

ACIM Volume IV - *Urtext* The Use of Terms

1) Introduction

U 1 A 1. This is not a course in theoretical philosophy, nor is it concerned with precise terminology in connection with origins. It is concerned only with Atonement, or the correction of perception. The means of the Atonement is forgiveness. The structure of "individual consciousness" is essentially irrelevant, because it is a concept representing the "original error" or the "original sin." To study the error itself does not lead to correction, if you are indeed to succeed in overlooking the error. And it is just this process of overlooking at which the course aims.

U 1 A 2. All terms are potentially controversial, and those who seek controversy will find it. Yet those who seek clarification will find it as well. They must, however, be willing to overlook controversy, recognizing that it is a defense against truth in the form of a delaying maneuver. Theological considerations as such are necessarily controversial, since they depend on belief and can therefore be accepted or rejected. A universal theology is impossible, but a universal experience is not only possible but necessary. It is this experience toward which the course is directed. Here alone consistency becomes possible because here alone uncertainty ends.

U 1 A 3. This course remains within the ego framework, where it is needed. It is not concerned with what is beyond all error because it is planned only to set the direction towards it. Therefore it uses words, which are symbolic, and cannot express what lies beyond symbols. It is always the ego that questions because it is only the ego that doubts. The course merely gives another Answer, once a question has been raised. However, this Answer does not attempt to resort to inventiveness or ingenuity. These are attributes of the ego. THE COURSE IS SIMPLE. It has one function and one goal. Only in that does it remain wholly consistent because only that can be consistent.

U 1 A 4. The ego will demand many answers this course does not give. It does not recognize as questions the mere form of a question to which an answer is impossible. The ego may ask, "How did the impossible occur?", "To what did the impossible happen?", and may ask in many forms. Yet there is no answer; only an experience. Seek only this, and do not let theology delay you.

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U 1 A 5. You will notice that the emphasis on structural issues in the course is brief and early. Afterwards and soon, it drops away to make way for the central teaching. Since you have asked for clarification, however, these are some of the terms that are used.¹

2) Mind-Spirit

U 2 A 1. The term "mind" is used to represent the activating agent of Spirit, supplying its creative energy. When the term is capitalized it refers to God or Christ (i.e., the Mind of God or the Mind of Christ). Spirit is the Thought of God which He created like Himself. The unified Spirit is God's one Son, or Christ.

U 2 A 2. In this world, because the mind is split, the Sons of God appear to be separate. Nor do their minds seem to be joined. In this illusory state, the concept of an "individual mind" seems to be meaningful. It is therefore described in the course AS IF it has two parts; spirit and ego.

U 2 A 3. Spirit is the part that is still in contact with God through the Holy Spirit, Who abides in this part but sees the other part as well. The term "soul" is not used except in direct Biblical quotations because of its highly controversial nature. It would, however, be an equivalent of "spirit," with the understanding that, being of God, it is eternal and was never born.

U 2 A 4. The other part of the mind is entirely illusory and makes only illusions. Spirit retains the potential for creating, but its Will which is God's, seems to be imprisoned while the mind is not unified. Creation continues unabated because that is the Will of God. This Will is always unified, and therefore has no meaning in this world. It has no opposite and no degrees.

U 2 A 5. The mind can be right or wrong, depending on the voice to which it listens. RIGHT-MINDEDNESS listens to the Holy Spirit, forgives the world, and through Christ's vision sees the real world in its place. This is the final vision, the last perception, the condition in which God takes the final step Himself. Here time and illusions end together. WRONG-MINDEDNESS listens to the ego and makes illusions; perceiving sin and justifying anger, and seeing guilt, disease and death as real. Both this world and the real world are illusions because right-mindedness merely overlooks, or forgives, what never happened.

¹ Originally a colon appears here in the *Urtext* manuscript. In the *Notes* ather is no colon and the sentence is "Since you have asked for clarification, however, these are some of the terms that are used in the beginning."

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Therefore it is not the ONE-MINDEDNESS of the Christ Mind, Whose Will is One with God's.

U 2 A 6. In this world the only remaining freedom is the freedom of choice; this choice is always between two choices or two voices. Will is not involved in perception at any level, and has nothing to do with choice. CONSCIOUSNESS is the receptive mechanism, receiving messages from above or below; from the Holy Spirit or the ego. Consciousness has levels and awareness can shift quite dramatically, but it cannot transcend the perceptual realm. At its highest it becomes aware of the real world, and can be trained to do so increasingly. Yet the very fact that it has levels and can be trained demonstrates that consciousness cannot reach knowledge.

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3) The Ego- The Miracle

U 3 A 1. Illusions will not last. Their death is sure and this alone is certain in their world. It is the ego's world because of this. What is the ego? But a dream of what you really are. A thought you are apart from your Creator and a wish to be what He created not. It is a thing of madness, not reality at all. A name for namelessness is all it is. A symbol of impossibility; a choice for options that do not exist. We call it that to help us understand that it is nothing but an ancient thought that what is made has immortality. But what could come of this except a dream which, like all dreams, could only die?

U 3 A 2. What is the ego? Nothingness, but in a form that seems like something. In a world of form the ego cannot be denied for it alone seems real. How could God's Son as He created him abide in form or in a world of form? Who asks you to define the ego and explain how it arose can be but he who thinks it real, and seeks by definition to ensure that its illusive nature is concealed behind the words that seem to make it so.

U 3 A 3. There is no definition for a lie that serves to make it true. Nor can there be a truth that lies conceal effectively. The ego's unreality is not denied by words nor is its meaning clear because its nature seems to have a form. Who can define the undefinable? And yet there is an answer even here.

U 3 A 4. We cannot really make a definition for what the ego is, but we CAN say what it is not. And this is shown to us with perfect clarity. It is from this that we deduce all that the ego is. Look at its opposite and you can see the only answer that is meaningful.

U 3 A 5. The ego's opposite in every way, -- in origin, effect and consequence -- we call a miracle. And here we find all that is not the ego in the world. Here is the ego's opposite and here alone we look on what the ego was. For here we see all that it seemed to do, and cause and its effects must still be one.

U 3 A 6. Where there was darkness now we see the light. What was the ego? What the darkness was. Where was the ego? Where the darkness was. What is it now and where can it be found? Nothing and nowhere. Now the light has come: Its opposite has gone without a trace. Where evil was there

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now is holiness. What is the ego? What the evil was. Where is the ego? In an evil dream that but seemed real while you were dreaming it. Where there was crucifixion stands God's Son. What is the ego? Who has need to ask? Where is the ego? Who has need to seek for an illusion now that dreams are gone?

U 3 A 7. What is a MIRACLE? A dream as well. But look at all the aspects of THIS dream, and you will never question any more. Look at the kindly world you see stretched forth before you as you walk in gentleness. Look at the helpers all along the way you travel, happy in the hope of Heaven and the certainty of peace. And look an instant, too, on what you left behind at last and finally passed by.

U 3 A 8. This was the ego -- all the cruel hate, the need for vengeance and the cries of pain, the fear of dying and the urge to kill, the brotherless illusion and the self that seemed alone in all the universe. This terrible mistake about yourself the miracle corrects as gently as a loving mother sings her child to rest. Is not a song like this what you would hear? Would it not answer all you thought to ask, and even make the question meaningless?

U 3 A 9. Your questions have no answer, being made to still God's Voice, which asks of everyone one question only:

"Are you ready yet to help Me save the world?"

Ask this instead of what the ego is, and you will see a sudden brightness cover up the world the ego made. No miracle is now withheld from anyone. The world is saved from what you thought it was. And what it is, is wholly uncondemned and wholly pure.

U 3 A 10. The miracle forgives; the ego damns. Neither need be defined except by this. Yet could a definition be more sure, or more in line with what salvation asks? Problem and answer lie together here, and having met at last the choice is clear. Who chooses hell when it is recognized? And who would not go on a little while when it is given him to understand the way is short and Heaven is his goal?

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4) Forgiveness – The Face of Christ

U 4 A 1. Forgiveness is for God and toward God but not of Him. It is impossible to think of anything He created that could need forgiveness. Forgiveness, then, is an illusion, but because of its purpose, which is the Holy Spirit's, it has one difference. Unlike all other illusions it leads away from error and not towards it.

U 4 A 2. Forgiveness might be called a kind of happy fiction; a way in which the unknowing can bridge the gap between their perception and the truth. They cannot go directly from perception to knowledge because they do not think it is their will to do so. This makes God appear to be an enemy instead of what He really is. And it is just this insane perception that makes them unwilling merely to rise up and to return to Him in peace.

U 4 A 3. And so they need an illusion of Help because they are helpless; a Thought of peace because they are in conflict. God knows what His Son needs before he asks.² He is not at all concerned with form, but having given the content it is His Will that it be understood. And that suffices. The form adapts itself to need; the content is unchanging, as eternal as its Creator.

U 4 A 4. The Face of Christ has to be seen before the memory of God can return. The reason is obvious. Seeing the Face of Christ is perception. No one can look on knowledge. But the Face of Christ is³ the great symbol of forgiveness. It is salvation. It is the symbol of the real world. Whoever looks on this no longer sees the world. He is as near to Heaven as is possible outside the gate.⁴ Yet from this gate it is no more than just a step inside. It is the final step. And this we leave to God.

U 4 A 5. It⁵ is a symbol, too, but as the symbol of His Will alone it cannot be divided. And so the Unity that it reflects becomes His Will. It is the only thing still in the world in part, and yet the bridge to Heaven.

² **Matthew 6:8** "Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him."

³ Handwritten mark-up suggests "involves" which *FIP* adopts. The *Notes* does not include the word "involves."

⁴ **Genesis 28:17** "And he was afraid and said, 'How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven!'"

⁵ Handwritten mark-up suggests "forgiveness" which *FIP* adopts. The *Notes* has it as it is here, but has no paragraph break here.

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U 4 A 6. God's Will is all there is. We can but go from nothingness to everything; from hell to Heaven. Is this a journey? No, not in truth, for truth goes nowhere. But illusions shift from place to place; from time to time. The final step is also but a shift. As a perception it is partly unreal. And yet this part will vanish. What remains is peace eternal and the Will of God.

U 4 A 7. There are no wishes now for wishes change. Even the wished-for can become unwelcome. That must be so because the ego cannot be at peace. But Will is constant, as the gift of God. And what He gives is always like Himself. This is the purpose of the Face of Christ. It is the gift of God to save His Son. But look on this and you have been forgiven.

U 4 A 8. How lovely does the world become in just that single instant when you see the truth about yourself reflected there. Now you are sinless and behold your sinlessness. Now you are holy and perceive it so. And now the mind returns to its Creator; the joining of the Father and the Son, the Unity of unities that stands behind all joining but still beyond them all. God IS NOT SEEN BUT ONLY UNDERSTOOD. His Son is not attacked but recognized.

5) Perception - Knowledge

U 5 A 1. The world you see is an illusion of a world. God did not create it, for what He creates must be eternal as Himself. Yet there is nothing in the world you see that will endure forever. Some things will last in time a little while longer than others. But the time will come when all things visible will have an end.

U 5 A 2. The body's eyes are therefore not the means by which the real world can be seen, for the illusions that they look upon must lead to more illusions of reality.⁶ And so they do. For everything they see not only will not last, but lends itself to thoughts of sin and guilt. While everything that God created is forever without sin and therefore is forever without guilt.

U 5 A 3. Knowledge is not the remedy for false perception since, being another level, they can never meet. The one correction possible for false perception must be true perception.

⁶ *Urtext* manuscript has, in brackets "of reality" here. *FIP* omits the brackets. The brackets are not present in the *Notes* either.

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It will not endure. But for the time it lasts it comes to heal. For true perception is a remedy with many names. Forgiveness, salvation, Atonement, true perception, all are one. They are the⁷ one beginning with the end to lead to Oneness far beyond themselves. True perception is the means by which the world is saved from sin, for sin does not exist. And it is this that true perception sees.

U 5 A 4. The world stands like a block before Christ's face. But true perception looks on it as nothing more than just a fragile veil, so easily dispelled that it can last no longer than an instant. It is seen at last for only what it is. And now it cannot fail to disappear, for now there is an empty place made clean and ready. Where destruction was perceived the face of Christ appears, and in that instant is the world forgot, with time forever ended as the world spins into nothingness from where it came.

U 5 A 5. A world forgiven cannot last. It was the home of bodies. But forgiveness looks past bodies. This is its holiness; this is how it heals. The world of bodies is the world of sin, for only if there is a body is sin possible. From sin comes guilt as surely as forgiveness takes all guilt away. And once all guilt is gone what more remains to keep a separated world in place? For place has gone as well, along with time. Only the body makes the world seem real, for being separate it could not remain where separation is impossible. Forgiveness proves it is impossible because it sees it not. And what you then will overlook will not be understandable to you, just as its⁸ presence once had been your certainty.

U 5 A 6. This is the shift that true perception brings: What was projected out is seen within, and there forgiveness lets it disappear. For there the altar to the Son is set, and there his Father is remembered. Here are all illusions brought to truth and laid upon the altar. What is seen outside must lie beyond forgiveness, for it seems to be forever sinful. Where is hope while sin is seen as outside? What remedy can guilt expect? But seen within your mind, guilt and forgiveness for an instant lie together, side by side, upon one altar. There at last are sickness and its single remedy joined in one healing brightness. God has come to claim His Own. Forgiveness is complete.

⁷ The *Urtext* manuscript has "a" crossed out and "the" handwritten in. The *Notes* has "a."

⁸ The *Urtext* manuscript has "just as its opposite was once your certainty" which, since "its" refers to "sin" appears to be an error. Immediately after this is typed "presence once had been your certainty" which appears to make more sense. *FIP* retains only the second reading. In the *Notes* we find both readings also, with words crossed out and replaced, notably the substitution of "presence" for "opposite."

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U 5 A 7. And now God's KNOWLEDGE, changeless, certain, pure and wholly understandable, enters its Kingdom. Gone is perception, false and true alike. Gone is forgiveness, for its task is done. And gone are bodies in the blazing light upon the altar to the Son of God. God knows it is His Own, as it is his. And here They join, for here the face of Christ has shone away time's final instant, and now is the last perception of the world without a purpose and without a cause. For where God's memory has come at last there is no journey, no belief in sin, no walls, no bodies, and the grim appeal of guilt and death is there snuffed out forever.

U 5 A 8. Oh my brothers, if you only knew the peace that will envelop you and hold you safe and pure and lovely in the Mind of God, you could but rush to meet Him where His altar is. Hallowed your Name and His,⁹ for they are joined here in this holy place. Here He leans down to lift you back to Him, out of illusions into holiness; out of the world and into timelessness¹⁰; out of all fear and given back to Love.

6) Jesus - Christ

U 6 A 1. There is no need for help to enter Heaven for you never left. But there is need for help beyond yourself as you are circumscribed by false beliefs about your Identity, Which God alone established in reality. Helpers are given you in many forms, although upon the altar They are one. Beyond each one there is a Thought of God, and this will never change. But they have names which differ for a time, for time needs symbols, being itself unreal. Their names are legion,¹¹ but we will not go beyond the names the course itself employs. God does not help because He knows no need. But He creates all Helpers of His Son while he believes his fantasies are true. Thank God for them for they will lead you home.

⁹ **Matthew 6:9** "In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name."

¹⁰ In the *Urtext* manuscript "**into timelessness**" is crossed out and "**to eternity**" is typed in above it. The *Notes* has "timelessness."

¹¹ **Mark 5:9** "Then He asked him, 'What is your name?' And he answered, saying, 'My name is Legion; for we are many.'"

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U 6 A 2. The Name of Jesus is the Name of one who was a man but saw the face of Christ in all his brothers and remembered God. So he became identified with Christ, a man no longer, but at one with God. The man was an illusion, for he seemed to be a separate being, walking by himself, within a body that appeared to hold his self from Self, as all illusions do. Yet who can save unless he sees illusions and then identifies them as what they are? Jesus remains a Savior because he saw the false without accepting it as true. And Christ needed his form that He might appear to men and save them from their own illusions.

U 6 A 3. In his complete identification with the Christ--the perfect Son of God, His one creation and His happiness, forever like Himself and One with Him--Jesus became what all of us must be. He led the way for us to follow him. He leads us back to God because he saw the road before him, and he followed it. He made a clear distinction, still obscure to us, between the false and true. He offered us all a final demonstration that it is impossible to kill God's Son; nor can his life in any way be changed by sin and evil, malice, fear or death.

U 6 A 4. And therefore all your sins have been forgiven because they carried no effects at all. And so they were but dreams. Arise with him who showed you this because you owe him this who shared your dreams that they might be dispelled. And shares them still, to be at one with you.

U 6 A 5. Is he the Christ? Oh yes, along with you. His little life on earth was not enough to teach the mighty lesson that he learned for all of us. He will remain with you to lead you from the hell you made to God. And when you join your will with his, your sight will be his vision, for the eyes of Christ are shared. Walking with him is just as natural as walking with a brother whom you knew since you were born, for such indeed he is. Some bitter idols have been made of him who would be only brother to the world. Forgive him your illusions, and behold how dear a brother he would be to you. For he will set your mind at rest at last and carry it with you unto your God.

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U 6 A 6. Is he God's only Helper? No, indeed. For Christ takes many forms with different names until their oneness can be recognized. But Jesus is for you the bearer of Christ's single message of the Love of God. You need no other. It is possible to read his words and benefit from them without accepting him into your life. Yet he would help you yet a little more if you will share your pains and joys with him, and leave them both to find the peace of God. Yet still it is his lesson most of all that he would have you learn, and it is this:

"There is no death¹² because the Son of God is like his Father. Nothing you can do can change Eternal Love. Forget your dreams of sin and guilt, and come with me instead to share the resurrection of God's Son. And bring with you all those whom He has sent to you to care for as I care for you."

7) The Holy Spirit

U 7 A 1. Jesus is the manifestation of the Holy Spirit, Whom he called down upon the earth after he ascended into Heaven,¹³ or became completely identified with the Christ, the Son of God as He created Him. The Holy Spirit, being a creation of the one Creator, creating with Him and in His likeness or Spirit, is eternal and has never changed.¹⁴ He was "called down upon the earth"¹⁵ in the sense that it was now possible to accept Him and to hear His Voice. His is the Voice for God, and has therefore taken form. This form is not His reality, which God alone knows along with Christ, His real Son, Who is part of Him.

U 7 A 2. The Holy Spirit is described throughout the course as giving us the answer to the separation and bringing the plan of the Atonement to us, establishing our particular part in it and showing us exactly what it is. He has established Jesus as the leader in carrying out this plan since he was the first to complete his own part perfectly. All power in Heaven and earth¹⁶ is therefore given him and he will share it with you when you have completed yours. The Atonement principle was given to the Holy Spirit long before Jesus set it in motion.

U 7 A 3. The Holy Spirit is described as the remaining communication link between God and His separated sons. In order to fulfill this special function the Holy Spirit has assumed a dual function. He knows because He is part of God; He perceives because He

¹² **2 Timothy 1:10** "But has now been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel."

¹³ **Acts 1:8-9** "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth. Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight."

¹⁴ **Isaiah 40:28** Have you not known? Have you not heard, that the everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, does not grow weak nor weary? *There is no searching of His understanding.*

¹⁵ **Acts 1:8-9** (quoted above)

¹⁶ **Matthew 28:18** "And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, 'All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.'"

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was sent to save humanity. He is the great correction principle; the bringer of true perception, the inherent power of the vision of Christ. He is the light in which the forgiven world is perceived; in which the face of Christ alone is seen. He never forgets the Creator or His Creation. He never forgets the Son of God. He never forgets you. And He brings the Love of your Father to you in an eternal shining that will never be obliterated because God has put it there.

U 7 A 4. The Holy Spirit abides in the part of your mind that is part of the Christ Mind. He represents your Self and your Creator, Who are One. He speaks for God and also for you, being joined with both. And therefore it is He Who proves them One. He seems to be a Voice, for in that form He speaks God's Word to you. He seems to be a Guide through a far country, for you need that form of help.¹⁷ He seems to be whatever meets the needs you think you have. But He is not deceived when you perceive your self entrapped in needs you do not have. It is from these He would deliver you. It is from these that He would make you safe.

U 7 A 5. You are His manifestation in this world. Your brother calls to you to be His Voice along with him. Alone he cannot be the Helper of God's Son for he alone is functionless. But joined with you he is the shining Savior of the world, Whose part in its redemption you have made complete. He offers thanks to you as well as him for you arose with him when he began to save the world. And you will be with him when time is over, and no trace remains of dreams of spite in which you dance to death's thin melody. For in its place the hymn to God is heard a little while. And then the Voice is gone, no longer to take form but to return to the eternal Formlessness of God.

¹⁷ **Luke 15:13** And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, journeyed to a far country, and there wasted his possessions with prodigal living.

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8) Epilogue

U 8 A 1. Forget not once this journey is begun the end is certain. Doubt along the way will come and go and go to come again. Yet is the ending sure. No one can fail to do what God appointed him to do. When you forget, remember that you walk with Him and with His Word upon your heart. Who could despair when hope like this is his? Illusions of despair may seem to come, but learn how not to be deceived by them. Behind each one there is reality and there is God. Why would you wait for this and trade it for illusions, when His Love is but an instant farther on the road where all illusions end? The end IS sure and guaranteed by God. Who stands before a lifeless image when a step away the Holy of the Holies¹⁸ opens up an ancient door that leads beyond the world?

U 8 A 2. You ARE a stranger here, but you belong to Him Who loves you as He loves Himself.¹⁹ Ask but my help to roll the stone away,²⁰ and it is done according to His Will.

U 8 A 3. We HAVE begun the journey. Long ago the end was written in the stars and set into the Heavens with a shining Ray that held it safe within eternity and through all time as well. And holds it still; unchanged, unchanging and unchangeable.

U 8 A 4. Be not afraid.²¹ We only start again an ancient journey long ago begun that but seems new. We have begun again upon a road we travelled on before and lost our way a little while. And now we try again. Our new beginning has the certainty the journey lacked 'til now. Look up and see His Word among the stars, where He has set your Name along with His. Look up and find your certain destiny the world would hide but God would have you see.

U 8 A 5. Let us wait here in silence, and kneel down an instant in our gratitude to Him Who called to us and helped us hear His Call. And then let us arise and go in faith along the way to Him. Now we are sure we do not walk alone. For God is here, and with Him all our brothers. Now we know that we will never lose the way again. The song begins again which had been stopped²² only an instant, though it seems to be unsung forever. What is here begun will grow in life and strength and hope, until the world is still

¹⁸ **Exodus 26:33** "And you shall hang the veil from the clasps. Then you shall bring the ark of the Testimony in there, behind the veil. The veil shall be a divider for you between the holy place and the Most Holy."

¹⁹ **Matthew 22:39** And the second is like it: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

²⁰ **Matthew 28:2** "And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat on it."

²¹ **John 6:20** "But He said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid."" (and many others)

²² *Urtext* manuscript has (stilled) typed in brackets, then crossed out by hand. The *Notes* appears to have "stilled" but it is not entirely clear.

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an instant and forgets all that the dream of sin had made of it.

U 8 A 6. Let us go out to²³ meet the newborn world, knowing that Christ has been reborn in it, and that the holiness of this rebirth will last forever. We had lost our way, but He has found it for us. Let us come and bid Him welcome Who returns to us to celebrate salvation and the end of all we thought we made. The morning²⁴ star of this new day looks on a different world where God is welcomed and His Son with Him. We who complete Him offer thanks to Him, as He gives thanks to us. The Son is still, and in the peace²⁵ that God has given him enters his home and is at peace at last.²⁶

²³ *FIP* replaces “to” with “and”

²⁴ *Urtext* manuscript has “(rising)” typed in above “morning” and then crossed out. The *Notes* has “morning star.”

²⁵ *Urtext* manuscript has “peace that” crossed out and “(quiet)” typed in. The *Notes* has “peace.”

²⁶ The *Urtext* manuscript includes three lines crossed out at the end, “and there is still at last”; “enters the stillness of his home at last”; “enters his home in stillness and in peace.” These alternatives also appear in the *Notes*.

Urtext* Volume IV: *Use of Terms

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Editor's Notes

The Urtext Manuscript Volume 4 Use of Terms

The [Release Notes](#) document included in the *Scholar's Toolbox* provides extensive documentation regarding this compilation, its history, and its provenance. Should you have additional questions concerning the material, they are likely answered there.

The original transcript of the *Notes* typed by Bill Thetford was retyped several times during the multi-year editing process. The *Urtext* manuscripts appear to consist of some portions which may be that original *Thetford Transcript* and some portions which show strong evidence of being later edited copies. Since we don't have access to all the copies, it is difficult to determine with certainty the precise place in the retyping history of any particular page. The notion that the *Urtext* is entirely or even mostly that first *Thetford Transcript* is not, however, supported by the evidence currently available. For a detailed examination of the issue please refer to the essay "[What is the Urtext?](#)"

The Use of Terms volume

This tiny volume contains several unusual features. The reader will note that the order of the *Urtext* manuscript is rather different than that of the *Notes* in that the *Ego-Miracle* section which occurs as the third section in the *Urtext* is the seventh section in the *Notes*.

The reader will also notice that in contrast to the earliest typescripts for other ACIM volumes, the paragraphation between the *Notes* and the *Urtext* transcript is quite different in this volume. As noted above, some of the arrangement of the material is also changed. These significant editing differences suggest that while this is the earliest typescript we have, it may not be the earliest or actual "*Thetford Transcript*."

The reader will also notice that *Notes* page 16 (PDF page 9) has about a third of the page torn off. The back of that page is part of the *Special Messages* collection. In the *Notes* material we received, that is Volume 3, page 64 while the *Use of Terms* torn page is volume 3, page 44. In this case we can be certain that the order of pages as delivered to us is **not always** the order in the original notebooks.

The *Use of Terms* is the only ACIM volume in the *Notes* which has pages numbered, as the reader can clearly see on the top of each page. We have arranged them in that order, although that is not the order in which they appear in the material we received. As the reader can see from the Volume and page number notation at the bottom of each page, pages 26, 27 and 28 were out of order and quite removed from the rest of the material.

We assembled the pages in the order indicated by the page markings, and except for the *Ego-Miracle* section, as already noted, that order matches the *Urtext*.

The *Use of Terms*, undertaken *after* the first publication of the first three volumes of *A Course in Miracles* in 1975, was a response to the many questions the Scribes received about ter-

minology from the early readership¹. In later editions FIP included this fourth volume as an appendix to the *Manual for Teachers* and changed the name to *Clarification of Terms*.

To any reader unfamiliar with the later FIP abridgements it will come as a shock to read that:

“The term "soul" is not used except in direct biblical quotations because of its highly controversial nature. It would, however, be an equivalent of "spirit," with the understanding that, being of God, it is eternal and was never born.”

In the 11 instances in which FIP preserves “soul”, only one or two could be considered “direct quotations” of the Bible, the others being, at best, loose paraphrases and distant allusions. The word “soul” is actually used 133 times in the *Urtext*, 102 in the *HLC*, and later was changed, and often very inappropriately replaced with the word “spirit.” The “soul problem” certainly has become “controversial.” Why it seemed “controversial” in 1975 is not known. While the original usage of the term was fairly ordinary, the attempt to remove the word has generated substantial problems. I will just offer one example of the difficulties associated with replacing “soul” with “spirit.”

I'm going to show you four versions of one paragraph, in which the “Soul” issue is tackled. First page 88 of the *Notes* (4:115) is reproduced below.

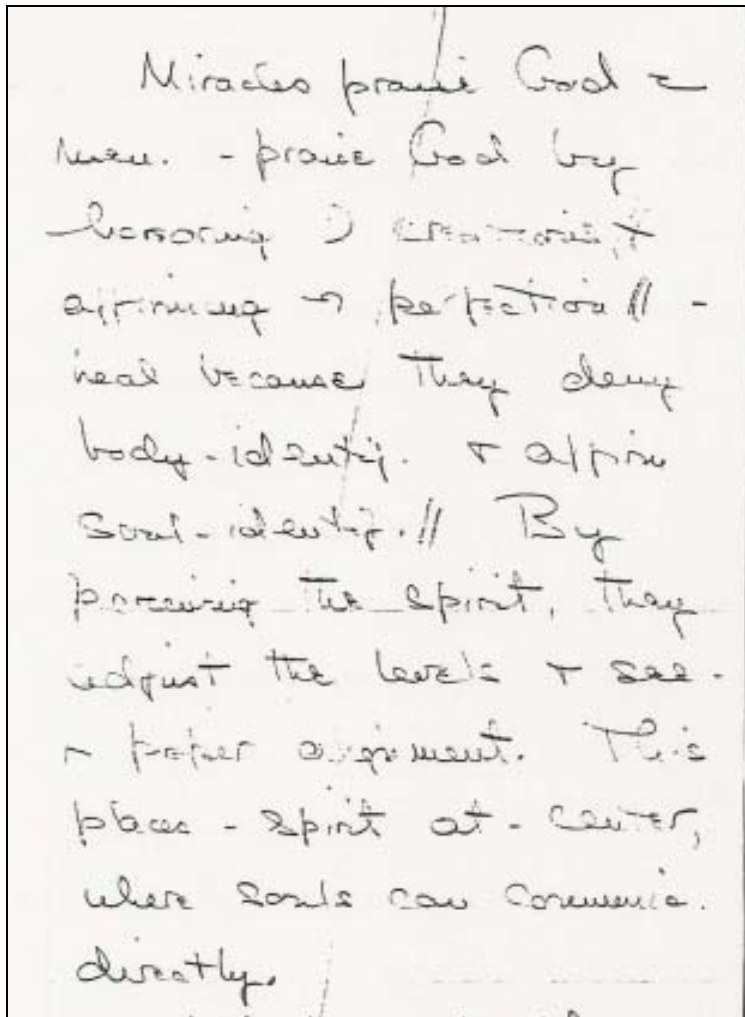


Figure 1 *Notes* page 4:115

¹ See *Absence from Felicity* p 391ff

On page 16 of the *Urtext* (T 1 B 26) we find this page of the *Notes* accurately transcribed:

T 1 B 26. Miracles praise God through men. They praise God by honoring his Creations, affirming their perfection. They heal because they deny body-identification and affirm Soul-identification. By perceiving the Spirit, they adjust the levels and see them in proper alignment. This places the Spirit at the center, where Souls can communicate directly.

Only one change occurs in the later *HLC*, “his” is capitalized, which corrects what was almost certainly a typo.

T 1 B 30. Miracles praise God through men. They praise God by honoring His Creations, affirming their perfection. They heal because they deny body-identification and affirm Soul-identification. By perceiving the Spirit, they adjust the levels and see them in proper alignment. This places the Spirit at the center, where Souls can communicate directly.

This is changed in the later *FIP* editions to read:

T-1.I.29. Miracles praise God through you. 2 They praise Him by honoring His creations, affirming their perfection. 3 They heal because they deny body-identification and affirm spirit-identification.

T-1.I.30. By recognizing spirit, miracles adjust the levels of perception and show them in proper alignment. 2 This places spirit at the center, where it can communicate directly.

In the *HLC* the only change is the capitalization of the first instance of “his.” In the *Urtext* it is lower case, suggesting it is man’s creations, and in the *Notes* (page 88) it is a shorthand glyph, with no indication of upper or lower case.

In the *FIP* re-write almost every nuance of the original is altered and much of the alteration derives from the perceived need to change “Soul” to “spirit” in a sentence in which “Spirit” (with a capital S, meaning the third person of the Trinity) is already used.

The concept of “Soul-identification” which is very important in the original as distinct from the ego’s “body-identification” is replaced by “spirit-identification.” If the two words were synonyms, ok, but they are not. In *FIP*, names of the persons of the Trinity are normally capitalized, so the *lack* of a capital here, for “spirit” indicates we are not to understand this as a reference to the Third Person of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit. When “Soul” is capitalized, as it is here, it might well be understood to refer to the second person of the Trinity, the Son or Christ. This connotation is present in the *Notes*. When the lower case word “spirit” is substituted, that nuance vanishes.

We also find “perceiving the Spirit” which refers to the third person of the Trinity, replaced with “recognizing spirit” whatever that means. If spirit = soul that means recognizing soul. We go from perceiving the Holy Spirit to recognizing the Soul. Why? Also “levels” becomes “levels of perception” which may be a clarification if this was the Author’s intended meaning. However it is not at all clear here that the intended meaning is not “levels of identification,” Soul-level vs. body-level. That’s what this segment is about.

Originally “Spirit” (God the Holy Spirit) is put at the center by miracles which praise God, honour His Creations, and affirm their perfection, and at this center “Souls” (plural) can communicate directly with each other. In other words, communication not requiring bodies.

By the time it comes out of the wash in FIP, miracles place “spirit” (whatever *that* is ... when it is not capitalized, this isn't the Holy Spirit) where “it” (singular) can communicate directly. Directly with whom or what? If soul=spirit this should be “This places spirits at the center, where they can communicate directly.”

The original meaning is gone and in its place is an incoherent statement. To a large extent the word “Soul” has simply been replaced with the word “spirit” but with the capitalization, and therefore the sense of divinity, missing.

Many observers of *The Use of Terms* find this “Soul-business” problematic, and identify “Helen’s voice” here rather than the voice of Jesus. We also see a shift here, as in the later part of the *Manual for Teachers* from an obvious “first person” Jesus speaking as “me” and “I” to a “voice” which is talking about Jesus in the third person as if he weren't there. As the vocabulary and style of these “third person” segments are very reminiscent of Helen’s own style of “lecturing” about the Course on the few occasions she did so which have been recorded, there is the suggestion that the material contains a mix of Helen and Jesus. While it is not always wholly certain which voice is which, when Jesus is being discussed in the third person, we can be pretty sure it's not Jesus speaking, but rather Helen speaking *about* Jesus. This in no way suggests that what is being said is not accurate, however. Helen’s opinion might well be correct.

The “Soul” comment in *Use of Terms* is partly accurate, with regards to the 1975 Abridgement, in which the word “soul” *was* largely removed, but it is Helen’s comment on her own editing we are reading here! Unless we wish to suppose that Jesus found his use of the word “soul” to be too “controversial” and chose to change it, years after the fact, which notion is rather thoroughly disproven, I'd say, by how badly the original had to be mangled to accomplish the task. And the reference to “direct Biblical quotations” is simply wrong.

These are among the reasons some ACIM students don't consider this volume to be properly a part of the ACIM canon at all.

The charts below offer a grid of cross-reference points between the *Notes* pages and the *Urtext* pages [Urtext to Notes](#) and between the *Urtext* references and FIP references [Urtext to FIP](#).

Basic Referencing and Cross-referencing

The *Urtext* e-text reproductions and the *Urtext* manuscript facsimiles are paginated identically for ease of cross-referencing. To locate a passage in the manuscript facsimile, search the e-text and simply go to the corresponding facsimile page.

In order to facilitate lookup and cross-referencing, the *Urtext* paragraph reference labels are added to the *Notes* facsimile files as searchable text. These are needed in the handwritten *Notes* due to the difficulty of reading some of the handwriting. The *Urtext* e-texts which are searchable text files, also contain this notation. The *Urtext* manuscript facsimiles are of much better legibility than the *Notes* therefore page numbers and PDF Bookmarks for each chapter and section break are the only cross-reference tools generally needed. The references used are those developed for the *Miracles Pathway Fellowship Seven Volume Urtext*. See the end of this document ([Referencing Specifics](#)) for a detailed description of the referencing system for this volume.

“Searchable text” is that which can be located using the **Find** and **Search** features of *Acrobat Reader*. In the facsimile copies (photocopies of original manuscripts) the actual words of the manuscript are rendered as pictures, not machine readable text, and so are **not** searchable text strings. The marginalia I've added are searchable text strings however. Thus if you know the chapter, section and/or paragraph number of the text you wish to find, you can almost instantly search and locate those references in the *Notes* facsimiles. For the *Urtext* facsimiles, use the chapter and section bookmarks and page numbers to locate the desired page.

Because the *Urtext* is mostly identical in content to the *Notes*, one can use the *Urtext* e-text editions or the Concordance to do a text search for a word or phrase. Having located the passage in the *Urtext* e-text, one need simply search the *Notes* facsimile for the corresponding paragraph reference, and in a matter of seconds you will be at the same relative point in the *Notes*. Similarly, if you wish to cross-reference the *Urtext* manuscript facsimile, simply go to the corresponding page number, and you should find it quickly.

Due to the fact that there are **some** differences between the *Notes* and the *Urtext*, you won't always find *Notes* material in the *Urtext*, or vice versa. For the most part, however, the two versions are similar enough that the *Urtext* is a useful “lookup tool” for the *Notes* and until we have a complete machine-readable transcript, it's the best that's available.

For the first two chapters where the *Notes* and the *Urtext* are most different, I have provided a searchable transcript. While this transcript cannot be guaranteed to be 100% accurate due to uncertainties in the *Notes* reading, it is a far more accurate searchable representation of the *Notes* for those chapters than is the *Urtext*. In time a complete transcript of the *Notes* will be supplied.

“Bookmarks” have also been added for each chapter and section division in all copies so that one can instantly “open the document” to any one of those bookmarked points.

The Use of Terms Referencing Specifics

The *Use of Terms* consists of eight top level segments. For referencing purposes each is treated as a top level division or chapter. There are no “sections” within those “chapters.” To maintain field-consistency in the reference notation, an “**A**” for “Section A” is used in the “section field.”

The main difference from FIP references is that FIP references the first chapter as “Chapter In” rather than “Chapter 1.” In FIP Chapter 2 becomes Chapter 1, etc. FIP of course omits any section reference, putting the paragraph field where one might expect a section reference.

Urtext to Notes Cross-Reference

Notes p#	Urtext Ref	Urtext Page	Notes Ref.
1	U 1 A 1	1	Volume 3 - 27
2	U 2 A 1	4	Volume 3 - 30
7	U 3 A 1	4	Volume 3 - 48
10	U 4 A 1	6	Volume 3 - 33
13	U 5 A 1	7	Volume 3 - 36
14	U 6 A 1	9	Volume 3 - 40
18	U 7 A 1	11	Volume 3 - 44
26	U 8 A 1	13	Volume 3 - 52
27	U 8 A 2	13	Volume 3 - 100
28	U 8 A 5	13	Volume 3 - 99
29	U 8 A 6	14	Volume 3 - 96

Urtext to FIP Cross-Reference

	Urtext Reference	FIP Reference
1) Introduction	U 1 A 1	C-in.1
2) Mind-Spirit	U 2 A 1	C-1.1
3) The Ego-The Miracle	U 3 A 1	C-2.1
4) Forgiveness- The Face of Christ	U 4 A 1	C-3.1
5) Perception-Knowledge	U 5 A 1	C-4.1
6) Jesus-Christ	U 6 A 1	C-5.1
7) The Holy Spirit	U 7 A 1	C-6.1
8) Epilogue	U 8 A 1	C-7.1

Caveat

As will be obvious to all, this preliminary release is some distance short of being a “finished” or “polished” package and there remains much yet to be done. Despite its shortcomings and imperfections, it is much easier to work with than the raw manuscript form due to the addition of cross-referencing marginalia.

While substantial effort has been made to achieve precise accuracy, this has largely been a one-man part time undertaking and the resources for thorough proofreading and double-checking have not been available. You will likely encounter some errors and I would very much appreciate your letting me know when you do so that they can be corrected for subsequent releases.

What I have done, and really all I have done, is organize and cross-reference the primary sources of the canonical ACIM material to at least the resolution of paragraph in such a way that “looking up” any passage or cross-referencing two or more versions is easier than with the raw source material for anyone with a modicum of computer literacy and a modicum of computing power available. For those using the raw source material, this low resolution index edition is fully cross-referenced to that and can serve as a handy “lookup tool” to supplement the original high resolution image files.

Editor's Notes *The Urtext Manuscript Volume 4 Use of Terms*

This package of basic “tools” is simply a beginning, a first step, but a first step I hope and believe will make the riches of the authentic ACIM much more accessible to those who are interested.

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For more information concerning this document and the rest of the *Shorthand Notes* distribution from **Miracles Pathway Fellowship** please see the [Release Notes](#) and [Quick Start Guide](#) accompanying this distribution.