

# INTRODUCTION TO THE GREAT GOSPEL OF JOHN

Lessons and Deeds of Jesus during His three Years of Teaching.

Received through the Inner Word by Jakob Lorber 1851-1864

According to the 7th edition.

God is a true God, a loving Father who has never failed to reveal His will to men. Also during the past almost 2000 years His revelations have kept flowing to individual recipients, to men and women who loved Him deeply with all their being and were thus capable of receiving His Word, either through visions or through the Inner Word, or both. These mystics and seers received the pure divine teaching and it was their task to spread it and thereby restore the original teaching to its former purity. But they did not succeed because people's minds were held captive through fear and ignorance, and only few benefitted from the divine revelations.

The most comprehensive of these revelations was received in the 19<sup>th</sup> century by the Styrian mystic and seer Jakob Lorber through the Inner Word. Born at Kanischa (Austria) on July 22, 1800 as the son of a vine grower who was in his spare time the leader of a popular band, Jakob Lorber grew up in a poor rural environment, but in a family that was deeply religious and dedicated to music. From his father Jakob had inherited a versatile musical talent and he early learnt to play the violin, piano and organ. His father helped him later to pay for his education, first in Marburg and then in Graz, the Styrian capital, where in 1829 he obtained his diploma as a teacher for intermediate schools. But when he could not find a suitable position, he reverted to his particular love, music. He gave lessons in singing and the violin, practiced for hours every day, composed and sometimes gave concerts, alone or together with others. He was successful, but never to the extent he had hoped for. During the years he devoted to music, Lorber followed also his inclination to deepen his spiritual understanding,

diligently studying the Bible as well as the works of men who followed the "inward path", among others such mystics as Jakob Boehme and Emmanuel Swedenborg.

In his fortieth year Lorber was offered - and accepted - a conductorship with the theatre in Trieste, a position that would give him the long hoped-for recognition and material security. But it was not to be.

Shortly before his departure for Trieste, on the morning of March 15, 1840, Lorber heard a clear voice in the region of his heart telling him: "Arise, take your pen and write!"

Lorber obeyed this mysterious call and began to write down what the voice dictated to him. It was the introduction to his first work *The Household of God*: "Thus spoke the Lord to and within me for everyone, and that is true, faithful and certain: Who wants to talk with Me, let him come to Me and I will lay the answer in his heart. But only the pure of heart, whose heart is full of meekness, shall hear the sound of My voice. And he who prefers Me to all the world and loves Me like a tender bride her bridegroom, with him I shall walk arm in arm. He will always behold Me like a brother his brother and as I beheld him from eternity, before he was." When Lorber realized that this was the beginning of a book and who the author was, he did not hesitate to renounce the offered material security and served the Lord as His "scribe" to the end of his days.

It is important for the reader to understand how inspiration through the Inner Word is received. Lorber did not experience any states of ecstasy, nor was he a medium for automatic writing whose hand is guided by a spirit-entity. Fully awake he heard the voice and promptly wrote down what he heard. An expert describes the process as follows: "The subtle spiritual impulse must first have filtered through the mental sphere of the mediator before he can record in words of human language what he has perceived. This is also the reason why the Word of God, and thus each communication, expresses itself always in the mediator's particular manner of speaking."

At the time of his calling, this simple man never suspected that the task he was given would keep him busy for 24 years. He rarely interrupted his work and wrote almost daily for several hours, obediently recording what the voice in his heart dictated to him, without correcting even a single line, as the manuscripts show.

These works, eventually contained in 25 volumes of almost 500 pages each, not to mention a number of shorter writings, present an amazing phenomenon with the comprehensive knowledge they contain, the deep interpretations and detailed facts on subjects of cosmology, astronomy, biology, natural science, psychology and prophecy.

Lorber's greatest and best known work, written during the years 1851 to 1864, is the *Great Gospel of John* in 10 volumes (Volume 11 was written almost 30 years later by Leopold Engel). It begins with an explanation of the Biblical gospel according to St. John and then gives a detailed, almost day to day account of the three teaching years of Jesus revealing to a matured humanity many secrets of creation and divine guidance.

To make this work accessible to more people, The Great Gospel of John was condensed by the German publishers to about a third of its volume and is available in a set of 6 books now being translated into English, of which the first two volumes are now published.

This literature will speak for itself to the reader with an open mind, who has the honest desire to learn the truth, possesses humility and perseverance in his studies. Here the truth seeker finds answers to all the questions that have forever puzzled mankind. He sees the great panorama of creation and God's plan with mankind unfold, begins to understand the purpose of man's existence on earth, of life and death, of God's love and guidance and this knowledge gives him a feeling of security and frees him from his manifold fears.

But the reader must realize this: Only humility and the approach with a pure heart and good will opens the door to the understanding of spiritual things.

May the honest truth seeker find in these revelations what he is seeking!

The Editor

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