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Our Fulfillment.

"The Father and I are one."

John 10:30

Our Bible quote is brief. Just one sentence, and even that is crafted to be short. However, it would be very difficult to read all the long sentences that have been written about this quote. And the verse is as clear as it is brief. People today consider this sentence that Jesus believed he was one with the Father to be so straightforward and self-explanatory that they never analyze it; they just accept it. However, there have been countless sentences written and words spoken about this verse, despite the fact that those words didn't provide any additional meaning. We are not the only ones asking: Why do all that? They would answer: because they preferred to insert their own biases into the explanations, instead of trying to comprehend that clear thought.

For our consideration, let us allow this sentence to remain as is. Let us not force an artificial explanation onto it; let us remain content, knowing that Jesus reached the pinnacle of the soul by becoming one with the Father. And that reveals a path for our devout destiny—a path we can travel because one man has already traveled it. That is the path to reach our fulfillment, to achieve the perfection of our souls. We ought to be working toward that, even in this hour. Our work toward that goal is represented here by our exploration of the means we can use to improve our character to the level where we can be one with the Father.

One aspect of our fulfillment is our ultimate goal of becoming similar to God. Reaching such fulfillment is a happiness of holy dimensions—a limitless source of rewards for mortals after their struggles. That is what we proclaim. And, we proclaim this Christian concept of the joyful desire of millions for fulfillment, in contrast to the Eastern philosophies that state happiness can only be achieved through destruction. That philosophy proclaims that those who hold a hundred things dear have a hundred

sufferings; those who hold ninety-nine things dear have ninety-nine sufferings; those who hold one thing dear have one suffering, and those who hold nothing dear have no suffering. The price of their happiness is that everything is destroyed. The Christian reasoning, starting with Jesus, opposes destruction; fulfillment is the ultimate goal. Those who have no yearnings are dead; those who have even just one yearning have already sensed the reward from God. Those who have ninety-nine yearnings are willing to endure ninety-nine sufferings to see the fulfillment of those yearnings. Those who are yearning to elevate their souls to the height of the holy will ignore their sufferings, because they consider misery to be their Golgotha, necessary to reach the pinnacle of fulfillment, God Himself.

The devout people yearn to become one with God, the way Jesus became one with Him. To equal that high accomplishment by Jesus, we need to allow those holy attributes to manifest in us. One attribute of God is that He creates, forming ceaselessly, to achieve His goals. The intention of the Father is to shape the Universe into a perfect structure, to bring about the complete fulfillment of the world. People see this only if they view the history of the world with the help of the soul, gifted to us by God. Such a soul observes that God is committed to the rule of never-ending improvement of His creations. God has found the best channels for His creation a long, long time ago; our scholars call them laws of nature and the laws of ethics. Those laws make for a wonderful world that would make human beings holy. However, we need to phrase this more precisely. It might seem that we have no role in this; we just trust ourselves into the laws of God, and everything will turn out fine. It is a more accurate statement to say that while the world is shaped according to the laws of God, people need to align with those laws. To extend that thought further, whether we can reach the point where we can say, like Jesus, that we are one with the Father ultimately depends on us. In order to reach that point, we need, like God, to possess the desire to create, to possess the understanding of the laws of our fulfillment, and then, to remain committed to our improvement.

Jesus could state that he is one with the Father, that very Father with whom everybody wants to be one with, because Jesus possessed the yearning to create God's country on Earth—because he found joy in his actions and because he was committed as much as God wanted him to be. Without all those elements, Jesus would have been unsuccessful in fulfilling God's will. "Can two walk together, except they agree?" asked the prophet Amos. Of course they can't; of course they couldn't. Even a plan of mortals cannot be carried out if the workers and the planners do not agree. An entire country

would fall apart if sons were not able to be one with their fathers, and the entire societal order would collapse. Jesus couldn't even begin to lay the foundations of God's country if his soul was in contradiction, or disagreement, with God. There had to be a complete and perfect union between him and God to enable Jesus to accomplish his goals. We would need many such people with souls fulfilled, one with God, if we wanted to shape human history to its highest potential. We will be pulling the heavy yoke of pain and misery until a yearning arises inside us, a yearning to unite ourselves with God.

Let us then yearn for the presence of God in all parcels of our souls. Let us yearn for our fulfillment. Let us yearn that nothing reside in our souls except God; let us become a living house of the Lord. Let us work to better ourselves. May we find our delight in such a noble endeavor, even amidst the bitterness and sorrow of this world. Let us be committed to this endeavor of ours, so one day we can hear these words of recognition: "This is my beloved Son". Once we hear that brief sentence, we will not need a detailed explanation, or an exhaustive analysis. There will be no need to organize a debate or discussion because that brief acknowledgement will undoubtedly mean that the essence of God has been fulfilled in us. It will mean the essence of God has completely filled all our yearnings, feelings, and wishes, and they have become kindness, truth, and holiness. Thus, we have become one with the Father.

Let us all look upward, toward God! As God is calling, let us walk toward Him. Let us become one with Him. Amen.