

Highlights From

A Course of Love



Compiled by Paula Payne Hardin

Take Heart Publications

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**This volume is a compilation of quotations from
A Course of Love: Combined Edition
Mari Perron, First Receiver**

For three years, 1998 through 2000, Mari Perron received “thoughts she did not think.” The dictation became *A Course of Love*. Her experience was essentially identical to one had by Helen Schucman, who decades earlier had received *A Course in Miracles*. In both cases, the Source identified itself as Jesus.

Paula Payne Hardin’s life was transformed by *A Course of Love*. Grateful, and wishing to help the sharing group she facilitates, Paula wrote out direct quotations from the book, printed them and provided them as handouts. Some quotations were slightly adjusted to fit the pages of her handouts.

This book is a compilation of Paula’s notes to her group.

The Back Story

Highlights From A Course of Love evolved from the crucible of a weekly gathering of dear people who were reading and experiencing *A Course of Love*, mostly for the first time. As we were introduced to new, sometimes confusing revelations and ideas, the thought came to me to take important sentences, ones that felt like highlights, and put them in a shorter list format. We then read these lists aloud together after sharing each new chapter. I was surprised by the support for these highlights from the participants, so I kept doing them.

Clearly, *Highlights* is subjective—what I chose to include and what to leave out. I attempted to stay with direct quotes, using the language of the Course. Adaptation was used sparingly. Since I was creating handouts, I limited myself to one sheet of paper per chapter. Some were single-sided, some two-sided. Obviously very important material was left out. I typed everything—no cut-and-paste!

I attempted to stay with direct quotes, using the language of the Course. My sparing use of adaptation was always with the desire to stay true to the spirit of this inspired work.

Two underpinnings of my work as an educator were: 1) Spaced repetition and 2) Aided recall. I hope these notes meet those challenges.

Personally, I feel the highlights do not get the full effect of the Presence of Jesus the way reading the original does. Nothing can take the place of that! But they seem to help some people review and claim this truth for themselves.

I must share with you something of my enjoyment in selecting and typing these highlights. I felt high after doing each chapter. I also recognized an awareness, a Guide, if you will, that supported me every step of the way. It was a joy!

Submitted in love,

Paula Payne Hardin

October 2018

The Highlight of Relationship

A Note from Mari Perron

What will arise from the relationships that A Course of Love (ACOL) inspires?

In the early years of meeting readers and finding myself in ever deepening relationships with some of them (often even before meeting them in person), I was so surprised!

I am delighted to remain surprised. The surprise of getting to know each other is, to me, the most joyous of all the gifts ACOL offers and perhaps the most emphasized. To know and be known. To be in unity and relationship. From there arise all the shining stars who will light our way into the New.

Paula Hardin is one of them. She and I met because of ACOL. Our friendship has grown as has our passion to share, create, and be in dialogue. “Highlights” arose from Paula following that passion with her ACOL sharing group. She loves lists, and her creation of chapter lists for her group was the genesis for this work. After a bit, she realized her lists of quotes, flowing from chapter to chapter, could be helpful to others. With nothing extraneous added, they are a walk through the Course’s landscape, the terrain of who we’ve thought ourselves be, and onward to the new horizon of who we truly are.

I invite you to enjoy traveling this “territory of the New” once again. . .

With love,

Mari Perron, First Receiver of A Course of Love

(I also invite you to view a dialogue I shared with Paula here: <http://www.centerforacourseoflove.org/dialogue/>)

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7. All suffering and sin comes from specialness.
8. You only need to be open to the place that no specialness can enter, and bid your brother, Jesus, to choose for you. In this choice lies life eternal!

CHAPTER 16:

What You Choose Instead

THEME: *Letting go of what your mind would tell you in favor of what your heart already knows is but the purpose of this Course. C:16.11*

1. The glory that you felt from love only seemed to be available from one and not the other. Love is not available *from* anyone.
2. Love has but one source! That source lies within each of you.
3. When a “problem” child seeks love and attention in ways you deem inappropriate, you know this child is not less than any other child.
4. Innocence is not replaced by sin.
5. What you do to criminals you do but to yourself and to those you claim to love with a special love.
6. You do not see them in the changeless innocence in which they were created and remain.
7. You have judged and found the ones you love good and worthy, others you condemn.
8. Constant judgment is required to maintain the world you see.
9. Only your heart can lead you to the forgiveness that must overcome judgment. A forgiven world is a world whose foundation has changed from fear to love.
10. Only forgiveness replaces judgment, but true forgiveness is as foreign to you as true love.
11. True forgiveness simply looks past illusion to the truth where there are no sins to be forgiven, no wrongs to be pardoned.

12. This form of forgiveness seems impossible because you look on an unforgiven world where evil walks and danger lurks . . . Each separated one is out for his or her own self . . .
13. You have thus made justice one with vengeance and robbed justice of its meaning.
14. True power comes from love, as does true justice. Any other basis mocks both.
15. Your birthright is simply the right to be who you are.
16. You are afraid of nothing more than your own power.
17. You know what you have used your power for— your power created the world of illusion.
18. If you cannot claim at least a small amount of love for your own Self, then neither can you claim your power, for they go hand-in-hand.

CHAPTER 17:

Conscious Non-Planning

THEME: *Being who you are is necessary for the completion of the Universe.*

C:17.1

1. The space that you would fill as your own (true) Self is held for you by another part of your consciousness that has never left it.
2. Your choice to separate from God is but a separation from your own (true) Self, and is truly the separation that needs to be healed to return you to God.
3. Each day is an unknown you enter into despite your every attempt to anticipate what it might hold.
4. You still make your plans and rail against everything that interferes with them.
5. “Receive instead of plan” . . . few of you understand the meaning of this simple instruction or what it says to you of the unknown.

6. What it says is:
 - ❖ The unknown is benevolent.
 - ❖ What you cannot anticipate can be anticipated for you.
 - ❖ You could be receiving constant help if you would but let it come.
 - ❖ You are not alone.
7. You believe mistakes must be paid for.
8. Entrenched is your belief in your right to judge.
9. Forgiveness, which replaces judgment, must come from the heart.
10. The heart and mind are not separate. A united mind and heart is a whole heart or wholeheartedness. Now your mind and heart must work together, returning you to your identity within God's creation.

CHAPTER 18:

The Mind Engaged

THEME: *Many of you believe God's creation included the fall from paradise as described in the biblical story of Adam and Eve and in the creation stories of many cultures and religions. C:18.1*

1. Your perception of the fall makes of the fall a curse.
2. This interpretation would be inconsistent with a benevolent God and a benevolent universe.
3. You think that you have changed the nature of the universe and made it possible for life to exist separately and alone with no relationship, no connection, no unity with the whole.
4. You have been taught you are not your body, yet the body is here. If you do not see it as the result of a fall, a curse, a punishment from God, or your home, then you can begin to see it is a learning device given you by a loving creator.

5. This Course's exercises have attempted to help you see a world you can observe and learn in and from, for as long as you would choose to learn what the idea of separation would teach you.
6. When you resided in unity, you could not imagine what this world would be like anymore than you can now imagine what a united world will be like.
7. In order to learn what the idea of separation would teach you, you needed to believe that you existed in a separated state.
8. Thus, "forgetting" that you actually reside in unity was a requirement of this condition you wished to experience.
9. Your body seems to experience both pleasure and pain, yet as a learning device it is neutral.
10. It does not experience, only conveys that which can be experienced to you.
11. Then you relay a reaction back to it. A circular relationship.
12. So the body seems to be in charge.
13. You have not recognized the truth of what causes pain nor that you can reject the experience of it.
14. All you experience as pleasurable are feelings of love.
15. Having no one to receive and reject feelings of pain and replace them with feelings of love causes all your distress.

CHAPTER 19:

Oneness and Duality

THEME: *The concept that in oneness there is no need for blame or guilt or even for redemption is inconceivable to the separated mind. But not to the heart. C:19.24*

1. There was no evil intent in the creation of the body as a learning device.
2. Only from thinking of the body as yourself did ideas of glorifying the body arise.

3. The first step in leading you to experience of another kind is your willingness to accept that you are here to learn, and that your body can provide the means.
4. So far you have desired specialness for yourself and a few others rather than belovedness for all. But now perhaps you are ready.
5. You have been asked to experience the spirit of your brothers and sisters rather than simply relating to their bodies as you always have.
6. Some say God is unknowable. God IS knowable. This knowledge is available.
7. Praying is asking. You asked for the separated state and it was so. Now ask for unity to return and it will be so.
8. In order to remember unity you must travel back to it, undoing as you go all you have learned since last you knew it. So all that remains is love.
9. This undoing, or atonement, has begun—and once begun is unstoppable.
10. My brothers and sisters in Christ, do not become impatient now. We are on the home stretch and all you long for is nearer than ever before.
11. While this in a sense is a request to review your life, it is the last such request that will be required before letting the past go completely.
12. What you need to do is strive for a place of stillness from which what needs review can arise as if it were a reflection arising from a deep pool.
13. What comes forth for healing needs but a nod of love from your heart, a passing glance of compassion, the merest moment of reflection, before it will dissipate and show a new reflection.
14. Think of this as a re-viewing of your self and you would be quite accurate.
15. It is like unto the final judgment, a sorting of the real from the unreal, of truth from illusion.
16. Your willingness to accept me as your teacher will help you to accept my sight as your own and thus be right-minded.
17. The concept that in oneness there is no need for blame or guilt or even for redemption is inconceivable to the separated mind. But not to the heart.

CHAPTER 20:*The Embrace*

THEME: *“With love surrounding you in arms that hold you close, you feel the heartbeat of the world just beneath your resting head. It thunders in your ears and moves through you until there is no distinction. We are the heartbeat of the world.” C:20.9.*

1. This is the call to move now into my embrace now and let yourself be comforted. Feel the gentleness and the love. Drink in safety and rest.
2. Your beauty is in the gathering of atoms, the order in chaos, the silence in solitude, the grace of the cosmos.
3. We exist in the embrace of love like the layers of light that form a rainbow, indivisible and curved inward upon each other.
4. And now we begin to see with the eyes of our heart. We are no longer looking out but in.
5. This is creation. This is God. This is our home.
6. Love grows from within as a child grows within its mother’s womb. Inward, inward, into the embrace, the source of all beginnings, the kernel and the wholeness of all life.
7. Thankfulness is the nature of your being. It could not be otherwise when awe and magnificence encompass you in the embrace.
8. Peace is the foundation of our being. . . . a peace that implies a fullness.
9. Love is the source of your being. You are pure and innocent because you flow from love.
10. Power is the expression of who you are. . . . No true expression is possible until you know who you are.
11. Miracles are expressions of love. . . . acts of cooperation.
12. It is in the cooperation between unique expressions of love that creation continues and miracles become natural occurrences.
13. The universe is a dance of cooperation. You are but asked to rejoin the dance.

14. All fear that what one gets means that less is available for another is replaced with an understanding of abundance.
15. All gifts of God are given equally and distributed equally.
16. What you each have been given is that which will serve your purpose. You could have no more perfect gifts, for your gifts are expressions of your Father's perfect love for you.
17. Before you begin to resist the notion that you could have anything to do with world peace, realize that you naturally have reacted with resistance. You must replace your willingness to believe in your inadequacy and smallness with your willingness to believe in your ability and mightiness.
18. The view from within the embrace . . . is the view of the dying who realize nothing matters but love.
19. Love is all that matters because love is all that is.

CHAPTER 21:

Love Is

THEME: *Those who know the truth become beings of love and light and see the same loving truth in all. C:21.10*

1. Love is eternal, and you do not as yet grasp its meaning or the meaning of eternity.
2. This is because, as a particular being, you are time-bound. The particular is about parts and parts are all you see.
3. Relationship exists *between* one thing and another and it is in the intersection of parts that the holiness of what is in-between is found.
4. Love appeals to you through the heart. God appeals to you through your heart.
5. There has been a division between the language of your mind and heart . . . And like two people from different countries speaking different languages, there has been little communication and much misunderstanding.

6. *The embrace* can now be likened to the starting point of a shared language. A language shared by mind and heart and by all people.
7. Mind and heart interpret meaning in different ways. This indicates you will not find peace.
8. You *accept* this conflict-inducing situation . . . that your mind sees one truth and your heart another, and you act anyway! You act without agreement or resolution or unity.
9. You will not get where you are wanting to go until they are joined.
10. Until unity is achieved you do not understand that you give meaning to all things, and that there is nothing and no one external to you who can determine meaning for you.

CHAPTER 22:

The Intersection

THEME: *When you remove yourself from the self-held position of “meaning-giver,” you let things be what they are and, allowed to be what they are, their meaning is naturally revealed. C:22.15*

1. We will talk much more of imagining now, and you may be resistant . . .
2. You will no longer be using your imagination but letting your imagination be of service to you.
3. You will let images serve as learning devices, serving head and heart.
4. We will begin by discussing the concept of *intersection* and look at it as a *passing-through* that establishes partnership or relationship.
5. Relationship is not one thing or the other, but a third something.
6. Intersection . . . represents the point where the world intersects with you . . . in your daily life . . . causing you to feel or believe in a certain way.
7. Everything in your world and your day passes through you in order to gain reality.

8. You are more like the layers of the onion . . . with everything within your world needing to pass through layers with a seeming lack of purpose for the passing through.
9. Your five senses can be thought of collectively as layers . . . your mind another layer. These layers protect your heart, and are involved with denial, . . . and simply sit.
10. Just as wind or water passing through an entry and exit point has an impact and a motion, so does what passed through you provide the movement of your journey.
11. What passes through you is transformed by the relationship with you just as surely as you are transformed by the relationship with it.
12. When you remove yourself from the self-held position of “meaning-giver,” you let things be what they are and, allowed to be what they are, their meaning is naturally revealed.
13. Begin to imagine life passing through you rather than getting stopped for examination at its intersection with you.
14. Strive to cease giving meaning.
15. When asked “How was your day?” respond as much as possible without using the word “I” or “my.” Quit referring to people and things in terms of ownership like “my husband,” “my car.”
16. Begin to imagine life passing through you rather than getting stopped for examination at its intersection with you.
17. Begin to imagine seeing the world without the emphasis on your personal self.
18. This removal of the personal “I” is but a first step in returning you to the consciousness of unity.
19. I assure you the feeling of impersonality will be replaced quickly with an intimacy with your surroundings that you never felt before. . . . You will see your “self” as an integral part of all that exists within your world rather than as the small and insignificant personal self.
20. By eliminating the personal, the universal becomes available.