

“The State of Grace”

(T-7.X)

In this section, Heaven is “a state of grace.”

“Grace” is defined as:

1. moving in a smooth and relaxed way
2. behaving in a pleasant and polite way
3. the granting of a favor
4. a free gift from God

Heaven	The world
Your “natural environment” (2:2)	Not natural. “The world goes against your nature” (1:4).
The environment that was created for you (2:3, 4:3), where you belong, where you fit your environment and it fits you (2:7)	The environment you made, which fundamentally does not fit you. “[You] therefore cannot adapt to it, nor can [you] adapt it to [yourself]” (2:4).
“The only environment in which [you] will not experience strain” (2:7).	Everything is a strain (2:3). Everything is difficult to one degree or another (1:5).
“The only environment that is worthy of [a Son of God]” (2:8)	“Is it worthy to be a home for a child of God?” (3:2).
Protects your peace and shines love upon you	“Does it protect [your] peace and shine love upon [you]?” (3:3).
Keeps you utterly free from fear	“Does it keep [your] heart untouched by fear...?” (3:4).
Allows you to give always without any sense of loss. Teaches you that giving is your joy and that God Himself thanks you for it.	“Does it...allow [you] to give always without any sense of loss? Does it teach [you] that this giving is [your] joy, and that God Himself thanks [you] for [your] giving?” (3:4-5).
God watches over you and denies you nothing (4:4).	By denying yourself Heaven, you deny yourself everything (4:5).
As a Son of God, you are happy because you know you are with God (2:6).	You feel without God and thus are unhappy.

The basic idea is that of our natural environment, perfectly suited to our nature.

It perfectly suits us:

- protects our peace
- shines love on us
- keeps our heart untouched by fear

We perfectly suit it:

- We continually give to it

Therefore, there is perfect harmony between us and this environment. That is why there is no strain or difficulty. It is *paradise*.

Exercise

Hear these words from the Course:

Consider the kingdom which you have made, and judge its worth fairly.

Now ask yourself the following questions as sincerely and seriously as you can:

Is it worthy to be a home for a child of God?

Does it protect my peace and shine love upon me?

Does it keep my heart untouched by fear, and allow me to give always without any sense of loss?

Does it teach me that this giving is my joy, and that God Himself thanks me for my giving?

Say to yourself,

That is the only environment in which I can be happy.

A Son of God is happy only if he knows he is with God.

That is my natural environment.

That is the environment that was created for me.