self**. 4 This **emergence as yourself from this illusory conflict** is the last step in the readiness for God. 5 Be not unwilling now **to engage in this illusory conflict for** you are too near, and you will cross the bridge in perfect safety, translated quietly from war to peace. 6 For the illusion of love will never satisfy, but **the reality of love**, which awaits you on the other side of **this illusory conflict**, will give you everything.

**Note # 27:** The world of perception is a world of choice. Yet, the choices are all illusory since the world of perception is not in the Mind of God. However, within the dream world, choice appears quite real to the dreamer and the battle between love and fear goes on. The choice is between the thought systems of the ego and the Holy Spirit. Both vie for being the only adviser to our decision-maker. But even if we side exclusively with the Holy Spirit, we still remain caught within the dream itself. Through the tool of forgiveness, the Holy Spirit teaches that we are the dreamer and that we can substitute the ego's dream of conflict, fear and hate, with the happy dream of the Holy Spirit. In the happy dream, we realize that we are the reality of the Oneness, perfect, whole and complete. When we forgive, minds join. The Holy Spirit's happy dream is very similar to the truth about ourselves. With the acceptance of the Atonement for ourselves, God will take the final step and return us to knowledge, which is the truth or Heaven.

**T-16.IV.3.** The special love relationship is an attempt to limit the destructive effects of hate by finding a haven in the storm of guilt. 2 **The special love relationship** makes no

attempt to rise above the storm, into the sunlight. 3 On the contrary, **the special love relationship** emphasizes the guilt outside the haven by attempting to build barricades against **the guilt**, and keep **the special love relationship** within **these barricades**. p337 4 The special love relationship is not perceived as a value in itself, but as a place of safety from which hatred is split off and kept apart **from the special love relationship**. 5 The special love partner is acceptable only as long as **the special love partner** serves this purpose **of being a barricade against guilt**. 6 Hatred can enter, and indeed is welcome in some aspects of the relationship, but **the special love relationship** is still held together by the illusion of love. 7 If the illusion **of love** goes, the relationship is broken or becomes unsatisfying on the grounds of disillusionment.

**Note # 28:** The special love relationship is not unconditional love but, rather conditional love. This relationship is full of strings. I will love you if... is the mantra of the ego's "love" relationship. It is basically a barter system and bears no resemblance to God's Love for His Son. If the barter deal no longer is beneficial to our perceived needs, we terminate the relationship and move on to the next one.

**T-16.IV.4.** Love is not an illusion. 2 **Love** is a fact. 3 Where disillusionment is possible, there was not love but hate. 4 For hate *<is>* an illusion, and what can change was never love. 5 It is sure that those who select certain ones as partners in any aspect of living, and use **them as partners** for any purpose which they would not share with others, are trying to live with guilt rather than die of **guilt**. 6 This, **to live with guilt or die of guilt** is the choice they see. 7 And love, to them, is only an escape from death. 8 **Those involved in special love relationships** seek **love** desperately, but not in the peace in which **love** would gladly come quietly to them. 9 And when **those involved in special love relationships** find the fear of death is still upon them, the love relationship loses the illusion that **this relationship** is what it is not. **We realize the special love relationship was not love**. 10 When the barricades against **guilt** are broken, fear rushes in and hatred triumphs.

**Note # 29:** Even in the best "special love relationship" that we could imagine, death will separate us from the "love of our life." ACIM states that since all there is, is love, anything that is changeable cannot be love. What changes is the ego's attempt to find a substitute for love. The egoic fourth law of chaos states there is a substitute for love. This substitute for unconditional love is the ego's special relationship. The ego encourages us to look for this substitute for love yet knows it will never be found. The ego's special love relationship allows us to seek for love but never find it

**T-16.IV.5.** There are no triumphs of love. 2 Only hate is at all concerned with the "triumph of love." 3 The illusion of love can triumph over the illusion of hate, but always at the price of making both **hate and love into** illusions. 4 As long as the illusion of hatred lasts, so long will love be an illusion to you. 5 And then the only choice remaining possible is which illusion, **hate or "false love,"** you prefer. 6 There *<is>* no conflict in the choice between truth and illusion. 7 **When** seen in these terms **that there <is> no conflict in the choice between truth and illusion**, no one would hesitate **for truth is only real and thus, the only choice**. 8 But conflict enters the instant the choice seems to be one between illusions, but this choice **between two illusions** does not matter **since neither is real**. 9 Where one choice is as dangerous as the other **since both are illusions and, therefore, not truth**, the decision must be one of despair.

**Note # 30:** Conflict does not exist in the world of truth. For with truth, truth is all there is. Conflict does exist in the world of perception and time. All conflict arises out of the question “What am I?” This is the claim that we do not know what we are. From this uncertainty, choice arose. Choice is the erroneous belief that we can somehow choose to make the true, false and the false, true. In conflict, we give reality to an illusion. We believe that by choosing one illusion over another illusion that we have change the truth. We cannot correct an illusion by placing another illusion over the first illusion. For now we have two illusions instead of one, yet each is still untrue. The only way to correct an illusion is to awake to the truth. Only the Holy Spirit is capable of correcting the illusion since only the Holy Spirit is aware of both the truth and the dream. We need to ask the Holy Spirit for guidance.

**T-16.IV.6.** Your task is not to seek for love, but merely to seek and find all of the barriers within yourself that you have built against **love**. 2 It is not necessary to seek for what is true, but it *<is>* necessary to seek for what is false. 3 Every illusion is one of fear, whatever form **the illusion may take**. 4 And the attempt to escape from one illusion into another **illusion** must fail. 5 If you seek love outside yourself, you can be certain that you perceive hatred within **yourself**, and are afraid of **your perceive hatred that you believe is within you**. 6 Yet peace will never come from the illusion of love, but only from **the reality of love**.

**Note # 31:** Being love, which is everything, we can never be happy with the ego’s illusionary substitute for love. A Oneness of everything cannot be happy being limited. Happiness is being and knowing your unlimitedness.

**T-16.IV.7.** Recognize **this truth that peace comes only from the reality of love** for it is true, and truth must be recognized if **truth** is to be distinguished from illusion: The special love relationship is an attempt to bring love into separation. 2 And, as such, **the special love relationship** is nothing more than an attempt to bring love into fear, and make **love** real in fear. p338 3 In fundamental violation of love's one condition **that love is not fear**, the special love relationship would accomplish the impossible. 4 How but in illusion could **the accomplishment of the impossible, which is that love could be fear, is this to be done?** 5 It is essential that we look very closely at exactly what it is you think you can do to solve the dilemma which seems very real to you. **The dilemma is how to solve an impossible conflict that love could be fear. Yet this perceived dilemma** does not exist. 6 You have come close to truth, and only this **belief that there is an impossible illusionary conflict that love could be fear that you must first resolve** stands between you and the bridge that leads you into **the truth, which is real**.

**Note # 32:** Within the dream, itself, there is no way to correct any error. To correct all errors, the dreamer must awaken. To place a new illusion over a previous illusion does not remove the first illusion. It merely hides the previous illusion. This is why placing a special love relationship, over underlying hate, only masks the hate. The hate still lies at the core. We have merely fallen into a deeper sleep that appears to be more tolerable. Only by awakening to the truth, can we escape the illusion of the dream of separation.

**T-16.IV.8.** Heaven waits silently, and your creations are holding out their hands to help you cross and **thus** welcome **your creations**. 2 For it is **your creations** you seek. 3 You seek but for your own completion, and it is **your creations** who render you complete. 4 The special love relationship is but a shabby substitute for what makes you whole in truth, not in illusion. **It is your ability to create like your Father that completes you.** 5 Your relationship with **your creations** is without guilt, and this enables you to look on all your brothers with gratitude, because your creations were created in union with **all your brothers**. 6 Acceptance of your creations is the acceptance of the Oneness of creation, without which you could never be complete. 7 No specialness can offer you what God has given, **which is the Oneness of creation**, and what you are joined with **God** in giving.

**Note # 33:** Our function in Heaven is to create like our Father. We cannot fulfill our function unless we accept our divine birthright. When we accept what we are, we are able to extend the Mind of God, which is only love, to our own creations. Thus, we fulfill our function as co-creator with God. This act of creation completes us, just as we completed the Father when He created or extended Himself to His Son. Love gives all because it is all. It is this sharing of the love that we are which completes the Oneness. In a Oneness, there is complete equality between the inseparable “parts.” If we could separate this Oneness of Everything, which is impossible, each part would contain the whole and the whole would be in each part.

**T-16.IV.9.** Across the bridge is your completion, for you will be wholly in God, willing for nothing special, but only to be wholly like to **God**, completing **God** by your completion. 2 Fear not to cross to the abode of peace and perfect holiness. 3 Only there **in the Oneness of creation, which is Heaven**, is the completion of God and of His Son established forever. 4 Seek not for this **Oneness** in the bleak world of illusion, where nothing is certain and where everything fails to satisfy. 5 In the Name of God, be wholly willing to abandon all illusions. 6 In any relationship in which you are wholly willing to accept completion, and only **completion**, there, **in this relationship**, is God completed, and His Son **completed** with **God**.

**Note # 34:** Only in the reality of truth can we be happy. To know ourselves, we must remove all doubt that God’s Son could be anything but what he is, perfect, whole and complete. By being love, we extend like our Father to our own creations. Thus, we demonstrate our Oneness with the Father. We freely accept the fact that our will and God’s Will are One. For only the Will of God can, or ever has, existed. In the acceptance of the Atonement for ourselves, our illusion fade away and knowledge is restored.

**T-16.IV.10.** The bridge that leads to union in yourself *<must>* lead to knowledge, for **the bridge that leads to union in yourself** was built with God beside you, and will lead you straight to **God** where your completion rests, wholly compatible with **God’s completion**. 2 Every illusion you accept into your mind by judging **the illusion** to be attainable removes your own sense of completion, and thus denies the Wholeness of your Father. 3 Every fantasy, be **the fantasy** of love or hate, deprives you of knowledge for fantasies are the veil behind which truth is hidden. 4 To lift the veil that seems so dark and heavy, it is only needful to value truth beyond all fantasy, and to be entirely unwilling to settle for illusion in place of truth.

**Note # 35:** The choice is a simple one. We are always choosing between the thought system for truth, the Holy Spirit's, and the thought system for falseness, or illusions, which belongs to the ego. The ego claims that we are imperfect, not whole and incomplete. The ego teaches and makes the case for littleness. The Holy Spirit makes the case for the magnitude and greatness of our Big "S" Self, the Christ. Only one can be right. The acceptance of any part of the egoic thought system of limitation is the complete rejection of the Holy Spirit's truth about what we are.

**T-16.IV.11.** Would you not go through fear to love? 2 For such the journey seems to be. p339 3 **In the egoic special love relationship**, love calls, but hate would have you stay. 4 Hear not the call of hate, and see no fantasies. 5 For your completion lies in truth, and nowhere else. 6 See in the call of hate, and in every fantasy that rises to delay you, but the call for help that rises ceaselessly from you to your Creator. 7 Would **God, your Creator**, not answer you whose completion is **God's own completion**? 8 **God** loves you, wholly without illusion, as you must love, **wholly without illusion**. 9 For love *<is>* wholly without illusion, and **love is**, therefore, wholly without fear. 10 Whom God remembers must be whole. 11 And God has never forgotten what makes **God, Himself**, whole. 12 In your completion lie the memory of **God's Wholeness** and **God's** gratitude to you for **God's** completion. 13 In **God's** link, **which is the Holy Spirit**, with you lie both **God's** inability to forget and your ability to remember. 14 In **God** are joined your willingness to love and all the Love of God, Who forgot you not.

**Note # 36:** Fear cannot be love, for fear is the denial of love and, therefore, is not real. The Holy Spirit continues to bridge any gap that appears to exist between the Father and His Son. God, the Father, only knows the truth and never forgets that He created you perfect, whole and complete. Therefore, there can never be any truth in our dream of separation. Dreams are not sins, but mistakes. Dreams only require the awakening of the dreamer and his acceptance to the truth of what he is. The little willingness asked of us by the Holy Spirit is that we stop claiming that we are a limited ego-body and do not know ourselves. By asking our inner guide, the Holy Spirit will help return us from the state of "What am I?" consciousness to "I AM" awareness.

**T-16.IV.12.** Your Father can no more forget the truth in you than you can fail to remember **the truth in you**. 2 The Holy Spirit is the Bridge to **your Father**, made from your willingness to unite with **your Father** and created by **your Father's** joy in union with you. 3 The journey that seemed endless is almost complete, for what *<is>* endless is very near. 4 You have almost recognized **the journey's end**. 5 Turn with me firmly away from all illusions now, and let nothing stand in the way of truth. 6 We will take the last useless journey away from truth together, and then together we go straight to God, in joyous answer to **your Father's** Call for His completion.

**Note # 37:** Jesus directly asks us to be vigilant only for God. This is the abandonment of all illusions that we could be something other than as God created us. If we follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit's thought system, we will cross the bridge from the illusion of separation to Heaven's truth. We reawaken in Heaven in the loving hands of the Holy Spirit and the Christ that were always with us hidden deep within our own split-mind.



**T-16.IV.13.** If special relationships of any kind would hinder God's completion, can **special relationships** have any value to you? 2 What would interfere with God must interfere with you. **Abandon all special relationships** 3 Only in time does interference in God's completion seem to be possible. 4 The bridge that **God** would carry you across lifts you from time into eternity. 5 Waken from time, and answer fearlessly the Call of **God** Who gave eternity to you in your creation. 6 On this side (**the side of perception and time**) of the bridge to timelessness you understand nothing. 7 But as you step lightly across **the bridge**, upheld <by> timelessness, you are directed straight to the Heart of God. 8 At **the Heart of God's** center, and only there, you are safe forever, because you are complete forever. 9 There is no veil the Love of God in us together cannot lift. 10 The way to truth is open. 11 Follow **the way to truth** with me. p340

**Note # 38:** The world of perception and the world of knowledge are like parallel lines. They never cross. What is false is false. What is true always remains true. We bridge the gap only by accepting the truth. By asking the Holy Spirit to bring all illusions into the light of the truth, all illusions simple fade away. This is why ACIM states that the course's purpose is not to seek to change the world of form, which was birthed out of perception, but rather, ACIM seeks to change how we view our world. By changing our belief system to align with the thought system of the Holy Spirit, we return to truth, which is the return to Heaven. To abandon all egoic special relationships is to abandon the thought system of the ego that supports our belief in sin, guilt, fear and sacrifice. It is from the ego's belief in separation and limitation that all illusions arose. For the truth is that "Nothing real can be threatened. Nothing unreal exists. Herein lies the peace of God."

## **V. The Choice for Completion**

**T-16.V.1.** In looking at the special relationship, it is necessary first to realize that a **special relationship** involves a great amount of pain. 2 Anxiety, despair, guilt and attack all enter into **special relationships**, broken into by periods in which **anxiety, despair, guilt and attack** seem to be gone. 3 All these **special relationships** must be understood for what they are. 4 Whatever form **the special relationships** take, **the special relationships** are always an attack on the self to make the other **party** guilty. 5 I have spoken of this before, but there are some aspects of what is really being attempted that have not been touched upon.

**Note # 39:** Special relationships always involve attack since they are always based on the belief of lack and the desire to improve your perceived situation by making a "good trade". This makes the special relationship a place filled with anxiety, despair, guilt, sacrifice and attack. Guilt is generally used to maintain the relationship. You believe that you have made some sacrifice for the benefit of the other and are now due some form of repayment. If the repayment is not immediately forthcoming, we utilize guilt to insure we extract our "pound of flesh" from the other. Since the Laws of God state that what we give, we receive, this guilt always returns to us, its source, for ideas do not leave their source.

**T-16.V.2.** Very simply, the attempt to make guilty is always directed against God. 2 For the ego would have you see **God**, and **God** alone, as guilty, leaving the Sonship open to attack and unprotected from **attack and guilt**. 3 The special love relationship is the ego's chief weapon for keeping you from Heaven. 4 **The special love relationship** does not appear to be a weapon, but if you consider how you value **the special love relationship**

and why **you value it**, you will realize **that the special love relationship** must be **the ego's chief weapon for keeping you from Heaven**.

**Note # 40:** To the ego, the ultimate cause or source of all guilt is God's refusal to grant us a special love relationship with God, Himself. Sin is the belief that there is lack in God's love for us. We wanted to be special and experience a "different" or "special" type of love. Because we are an extension of God and part of the Oneness of everything, special love is impossible for God. God knows us to be as Himself, perfect, whole and complete. A total Oneness cannot provide the experience of specialness for nothing is outside Itself. Specialness can only exist if there is duality. For duality to exist, there must be a "you" and something that is "not you". God could not grant our wish for specialness because God's Creation, the Sonship, is an extension of Himself. Being everything, the only way to be "special" would be to become limited. But to limit the Son would be to limit the Father. God cannot be limited. To God, any request for littleness makes no sense and is impossible within the Mind of God. In the Mind of God, the idea that something can be something it is not is impossible. To know yourself is your only reality since it is what you are. In the Mind of God, which is the Oneness of everything, a part is equal to the whole and the whole is equal to a part. This is because they are indivisible and equality reigns supreme. Through projection, the Sonship attempted to get rid of its perceived guilt by claiming that it was God's fault that we could not experience specialness. Because God refused our demand for special love and, therefore, denied us "littleness", we are entitled to blame God. Thus, we projected our own guilt upon God. Because our mind is powerful, we are allowed to deny knowledge and truth. Yet, our denial of truth and knowledge cannot turn our illusion of specialness into reality. Truth still remains true.

Within the dream of separation, our mind can experience the belief that we are special and, therefore, separate. Eventually, we will grow "tired" of the perception's pain, suffering and sacrifice. Within the illusion, pain, suffering and death are the natural outcome of our desire to experience separation from our own Oneness. When we have had enough of the pain, we will realize "There must be a better way!" We will decide to choose again. This time we will accept God's Will and side with the thought system of the Holy Spirit, which represents only truth. We will once again reawaken freely to the realization that we can only be what we are, a shared Oneness of everything, perfect, whole and complete.

**T-16.V.3.** The special love relationship is the ego's most boasted gift, and **the special love relationship** has the most appeal to those unwilling to relinquish guilt. 2 The "dynamics" of the ego are clearest here, for counting on the attraction of **special love's** offering, the fantasies that center around **the special love relationship** are often quite overt. 3 Here **the fantasies that center around the special love relationship** are usually judged to be acceptable and even natural. 4 No one considers it bizarre to love and hate together, and even those who believe that hate is sin merely feel guilty, but do not correct **hate**. 5 This **bizarre belief that love and hate can co-exist** is the "natural" condition of the separation. **Those** who learn that it is **not possible for love and hate to co-exist together and that this belief** is not natural at all, seem to be **viewed as** the unnatural ones **in the world of time**. 6 For this world **of time and perception** <is> the opposite of Heaven. This world **of time and perception** was made to be **Heaven's** opposite, and everything here **in this world of time and perception** takes a direction exactly opposite of what is true. 7 In Heaven, where the meaning of love is known, love is the same as union. 8 Here, **in the**

**world of time and perception** where the illusion of love is accepted in love's place, love is perceived as separation and exclusion.

**Note #41:** The Holy Spirit's thought system says that love is extension and sharing. No sacrifice is required for with inclusion all remain whole. The ego believes in lack and that to have something you must take it from another and then struggle to keep it exclusively for yourself. In the special love relationship, you attempt to enter into an exclusive barter arrangement in which you collectively agree to keep the prizes of bartering within the group. We exclude these same prizes from anyone outside the group's special circle. Love is perceived as something exclusive and special that must be protected from the attacks of the "outsiders". Egoic love is "conditional love" at best. In egoic love, there is always the expectation of a payback for the perceived sacrifices you have made.

**T-16.V.4.** It is in the special relationship, born of the hidden wish for special love from God, that the ego's hatred triumphs. 2 For the special relationship is the renunciation of the Love of God, and the attempt to secure for the self the specialness that **God** denied. 3 It is essential to the preservation of the ego that you believe this specialness is not hell, but Heaven. 4 For the ego would never have you see that separation could only be loss. **The state of separation is** the one condition in which Heaven could not be.

**Note # 42:** God's love is not special because God cannot limit His Love from the extension, which He created and which He knows as Himself. How can God love one part of a Oneness more than another part of the Oneness? A oneness is one, and therefore, by definition cannot be separated or made unequal. Our ego wished that God could love us more because we wanted to be "special". God could not do this, for to limit the Son, who is a Oneness with the Father, would also limit the Father. God is unlimited and could not allow specialness to be part of the Mind of God. Because we are an extension of our Father, we have free will. We cannot change the truth but we can deny the truth.

The egoic mind denied the truth so that it could pretend that it was special. Time was birthed to allow the experience of separation to be brought forth into our awareness. God's Son is allowed to play anything he wants in the fantasy world of time and perception. This play school is a place whose purpose is to be a home where those who claim they do not know themselves can come to question what it is they are. God has made sure that His Children cannot be hurt while they play and that all players will rediscover what they are. The Atonement is the healing balm for any perceived injury that we might suffer in our imagination. In Heaven, only the truth of Oneness abounds. But in a play school, we can have good guys and bad guys. God, the Father, is unconcerned about which parts we decide to play on any given day. God knows that a fantasy world of make believe can never change the reality of what we are. We can pretend to be special, we can even pretend to die, but in any case, upon our awakening, the truth remains. We remain the Host of God, a Oneness, perfect, whole and complete.

**T-16.V.5.** To everyone Heaven is completion. 2 There can be no disagreement on this, because both the ego and the Holy Spirit accept **that Heaven is completion.** p341 3 **The ego and the Holy Spirit** are, however, in complete disagreement on what completion is, and how **completion** is accomplished. 4 The Holy Spirit knows that completion lies first in union, and then in the extension of union. 5 To the ego completion lies in triumph, and in the extension of the "victory" even to the final triumph over God. 6 In this **final triumph**

over God, the ego sees the ultimate freedom of the self, the little “s” self, for nothing would remain to interfere with the ego. 7 This is the ego’s idea of Heaven. 8 And therefore union, which is a condition in which the ego cannot interfere, must be hell.

**Note # 43:** The ego fears union because this return to complete oneness would mean the death of the ego. The ego is only the part of our mind that believes in separation and specialness. It claims not to know what we are. The ego demands that the mind be split apart from God’s Mind. This is “accomplished” by the egoic denial of the truth. The ego would prefer the death of the Christ consciousness part of our mind. Yet, the Christ consciousness is part of the Mind of God and cannot be threatened by a powerless illusion from the egoic little “s” self. To the ego, the return to union or right-mindedness must not be allowed if the ego is to remain in control of our decision-maker. The ego’s triumph would be to make the false, true and the illusion, real. Our split mind can temporarily side with the ego and enter into a deep sleep of forgetfulness. But the illusion can never overcome the truth, which is the real world of Heaven. Any limitation on the power of God is impossible since God’s Will cannot be mocked. God’s Will remains eternal and changeless, just as His Creation’s Will, the Christ consciousness, cannot change. They both are the same and only One Will.

**T-16.V.6.** The special relationship is a strange and unnatural ego device for joining hell and Heaven, and making **hell and Heaven** indistinguishable. 2 And the attempt to find the imagined "best" of both worlds has merely led to fantasies of both **worlds**, and to the inability to perceive either **hell or Heaven** as it is. 3 The special relationship is the triumph of this confusion **of the inability to perceive truth from fantasy**. 4 **The special relationship** is a kind of union from which union is excluded, and the basis for the attempt at union rests on exclusion. 5 What better example could there be of the ego's maxim, "Seek but do not find?"

**Note # 44:** The special relationship is based on exclusion of the whole from its parts. Remember that in God’s thinking, which ACIM states is also the natural thinking method for the Christ, there is no distinguishing a part from the whole. They are one and indivisible. A part is the whole. Love, creation, extension are all-inclusive sharing. The egoic special relationship is a substitute for unconditional love, which is God’s Love. In the special relationship, the ego utilizes guilt, fear and sacrifice to pretend to have a false union of two at the exclusion of others. Since the ego does not understand that we are a Oneness, it does not understand that to give is to receive. To the ego, only barter and attack can give you what you lack. In the special relationship, we say that we are incomplete and that we need something outside ourselves to make us complete. Since we perceive ourselves as limited, we remain in fear of losing what little we have. The special relationship fosters competition and struggle. It perpetuates victim consciousness. We constantly seek outside ourselves. We never bother to look inside our own mind where the source of the problem of lack resides. By healing our mind from all thoughts that we could be separate from our Creator, we return to right-mindedness. The egoic idea of both heaven and hell disappear as both illusions are brought before the light of truth. During the dream of separation, truth is represented by the thought system of the Holy Spirit.

**T-16.V.7.** Most curious of all is the concept of the self which the ego fosters in the special relationship. 2 This **egoic "self" of the special relationship** seeks the relationship

to make itself complete. 3 Yet when **this egoic "self"** finds the special relationship in which **this egoic "self"** thinks it can accomplish this **completion, this egoic "self"** gives itself away, and tries to "trade" itself for the self of another. 4 This **trading** is not union, for there is no increase and no extension. 5 Each partner tries to sacrifice the self he does not want for one he thinks he would prefer. 6 And **each partner** feels guilty for the "sin" of taking, and of giving nothing of value in return. 7 How much value can he place upon a self that he would give away to get a "better" one?

**Note # 45:** Conditional love is bartering. We see ourselves as incomplete and desire to be made whole. Seeking the wholeness that is our natural divine birthright that we have denied, the ego seeks outside ourselves where wholeness cannot be found. Bartering requires that we give up something to get something in exchange. What we give up or "sacrifice" we no longer have and, therefore, once the trade is made we are still incomplete. Form cannot be shared. Even if we believe that together we could combine to make a whole, we would still fear losing what we gained. There is always someone who will try to take what you have. Ultimately death will rob you of everything. Attack and fear are inevitable. You cannot feel whole as long as you perceive something outside yourself. When we barter, we always attempt to make a "good trade." In a "good trade," we give up something of little or no value for something of great value. Sacrificing our "self" in the trade reconfirms our belief in littleness and separation.

**T-16.V.8.** The "better" self the ego seeks is always one that is more special. 2 And whoever seems to possess a special self is "loved" for what can be taken from **whoever is perceived to be special**. 3 Where both partners see this special self in each other, the ego sees "a union made in Heaven." 4 For neither **partner** will recognize that he has asked for hell, and so he will not interfere with the ego's illusion of Heaven, which **the ego** offered him to interfere with Heaven. 5 Yet if all illusions are of fear, and **all illusions** can be of nothing else, the illusion of Heaven is nothing more than an "attractive" form of fear, in which the guilt is buried deep and rises in the form of "love."

**Note # 46:** A happy illusion or an unhappy illusion is still an illusion. The Son of God, whose divine birthright is everything, cannot be happy with an illusion. Illusions are nothingness and have no reality in truth. Only by reclaiming the truth of what we are, can real happiness be rediscovered.

**T-16.V.9.** The appeal of hell lies only in the terrible attraction of guilt, which the ego holds out to those who place their faith in littleness. p342 2 The conviction of littleness lies in every special relationship, for only the deprived could value specialness, **which requires limitation**. 3 The demand for specialness, and the perception of the giving of specialness as an act of love, would make love hateful. 4 The real purpose of the special relationship, in strict accordance with the ego's goals, is to destroy reality and substitute illusion. 5 For the ego is itself an illusion, and only illusions can be the witnesses to **the ego's "reality."**

**Note # 47:** The ego's substitute for God's love is the special "love" relationship. But this special "love" requires sacrifice, guilt and fear. It is born out of the false belief in separation. Both the ego and the dream world of specialness are unknown within the Mind of God. Reality, which is truth, remains unchanged. Sin, guilt, and fear form the basis for

the special relationship and are unreal. They, like the ego's wish of separation, are all part of the dream that something outside God's Will could exist.

**T-16.V.10.** If you perceived the special relationship as a triumph over God, would you want **a relationship that triumphs over God?** 2 Let us not think of **the fearful nature of such a triumph**, nor of the guilt **a triumph over God** must entail, nor of the sadness and the loneliness **a triumph over God would bring**. 3 For these **fears, guilt and loneliness** are only attributes of the whole religion of separation, and of the total context in which **a triumph over God** is thought to occur. 4 The central theme in **the religion of separation's** litany to sacrifice is that God must die so you can live. 5 **And the death of another so you can live** is this theme that is acted out in the special relationship. 6 Through the death of your **little "s" self**, you think you can attack another self, and snatch **the self** from the other to replace the **little "s" self** that you despise. 7 And you despise **the little "s" self you think you made** because you do not think **the little "s" self you made** offers the specialness that you demand. 8 And hating **the little "s" self you think you made** you have made **this false image of yourself** little and unworthy, because you are afraid of **the false image you think you are**.

**Note # 48:** We are afraid of the little "s" self that we made. We believe that we have separated from God and, therefore, have sinned against God by usurping His authority. We are afraid because we are claiming to be self-created and limited. Thus, we are denying our divine birthright. Since we deny God's love for ourselves, we are lonely. The ego tells us that it is better to be right than happy. We cling to the illusion of having a will separate from God's Will and so we lose the happiness we seek. Our happiness is sacrificed so that our ego can claim that it is right. This sacrifice requires our acceptance of lack and limitation. Being an extension of "All that Is," we cannot be happy with littleness. Thus, the egoic little "s" self is constantly seeking to recover from another ego-body the wholeness that it now perceives that it lacks. The ego insisted that we "seek and never find."

**T-16.V.11.** How can you grant unlimited power to what you think you have attacked, **which is ultimately the Will of God and, therefore, God, Himself?** 2 So fearful has the truth become to you that unless **the truth** is weak and little, and unworthy of value, you would not dare to look upon **the truth**. 3 You think it safer to endow the little **"s" self** you made with power you wrested from truth, triumphing over **the truth** and leaving **the truth** helpless. 4 See how exactly is this ritual enacted in the special relationship. 5 An altar is erected in between two separate people, on which each seeks to kill his self, and on his body raise another self to take **the sacrificed self's** power from his death. 6 Over and over and over this ritual is enacted. 7 And **this ritual** is never completed, nor ever will be completed. 8 The ritual of completion cannot complete, for life arises not from death, nor Heaven **arise** from hell.

**Note # 49:** Although it is not apparent to the parties involved in the special relationship that they are attacking God, this is the case. Any belief that you lack something reinforces the belief in separation. God's Son is unlimited spirit. God's Son is not form and is not the body. The belief in separation is an attack on the authority of God. It is a belief that God's Will can be opposed and that we can be something other than what God created us to be.

We are not self-created. We are an extension of the Mind of God, not our egoic mind or some bodily form. Life arises only from God, for life is creation and God is life.

**T-16.V.12.** Whenever any form of special relationship tempts you to seek for love in ritual, remember love is content, and not form of any kind. 2 The special relationship is a ritual of form, aimed at raising the form to take the place of God at the expense of content. 3 There is no meaning in the form, and there will never be **meaning in the form**. 4 The special relationship must be recognized for what **the special relationship** is; a senseless ritual in which strength is extracted from the death of God, and invested in **God's** killer as the sign that form has triumphed over content, and love has lost its meaning. 5 Would you want this **death of God** to be possible, even apart from **the death of God's** evident impossibility? 6 If **the death of God** were possible, you would have made yourself helpless. 7 God is not angry. 8 **God** merely could not let this happen. 9 You cannot change **God's** Mind. 10 No rituals that you have set up in which the dance of death delights you can bring death to the eternal. 11 Nor can your chosen substitute for the Wholeness of God, **the special relationship**, have any influence at all upon **God's Mind**.

**Note # 50:** Illusion cannot affect the truth. We, like our Creator, are unlimited. We are mind which is the opposite of form. Form cannot be shared. Mind, which is thought, can be shared and extended. The ego's thought system is predicated on the belief that we are limited ego-bodies in competition with other ego-bodies. The special relationship ties you into the identification of being a body, not spirit. Being form you must be limited. To the ego, every special trait that we possess has been stolen from God. God seeks revenge for our thievery. Fortunately for us, illusions do not change reality. God's Love for His Creations is changeless and eternal. God does not see anything but His Son's wholeness. It is God's unshakeable belief in the sinlessness and guiltlessness of the Sonship that guarantees our return to knowledge. Life is creation. Life has been granted eternal existence. In our world of perception, we may have many bodies over time, but we will have only one eternal life.

**T-16.V.13.** See in the special relationship nothing more than a meaningless attempt to raise other gods before **God, our Father**, and by worshipping **the other false gods** to obscure **the other false gods'** tininess and **God, our Father's** greatness. 2 In the name of your completion you do not want this **meaningless attempt to raise other gods before God which is what the special relationship attempts to do**. 3 For every idol that you raise to place before **God** stands before *<you>*, in place of what you **truly** are.

**Note # 51:** An illusion blocks the truth from being known. The Holy Spirit must bring all illusion before truth's light. Once in the light of truth, all illusions will disappear. Anything untruthful bears false witness against the truth. These untruths are the idols of the ego. These idols for the false are utilized by the ego to veil our remembrance of the truth, which is the remembrance of God.

**T-16.V.14.** Salvation lies in the simple fact that illusions are not fearful because **illusions** are not true. 2 **Illusions** but seem to be fearful to the extent to which you fail to recognize **the illusions** for what they are; and you will fail to **recognize the illusions for what they are** to the extent to which you *<want>* **the illusions** to be true. 3 And to the same extent you are denying truth, and so are failing to make the simple choice between

truth and illusion; God and fantasy. 4 Remember this, and you will have no difficulty in perceiving the decision as just what **the decision** is, and nothing more. **The decision is always between truth and illusion.**

**Note # 52:** The decision is always between truth and illusion. If we value the illusion more than the truth, we will ignore the truth so that we can continue to reside in our fantasy world of time. Salvation lies in the decision for truth. Until we exclusively seek truth, we will be trapped in the prison of our mind's belief in separation. No illusion can remain a part of the real world of the Mind of God.

**T-16.V.15.** The core of the separation illusion lies simply in the fantasy of destruction of love's meaning. 2 And unless love's meaning is restored to you, you cannot know yourself who share **love's** meaning. 3 Separation is only the decision *<not>* to know yourself. 4 **The ego's** whole thought system is a carefully contrived learning experience, designed to lead **you** away from truth and into fantasy. 5 Yet for every learning that would hurt you, God offers you correction and complete escape from all **the hurtful lesson's** consequences.

**Note # 53:** Since God is love, we must also be love. To know ourselves, we must recover the meaning of love. This world of perception was designed by the ego, to keep God out. Love is not to be found in the world of the ego. To the Holy Spirit, this world of time and space is to be utilized for the rediscovery of the knowledge that we claimed to have lost. It is a play school for learning. Any errors made by the student are not punished, but rather simply corrected. The student is asked to choose again. The Holy Spirit is the teacher and the Atonement is the correction. In reality, it is impossible to not know yourself. We are always as God created us, the Christ, perfect, whole and complete.

**T-16.V.16.** The decision whether or not to listen to this course and follow **this course** is but the choice between truth and illusion. 2 For here is truth, separated from illusion and not confused with **illusion** at all. 3 How simple does this choice **between truth and illusion** become when **this choice between truth and illusion** is perceived as only what it is. 4 For only fantasies make confusion in choosing possible, and **fantasies** are totally unreal.

**Note # 54:** Because we believe that there are degrees of truth, we also believe that there are degrees of the false. ACIM states simply that there is only truth. Anything other than truth is not real in the Mind of God and is an illusion. This is why there is no order of difficulty in miracles. All miracles simply recognize that what is false can have no affect on the truth. What is false is simply recognized for the nothingness that it is. The false belief or illusion disappears and only the truth remains. It is our false belief that there are other alternate realities that appear to make choice possible. If we refused to acknowledge our fantasies as realities, there would be nothing to choose from. There would only be the one reality, the truth of the Mind of God.

**T-16.V.17.** This year is thus the time to make the easiest decision that ever confronted you, and also the only **decision**. 2 You will cross the bridge into reality simply because you will recognize that God is on the other side, and nothing at all is here **in your imagined world of illusion that you could value**. 3 It is impossible not to make the natural decision



as this is realized. **This decision is the choosing of truth over the nothingness of illusion.**  
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**Note # 55:** The ultimate choice for truth is inevitable; for illusions are nothing. We, being a Oneness of everything, will never find happiness in nothing. The denial of truth is insane. Our Father's Will is that His Son be happy and God's Will cannot be denied.

## **VI. The Bridge to the Real World**

**T-16.VI.1.** The search for the special relationship is the sign that you equate yourself with the ego and **that you do not equate yourself** with God. 2 For the special relationship has value only to the ego. 3 To the ego, unless a relationship has special value **the relationship** has no meaning, for **the ego** perceives all love as special. 4 Yet **to perceive all love as special** cannot be natural, for **the egoic special relationship** is unlike the relationship of God and His Son, and all relationships that are unlike **the relationship of God and His Son** <must> be unnatural. 5 For God created love as **God** would have **love** be, and gave **love** as **love** is. 6 Love has no meaning except as its Creator defined **love** by **the Creator's Will**. 7 It is impossible to define **love** otherwise and understand **love**.

**Note # 56:** God is the expression of love and as such has defined the meaning of love. In the ego's thought system, the ego redefines love. Yet, to arbitrarily and unilaterally change the definition of something does not change what that something really is. A duck is a duck no matter what you choose to call it.

**T-16.VI.2.** Love is freedom. 2 To look for **love or freedom** by placing yourself in bondage is to separate yourself from **love or freedom**. 3 For the Love of God, no longer seek for union in separation, nor for freedom in bondage! 4 As you release, so will you be released. 5 Forget not **this relationship of "As you release, so will you be released"**, or Love will be unable to find you and comfort you.

**Note # 57:** God's love does not bind or ask anything from the recipient of God's love. The ego's special relationship is a bartered contract that requires specific performance. If one party fails to meet the required performance tests established by the other party, that party will reject the other as unsatisfactorily fulfilling their part of the contract. In the special relationship, you become and create a mutual indentured servant relationship, but not a relationship between equals. You will give only to get.

**T-16.VI.3.** There is a way in which the Holy Spirit asks your help, if you would have **the Holy Spirit's help**. 2 The holy instant is **the Holy Spirit's** most helpful aid in protecting you from the attraction of guilt, **which is** the real lure in the special relationship. 3 You do not recognize that **guilt is the special relationship's** real appeal, for the ego has taught you that freedom lies in **the special relationship**. 4 Yet the closer you look at the special relationship, the more apparent it becomes that **the special relationship** must foster guilt and therefore must imprison you.

**Note # 58:** Because each special relationship is a form of bartering, guilt arises when either party is asked why they haven't delivered on their part of the contract. Each party is constantly judging and being judged. Each party is judging the relationship to determine if the contract is still a "good trade". Judgment is a guilt throwing process. In the holy instant,

the Holy Spirit requires the suspension of all judgment by the person seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit. The suspension of guilt requires the end of the ego's focus on the past. The ego knows that you cannot be free in the now of today, if you carry the judgments of the past with you always. You remain trapped in the egoic past. Our past hurts, guilts and judgments are carried with us like a bag of manure. We constantly carry this manure bag with us and whenever we find an opportunity, we reach into our manure bag to throw some of our manure on something outside ourselves. Then we wonder why they smell like manure. We re-enact or project the past-perceived event into the present. During this whole process, our egoic consciousness is denying that it is our mind and our manure bag that is the source of the stench. Our past judgments and guilts block love's presence from entering the <now>. We remain imprisoned within our past misperception. The special relationship constantly reinforces our belief that we are not perfect, whole and complete.

**T-16.VI.4.** The special relationship is totally meaningless without a body. 2 If you value **the special relationship**, you must also value the body. 3 And what you value you will keep. 4 The special relationship is a device for limiting your self to a body, and for limiting your perception of others to **their body**. 5 The Great Rays would establish the total lack of value of the special relationship, if **the Great Rays** were seen. 6 For in seeing **the Great Rays** the body would disappear, because **the body's** value would be lost. 7 And so your whole investment in seeing **the body** would be withdrawn from **the body**.

**Note # 59:** The mind or thoughts can be shared. The body represents form, which cannot be shared. For sharing form requires diminishment of the original owner and thus, sacrifice. To the ego, the body is a fence built around a part of the shared Mind of God to provide false witness that this tiny part is separate and autonomous from the whole. The body is a veil to hide the truth from ourselves that we are unlimited spirit. The body blocks the Great Rays generated by the mind from our Christ vision. If the Great Rays were seen, the illusion of body-form would rapidly fade away.

**T-16.VI.5.** You see the world you value. 2 On **the egoic** side of the bridge, you see the world of separate bodies, seeking to join each other in separate unions and to become one by losing **and sacrificing**. 3 When two individuals seek to become one, they are trying to decrease their magnitude. 4 Each would deny his power **as a Oneness with God**. For the separate union excludes the universe, **and, therefore, attempts to exclude God and the rest of creation**. 5 Far more is left outside than would be taken in **by this attempted union of the special relationship**, for God is left without and <nothing> taken in. 6 If one such union were made in perfect faith, the universe would enter into **the union**. 7 Yet the special relationship the ego seeks does not include even one whole individual. p345 8 The ego wants but part of him, and sees only this part **that the ego wants** and nothing else.

**Note # 60:** We see what we want to see. This is what perception and the thoughts we project from our mind were meant to bear witness to. To the ego, the goal is to always keep its host, which is our mind, apart from the knowledge of the Oneness. This keeps us in victim consciousness. If the mind were to become whole, right-mindedness would opt for the Holy Spirit's thought system that represents truth. Thus, the ego would be ostracized from its host, which is the split mind. The Christ conscious part of our mind knows only our magnitude. If a special relationship were to bring the union of two that were perceived as separate, this too would result in the death of the ego. Thus, the ego encourages its host

to seek but never find. The special relationship fulfills the ego's function of keeping its host in victim consciousness.

**T-16.VI.6.** Across the bridge, **in Heaven**, it is so different **from the side of egoic perception!** 2 For a time the body is still seen, but not exclusively, as **the body** is seen here **in this world of time and perception.** 3 The little spark that holds the Great Rays within **the body** is also visible, and this spark cannot be limited long to littleness. 4 Once you have crossed the bridge **and stand at Heavens gate**, the value of the body is so diminished in your sight that you will see no need at all to magnify **the body.** 5 For you will realize that the only value the body has is to enable you to bring your brothers to the bridge with you, and to be released together **with your brothers** there, **at Heaven's gate.**

**Note # 61:** To the Holy Spirit the body is a neutral learning device. All things in the world of perception are neutral. The body, however, can be used as a communication device in this world of time. If we allow our minds to be guided by the Holy Spirit, we can utilize the body to communicate the thoughts of love and forgiveness. As we cross over into the Kingdom or Heaven, the body is no longer of value as a means of communication and fades into the nothingness from which it came. Being a Oneness communication is instantaneous, for there are no barriers within the Mind of God.

**T-16.VI.7.** The bridge itself is nothing more than a transition in the perspective of reality. 2 On this side, **in the world of egoic time**, everything you see is grossly distorted and completely out of perspective. 3 What is little and insignificant is magnified, and what is strong and powerful cut down to littleness. 4 In the transition **to heaven and return to timelessness** there is a period of confusion, in which a sense of actual disorientation may occur. 5 But fear **this sense of actual disorientation** not, for **this sense of actual disorientation** means only that you have been willing to let go your hold on the distorted frame of reference that seemed to hold your world of **provisional reality** together. 6 This frame of reference **in your present world of misperception** is built around the special relationship. 7 Without this **illusional frame of reference** there could be no meaning you would still seek here **in the world of perception and time.**

**Note # 62:** As we cross the bridge from time to the timelessness of truth, our misperceptions are transformed by the Holy Spirit into correct perception. Correct perception arises from learning forgiveness and the reality that as a united mind, to give is to receive. When we fail to see the Christ in our brother, we keep both of us from reclaiming our divine birthright. With the restoration of Christ vision, our perceived world of sin, guilt and fear is corrected and becomes a learning tool to teach us what we are. Our remembrance of God answers the question of "What am I?"

**T-16.VI.8.** Fear not that you will be abruptly lifted up and hurled into reality. 2 Time is kind, and if you use **time** on behalf of reality, **time** will keep gentle pace with you in your transition. 3 The urgency is only in dislodging your mind from **your mind's** fixed position here **in the world of illusion.** 4 This **dislodging your mind from your mind's fixed position here in the world of illusion** will not leave you homeless and without a frame of reference. 5 The period of disorientation, which precedes the actual transition, is far shorter than the time it took to fix your mind so firmly on illusions. 6 Delay will hurt you now more than before, only because you realize **delay** *<is>* delay, and that escape from pain is

really possible. 7 Find hope and comfort, rather than despair, in this: You could not long find even the illusion of love in any special relationship here. 8 For you are no longer wholly insane, and you would soon recognize the guilt of self-betrayal for what **the guilt of self-betrayal is, which is insanity**.

**Note # 63:** The ego's thought system has been brought before the truth and we have found it was based on fallacies. The illusion that once bore witness to our belief in separation has confessed and recanted its testimony under the cross examination of the Holy Spirit, the defender of truth. We escape from the insanity of denying what we are. Insanity has given way to the remembrance of God and the Christ that we are. Our sin and guilt are dismissed as unreal. We forgive ourselves for our illusion of lack, realizing that we remain sinless and guiltless. Error has been corrected rather than punished. Our decision-maker is ready to choose only for the truth and dismisses all illusion.

**T-16.VI.9.** Nothing you seek to strengthen in the special relationship is really part of you. 2 And you cannot keep part of the **egoic** thought system that taught you **that the illusion of the special relationship was really part of you and that** it was real, and understand the Thought, **which is the Christ, the Big "S" Self**, that *<knows>* what you are. 3 You have allowed the Thought of your reality, **the Big "S" Self**, to enter your mind, and because you invited **the Thought of your reality, the Thought of your reality** will abide with you. 4 Your love for, **the Thought of your reality, the Big "S" Self**, will not allow you to betray yourself, and you could not enter into a relationship where **the Thought of your Big "S" Self**, could not go with you, for you would not want to be apart from **your Big "S" Self, the Christ**. p346

**Note # 64:** ACIM states that once you realize the magnitude of your Big "S" Self, you will never be satisfied with littleness. As the voice for God, the Holy Spirit is the bearer of this "Thought". The ego's thought system, which claims that there could be something other than God's Will, fades from our memory.

**T-16.VI.10.** Be glad you have escaped the mockery of salvation the ego offered you, and look not back with longing on the travesty **the ego** made of your relationships. 2 Now no one need suffer, for you have come too far to yield to the illusion of the beauty and holiness of guilt. 3 Only the wholly insane could look on death and suffering, sickness and despair, and see **death and suffering, sickness and despair as beautiful and holy**. 4 What guilt has wrought is ugly, fearful and very dangerous. 5 See no illusion of truth and beauty there **in what guilt has wrought**. 6 And be you thankful that there *<is>* a place, **Heaven**, where truth and beauty wait for you. 7 Go on to meet **truth and beauty** gladly, and learn how much awaits you for the simple willingness to give up nothing *<because>* **what guilt has wrought** is nothing.

**Note # 65:** Illusions, when brought in front of the light of truth, disappear into the nothingness from which it came. Illusions are not real since they lack permanence. The Mind of God is not unstable and is changeless. However, within the split-mind, we perceive that we have another mind that is not part of the Mind of God. Because we believe this split-mind exists, we, the dreamer, believe in the reality of our dream. To the dreamer, who has forgotten that he is asleep, the dream takes on a reality of its own. Our belief that the dream is real results in the birth of sin, guilt and fear. It is our identification with the

dream, not the dream itself that is the problem. If we were aware that we are making up the dream, the dream would be like going to a movie. In the movie theater, we can enjoy and learn by watching a movie without making ourselves feel guilty for what the actors did in the movie. This world of perception was made by the ego to exclude God's Love. Through sin, guilt, and fear the ego attempts to reinvent God and to redefine love. The ego attempts to overturn truth and replace truth with illusions. The ego's world of misperception was made in hate and to be the opposite of God's Love. We, God's Sons, have the role of becoming the heroes in the horror film called "The Separation." By discarding the egoic thought system, we reclaim our birthright and demonstrate that God's Will and our will are the same. In Heaven, the movie ends as we receive a standing ovation and accept our Academy Award.

**T-16.VI.11.** The new perspective you will gain from crossing over will be the understanding of where Heaven <is.> 2 From this side, **the egoic world of perception, Heaven** seems to be outside and across the bridge. 3 Yet as you cross to join **Heaven, Heaven** will join with you and become one with you. 4 And you will think, in glad astonishment, that for all this, **which is the truth of Heaven**, you gave up <nothing!> **since illusions are nothing.** 5 The joy of Heaven, which has no limit, is increased with each light that returns to take its rightful place within **Heaven.** 6 Wait no longer, for the Love of God and <you>, **the Christ, your Big "S" Self.** 7 And may the holy instant speed you on the way, as **the holy instant** will surely do if you but let **the holy instant** come to you.

**Note # 66:** The holy instant is the suspension of judgment and allows for the teaching of the meaning of love. Judgment is the basis for making ourselves and others guilty. It keeps us in a state of contraction or exclusion. Love is sharing and inclusive. It cannot be found in guilt. Because we see guilt in ourselves and others, we believe that we have a reason why love should not be granted. The ego insists that we cling to being right at the cost of our happiness. To be right is to keep guilt. The ego's insistence on being right keeps the illusion of sin, guilt and fear alive within our split-mind. This prevents our return to sanity. Right-mindedness will place us before Heaven's gate where God, Himself, will take the last step to our return to knowledge.

**T-16.VI.12.** The Holy Spirit asks only this little help of you: Whenever your thoughts wander to a special relationship which still attracts you, enter with **the Holy Spirit** into a holy instant, and there let **the Holy Spirit** release you **from misperception.** 2 **The Holy Spirit** needs only your willingness to share **the Holy Spirit's** perspective to give **the Holy Spirit's perspective** to you completely. 3 And your willingness need not be complete because **the Holy Spirit's willingness** is perfect. 4 It is **the Holy Spirit's** task to atone for your unwillingness by **the Holy Spirit's** perfect faith. And it is **the Holy Spirit's** faith you share with **the Holy Spirit** there **in the holy instant.** 5 Out of your recognition of your unwillingness for your release, **the Holy Spirit's** perfect willingness is given you. 6 Call upon **the Holy Spirit**, for Heaven is at **the Holy Spirit's** Call. 7 And let **the Holy Spirit** call on Heaven for you.

**Note # 67:** By asking for the Holy Spirit's guidance, we enter into a state of the holy instant. All our egoic judgments are suspended. This allows the Holy Spirit to reinterpret our perceived experience by correctly aligning our awareness with the truth of what we are. This call to truth is the call to Heaven and the remembrance of God.

## VII. The End of Illusions

**T-16.VII.1.** It is impossible to let the past go without relinquishing the special relationship. 2 For the special relationship is an attempt to re-enact the past and change **the past**. 3 Imagined slights, remembered pain, past disappointments, perceived injustices and deprivations all enter into the special relationship, which becomes a way in which you seek to restore your wounded self-esteem. p347 4 What basis would you have for choosing a special partner without the past? 5 Every such choice **for a special partner and the special relationship and what they both bring** is made because of something "evil" in the past to which you cling, and for which must someone else atone.

**Note # 68:** Special relationships are not just with people. Anything will do. A special relationship is anytime you see yourself as incomplete and lacking something. In the special relationship, we attempt to barter so that we get the thing that we believe we lack. If I "need" a car to make me happy, the car is a special relationship. Any time we look outside ourselves for what we perceive we lack, we are seeking a special relationship. We claim that we need something from an outside "source" to make us whole. We refuse to acknowledge that being the everything of the Big "S" Self, we can lack nothing. Both our current perception and our judgments are based upon our past. We attempt to relive our past by seeking a different outcome in the misguided belief that this can somehow change our past. The Holy Spirit knows the past is over and that the past resides only in the mind of the perceiver. Only by releasing the past can we focus on the now. Suspend all past judgment and let the Holy Spirit show you correct perception. In the special relationship, we seek to remove our guilt by transferring it to our partner. In the example of the car, it is the car's fault that you are unhappy. We blame "my stupid car" for not getting its oil changed. We continue to maintain victim consciousness by pretending that something else is the cause of all the pain or happiness that we perceive. The car becomes our personal whipping boy and depository for our guilt.

**T-16.VII.2.** The special relationship takes vengeance on the past. 2 By seeking to remove suffering in the past, **the special relationship** overlooks the present in **your** preoccupation with the past and **your preoccupation's** total commitment to **the past**. 3 No special relationship is experienced in the present. 4 Shades of the past envelop **the special relationship** and make **the shades from the past into** what **the special relationship** is. 5 **The special relationship** has no meaning in the present, and if **the special relationship** means nothing now, **the special relationship** cannot have any real meaning at all. 6 How can you change the past except in fantasy? 7 And who can give you what you think the past deprived you of? 8 The past is nothing. 9 Do not seek to lay the blame for deprivation on **the past**, for the past is gone. 10 You cannot really *<no>* let go what has already gone, **which was the past**. 11 It must be, therefore, that you are maintaining the illusion that **the past** has not gone because you think **the past** serves some purpose that you want fulfilled. 12 And it must also be that this purpose could not be fulfilled in the present, but only in the past.

**Note # 69:** ACIM states the obvious, yet, this advice remains for the large part ignored. "The past is gone, let it go. We only have the now." Most people are so tied to the past that they fail to live in the now. They wallow in victim consciousness for some perceived injustice that happened long ago. Everything they see and do is based on this past perceived

injustice. ACIM asks that we drop all judgments so that we can start experiencing the present. Only in the present can you choose again. And no choice made today will change past events. If we cannot release and forgive our past misperceptions, we will choose to relive them. Similar events reoccur in our life because they contain a lesson that we refuse to learn.

**T-16.VII.3.** Do not underestimate the intensity of the ego's drive for vengeance on the past. 2 **The ego's drive for vengeance on the past** is completely savage and completely insane. 3 For the ego remembers everything you have done that has offended **the ego**, and **the ego** seeks retribution of you. 4 The fantasies **the ego** brings to chosen relationships in which to act out **the ego's** hate are fantasies of your destruction. 5 For the ego holds the past against you, and in your escape from the past **the ego** sees itself deprived of the vengeance **the ego** believes you so justly merit. 6 Yet without your alliance in your own destruction, the ego could not hold you to the past. 7 In the special relationship you are allowing your destruction to be **because you refuse to drop your fixation on the past and thus, allow yourself to move into and experience the reality of the now**. 8 That this **fixation on an imagined past** is insane is obvious. 9 But what is less obvious is that the present is useless to you while you pursue the ego's goal as its ally, **which is the past that you maintain in your special relationship**.

**Note # 70:** The ego is not our friend. The ego masquerades in sheep's clothing so that it can appear to be our protector. The ego is the part of our mind that believes and wants the separation to be real. It is all our beliefs about being a separate self. Being split-minded, we are our worst enemy. The ego remembers all our past shortcomings and demands that retribution be made for eachone. We are constantly punishing ourselves for being bad, evil, not good enough and, therefore, unworthy of God's love. The ego constantly reminds us of our perceived inadequacies. The ego never wants us to know that all our inadequacies were only illusions held within our insane split-mind. This insures the ego's existence as we continue to wallow in our past illusions that we have made real. If the ego can keep us in victim consciousness, we will remain in a stupor and never reawaken to the spiritual magnitude that we are. We will continue to believe the ego's illusion that we are the body and have forever abdicated our divine birthright. To the ego, the special relationship is the substitute for God's love. Yet, the egoic special relationship only recycles and rebirth's past guilt. We continue to utilize the special relationship to throw guilt upon our brothers and guilt upon ourselves. As long as we remain within the egoic thought system, there is no escape from sin, guilt and fear. We need a new paradigm. We need to ask for a new teacher, the Holy Spirit. Only the Holy Spirit's teachings can reawaken us. We are trapped within our mind's dream world of illusion. Only the Holy Spirit, Who is outside the dream, can reawaken us to the truth.

**T-16.VII.4.** The past is gone; seek not to preserve **the past** in the special relationship that binds you to **the past**, and would teach you salvation is past and so you must return to the past to find salvation. 2 There is no fantasy that does not contain the dream of retribution for the past. 3 Would you act out the dream, or let **the dream** go?

**Note # 71:** Only in fantasy can we change the past. But only in our remembering the past does the past continue to exist in our mind. By releasing the past misperception from our

mind, we have wiped the slate clean. We can choose to write and live a new script by being in the presence of the <now>.

**T-16.VII.5.** In the special relationship **you and your ego do** not seem to be **a part of** an acting out of vengeance that you seek. 2 And even when the hatred and the savagery break briefly through, the illusion of love is not profoundly shaken. 3 Yet the one thing the ego never allows to reach awareness is that the special relationship is the acting out of vengeance on yourself. p348 4 Yet what else could **the special relationship's purpose** be? 5 In seeking the special relationship, you look not for glory in yourself. 6 You have denied that **glory** is there **within you**, and the relationship becomes your substitute for **the glory you have denied within you**. 7 And vengeance becomes your substitute for Atonement, and the escape from vengeance becomes your loss.

**Note # 72:** The special relationship maintains our littleness. It claims that we need something outside ourselves to make us whole. Thus, we confirm and maintain the ego's past belief that the separation is real. The ego cleverly seeks to restore our lack of self-esteem by transferring our guilt upon something else. Yet, ideas never leave their source and so the guilt remains hidden deep within our mind. To the ego, the focus of the special relationship is to keep us re-enacting our past. Thus, we remain in victim consciousness. The present becomes a constant replaying of past limitations and perceived failures. Since the tool for egoic salvation is the special relationship, we remain trapped in our past belief that we are not whole, not perfect and not complete. There can be no hope for salvation within the ego's thought system.

God's Plan for salvation is the Atonement. The Atonement principle states that the past is an illusory dream and has no effect on the now. God's Son is and always will be guiltless and sinless because that is how God created him. Only by accepting the Atonement for ourselves can release from our imagined sin and guilt be found. With the Atonement, we now see our brother and ourselves as guiltless. We can now remember our true relationship with God, our Father, and reclaim our divine birthright.

**T-16.VII.6.** Against the ego's insane notion of salvation the Holy Spirit gently lays the holy instant. 2 We said before that the Holy Spirit must teach through comparisons, and uses opposites to point to truth. 3 The holy instant is the opposite of the ego's fixed belief in salvation through vengeance for the past. 4 In the holy instant it is understood that the past is gone, and with **the passing of our past** the drive for vengeance has been uprooted and has disappeared. 5 The stillness and the peace of <now> enfold you in perfect gentleness. 6 Everything is gone except the truth.

**Note # 73:** In the holy instant, there is a suspension of all past judgments. Without these past judgments, we have lost our frame of reference that we utilize to judge the present. Without past reference, the only thing to perceive is the <now>. The past has dropped off our mind's radar screen. If we ask the Holy Spirit's guidance, our misperception can be corrected. We can look upon the unveiled truth of the present moment and be in the <now>.

**T-16.VII.7.** For a time you may attempt to bring illusions into the holy instant, to hinder your full awareness of the complete difference, in all respects, between your experience of truth and illusion. 2 Yet you will not attempt **to bring illusions into the holy instant for**



long. 3 In the holy instant the power of the Holy Spirit will prevail, because you joined **the Holy Spirit**. 4 The illusions you bring with you will weaken the experience of **the holy instant** for a while, and will prevent you from keeping the experience in your mind. 5 Yet the holy instant is eternal, and your illusions of time will not prevent the timeless from being what **the holy instant** is, nor you from experiencing **the holy instant** as **the holy instant** is, **which is eternal and, therefore timeless**.

**Note # 74:** Until we are able to drop all our illusions that someone must be guilty and punished, we will tend to drift back into egoic thinking. Eventually, by the Holy Spirit's retraining of our mind, we will reclaim right-mindedness. By removing all the barriers we have placed between love and ourselves, our decision-maker will learn to side more and more with the thought system of the Holy Spirit. Our remembrance of God and what we are will grow stronger and the "time" or interval between each holy instant will appear to grow shorter. Eventually, the past will totally disappear and there will only be the now.

**T-16.VII.8.** What God has given you is truly given, and will be truly received. 2 For God's gifts have no reality apart from your receiving **God's gifts**. 3 Your receiving completes **God's** giving. 4 You will receive *<because>* it is **God's** Will to give. 5 **God** gave the holy instant to be given you, and it is impossible that you **not** receive **the holy instant** *<because>* **God** gave **the holy instant to be given you**. 6 When **God** willed that **God's** Son be free, **God's** Son *<was>* free. 7 In the holy instant is **God's** reminder that **God's** Son will always be exactly as he was created. 8 And everything the Holy Spirit teaches is to remind you that you have received what God has given you.

**Note # 75:** Because God's Will is all-powerful and changeless, we can do nothing that could change God's Will. We can deny God's Will in a dream of make believe yet, our dream has no effect that can change the truth. Being eternal and changeless means God will always see the Sonship as perfect, whole and complete, for that is how God knows Himself. We, the Christ, are the perfect extension and the Host of our Father.

**T-16.VII.9.** There is nothing you can hold against reality. 2 All that must be forgiven are the illusions you have held against your brothers. 3 **Your brothers'** reality has no past, and only illusions can be forgiven. 4 God holds nothing against anyone, for **God** is incapable of illusions of any kind. 5 Release your brothers from the slavery of **your brothers'** illusions by forgiving **your brothers** for the illusions you perceive in **your brothers**. 6 Thus will you learn that you have been forgiven, for it is you who offered **your brothers** illusions. p349 7 In the holy instant, **the forgiving of your brothers for the illusions you perceive in your brothers** is done for you in time, to bring you the true condition of Heaven.

**Note # 76:** It is interesting to note that what we are forgiving is not what our brother did to hurt us, but rather what we perceived our brother to have done to us. Being unlimited spirit, an extension of God, we cannot be hurt by anything. Only when we perceive ourselves to be "the body" can we perceive ourselves as vulnerable and subject to pain, and hurt. By realizing that we share the Mind of God with our brother, we realize that to forgive our brother is to forgive ourselves and to forgive ourselves is to forgive our brother. We are a joined Oneness and, therefore, to give is to receive. The reality of the Mind of God is

Heaven. Heaven is the truth that we are a Oneness of everything, perfect, whole and complete. This is God's Will for His Son. This is the holy instant that is our eternal destiny.

**T-16.VII.10.** Remember that you always choose between truth and illusion; between the real Atonement that would heal and the ego's "atonement" that would destroy. **The ego's "atonement" is the continued belief in limitation, which the special relationship fosters by focusing on, and thus, re-enacting the past. In egoic "atonement," sacrifice and revenge are demanded from someone since sin has been accepted as real.** 2 **In real Atonement**, the power of God and all **God's** Love, without limit, will support you as you seek only your place in the plan of Atonement arising from **God's** Love. 3 Be an ally of God and not the ego in seeking how Atonement can come to you. 4 **God's** help suffices, for His Messenger, **the Holy Spirit**, understands how to restore the Kingdom to you, and to place all your investment in salvation in your relationship with **God**.

**Note # 77:** The choice that we must make is simple. It is the choice between supporting the truth or upholding an illusion. The two thought systems stand side by side and ask you, the decision-maker, to choose. The Atonement tells us that God will not damn us for a choice made in a dream. Our egoic mind is the only one capable of such a thought. Choose again and reawaken to the birthright that the Holy Spirit and our Christ has always preserved for us. The choice for illusion is not real. An illusion is nothing. Choose again, this time claiming your inheritance, which is the Oneness of everything. For this and only this is God's Will for Himself and, therefore, for His Son.

**T-16.VII.11.** Seek and find **God's** message in the holy instant, where all illusions are forgiven. 2 From there the miracle extends to bless everyone and to resolve all problems, be **the problems** perceived as great or small, possible or impossible. 3 There is nothing that will not give place to **God** and to **God's** Majesty. 4 To join in close relationship with **God** is to accept relationships as real, and through **this relationship's** reality to give over all illusions for the reality of your relationship with God. 5 Praise be to your relationship with **God** and to no other **relationship**. 6 The truth lies there in your relationship with God and nowhere else. 7 You choose **your relationship with God** or nothing, **which is the dream of separation**.

**Note # 78:** ACIM states that we should be vigilant only for God. It is only our relationship with God that means anything for only God is real. Accepting God's Will is our acceptance of God's Will for everything, since God is everything. There is nothing outside the Mind of God. By accepting what we are, we accept the Love of God. If we are vigilant only for God, we accept the fact that God's Will is our will. Everything else is taken care of. Everything we know is part of the shared Oneness of the Mind of God, perfect, whole and complete.

**T-16.VII.12.** *<Forgive us our illusions, Father, and help us to accept our true relationship with You, **our Father**, in which there are no illusions, and where **no illusions** can ever enter. 2 Our holiness is **Your Holiness**. 3 What can there be in us that needs forgiveness when **Your Forgiveness** is perfect? 4 The sleep of forgetfulness is only the unwillingness to remember Your forgiveness and Your Love. 5 Let us not wander into temptation, for the temptation of the Son of God is not Your Will. 6 And let us receive only*

*what You, **our Father**, have given, and accept but this into the minds which You created and which You love. 7 Amen.> p350*

**Note # 79:** Jesus updates the traditional version of the Lord's Prayer incorporating the concepts of illusion and the shared Oneness of the Son and His Father.