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THE HIGHER KNOWLEDGE

All pantacles, however complex they may appear, may be reduced or divided into a certain number of elements relative to its geometrical qualitative.

We shall of necessity be forced to make our explanations brief.

It is somewhat difficult to exactly determine the elements in any given symbol. They will be found in groups of 3—7 or 12.

If the emblem responds to the law of three, the idea will express the Active—Passive—Neuter and its consequences.

If the emblem is found to embrace the series of seven, it relates to the seven planets, and the colors as expressed in hermetical works.

If it corresponds to the number 12, it expresses all zodiacal movement, and that of the sun in particular.

This point understood, we can proceed. The cross

expresses the opposition of the active to the passive or the spirit over matter.

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Naturally the head dominates the body, the spirit controls matter. So when the sorceress or black magicians desire to express their ideas in a pantacle, they seek to destroy the harmony of the figure, by reversing it, placing it bottom upward as it were. They seek to express the following ideas.

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Matter dominates the spirit.

Evil is superior to the good.

Darkness is preferable to light.

Man should be entirely guided by his lower instincts, and do all possible to destroy his intelligence, etc.

It is such teachings and operators which must be avoided. In fact, the occult student should carefully guard his thoughts. For by evil thoughts alone we can attract to ourselves the forces that will eventually destroy those who use occult power for evil.

To return to the cross; we know it expresses the opposition of the active and the passive, because the active is expressed by the vertical line, and the horizontal line is the image of the passive.

The *Square* indicates the equilibrium caused by the action of the two forces mentioned above. It is thus considered the correct image of form.

The triangle expresses the union of different ideas, uniting at its summit.

It is especially symbolical of Fire or Heat. The

triangle is the great mystery of light and matter or the elemental fires. It symbolizes the sun, moon and stars as well as all natural life.

The inverted triangle, like the inverted cross, expresses the descent of the illuminated down into darkness.

Note.—As the flame of a torch tends always upward, no matter which way it is turned, in the same way, man whose heart is inflamed with virtue will always look upward no matter what may befall him.

The union of two triangles represents the combination of heat and water, of the sun and moon, the principles of creation, the universal life, heaven and earth, the evolution of the Hindus. This combination of two triangles forms the famous Seal of Solomon, representing the Universe and its two Ternarys, God and Nature. It thus becomes the symbol of the Macrocosm.

It explains the words of Hermas in the Table of Emerald.

By the upright triangle it ascends from Earth upward to Heaven, and then descends back to earth where it attracts both the superior and the inferior forces.

Therefore this hieroglyph of the world expresses the seven lights in the mystic seven days of Creation. The center of the six stars or points gives us the Sep-tenary in which reposes God and Nature.

Situation of the Elements.

To determine the elements which compose a pantacle

NEDOURE—PRIESTESS OF THE MAJI

An Historical Romance Presenting a True Explanation of
White and Black Magic

BY DR. T. J. BETIERO

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Synopsis of previous Chapters.

The Author finds Mss in an old Paris bookshop Gobab an old monk at Ouri Monastery was bathing in the Jhelum.

The Maharajah who was on a hunting trip approaches. They seek to run away. He orders them brought before him. Hari the young student who was sensitive fell into a trance while gazing at a bright diamond worn by the ruler. He was afterward gloomy and absent minded. About six months afterward he had a strange interview with his Higher Self.

CHAPTER III. (Continued.)

"But, my son, as I may not converse with thee too long; it were better to discuss those things on which thy future movements depend." For a moment he paused and again looked upward as if silently imploring aid or guidance in what he was about to undertake. He then continued:

"Fifteen years ago, grief and lamentation filled the valley of Kashmir. Both old and young were ruthlessly stricken down by that monster destroyer known as the Oriental plague, which is even now creating havoc in the land of Cathay. Among the first to suc-

cumb was Randjid Sing, Maharajah of Kashmir. And a few days later he was followed by his favorite wife, Lallah.

“These beloved and just rulers left on earth a bright child, whom Pundit Sing, the Maharajah’s only brother, promised to love and rear as his own. With sacred vows of fidelity and protestations of love, he earnestly agreed to hold the throne for him in trust, until the child became of proper age.

“Pundit Sing, whose grief seemed deep and sincere, retired within the beautiful palace of Kashmir, that he might in seclusion devote himself to memorial services for his departed kinsman. For weeks and months he denied himself to all visitors.

“As the plague still continued to claim victims, the palace was in a state of quarantine. Few were allowed to enter or depart, save messengers on important business of state.

“Though the simple folk of the valley believe him to this day, an ideal ruler, there are those in high life who know much concerning the craft and cunning of Pundit Sing.

“Few indeed know that this night, O my son, as he sits in the palace, he is a murderer, perjurer and slayer of the infant kinsman he had sworn to protect.

“When he conceived the dark and tragical scheme to remove from his path an innocent child, who stood between himself and the wealth left by his deceased brother, he took to his side and admitted to his confidence, one person only—the old royal physician Pon-

dichery, who had strangely enough, assisted at the parturition of both the victim and destroyer.

"When informed of the regent's sinister designs, the old court physician was horrified. For the soft words and elegant phrases failed to hide the brutal and cold-blooded intentions of the ruler. Even so, the old physician betrayed not his feelings by word or actions. With his usual grave and courtly bow, he simply replied: 'Thy will, O Great Maharajah, is the will of Brahma. So it shall ever please thy humble servant to do thy bidding faithfully,' saying which he was permitted to retire.

"Thus ruminating on man's inhumanity to his fellow-being, and with horror and surprise depicted on his face, he entered his luxurious apartments. For had not his sovereign proposed a cruel and heartless murder? Made more hideous, if possible, by the relationship of his intended victim and the sacred promise given to a deceased brother.

"This cruel command had come so suddenly to the honorable old physician, that for a time he stood aghast, and convulsed with an agony of soul, as he entered his apartments. Arousing himself, he looked furtively about the apartments as if an inspiration had come to him. Again, a wave of anguish swept over him, his features contracted and a mist gathered before his eyes.

"Presently an aura of light appeared about his venerable brow; the air moved as though disturbed by an invisible presence. The vibrations grew more and more discernible and strong, until they shook perceptibly the heavy embroidered hangings at the far end of the apartment. An impression came to him. He smiled, nodded his head, and approaching the still swaying silk drapery, drew it aside. By this act he disclosed a being of frightful mien, who, with up-

raised sword of glistening steel, appeared to start half through the gilded wall, ready to strike the rash being who would thus dare unveil him."

"Drawing the hangings to behind him, the venerable physician reached his left hand upwards and grasped the fist closed fast around the hilt of steel; then with his right hand, he pressed upon a little sash ornament over the left breast of the menacing figure.

"The image here moved noiselessly backward and aside, its body straightened, and its sword came to a salute.

Ah! my sentinel, murmured the royal physician, how well you have guarded my secret place all these years; would that I could be as calm and unfeeling as you when I am as terrible. Releasing his hold on the figure, it again assumed its menacing attitude and moved swiftly around to its former place.

"Stepping from a niche into which he had retreated on releasing the guarding image, a flight of narrow stairs could be seen, down which he passed. Opening a massive door by means of a hidden spring, he entered his secret laboratory. This hidden retreat appeared to be cut out of the living rock over which the apartments of the old doctor were located. Absolute quiet here reigned supreme. Its ample dimensions were lit up by a swinging globe, whose oil of gold gave forth a perpetual radiance, the glory of which disclosed such a multitude of those wonderful treasures of the secret sciences as would have delighted the heart of the most exacting alchemist.

"Walking slowly over to a row of shelves, he selected a small, black ebony box. This he carefully carried to a stool, a small key was brought forth from the seclusion of his robe with which he soon opened it. Within could be seen half a dozen small and peculiarly

carved horns. Scrutinizing them closely, he found the one he sought and lifted it from its resting place.

It was indeed an impressive scene, past the hour of midnight, standing under the soft golden light in his subterranean laboratory the old alchemist-physician made a striking figure. Dressed in the dark court robe of his office which completely covered his tall thin form from his slightly bent shoulders down to the floor, his aquiline nose standing out in marked contrast to his long, sparse grey beard made him look not unlike a great bird. During his more than four-score years, his head had become almost totally bald, which gave even more prominence to his protruding forehead. His dark kindly eyes, however, showed that his profound study of medicine and the secret sciences, had enlarged his mind, broadened his character and filled his heart with charity for his fellow man.

As he held aloft the small horn, the suspended light of the laboratory grew dim. The flood of sunlike light that filled the spacious apartment grew to a sickly red. A cloud of shadow appeared upon the face of a large mirror hung upon the further wall.

The shadow assumed the form of two figures, one bending over the other. The one above was that of the Maharajah, the other was *his own*.

The omen, my death approaches. I must hasten to initiate my successor, he muttered.

"Again the golden globe shown with sunlike radiance. He quickly relocked the ebony box, replaced it, hid the key and fantastic horn in the deep folds of his robe, and hastened away.

"A few days later it was whispered around that the infant heir to the throne had been seized with the plague. The child was isolated in the same old wing of the palace that had witnessed the passing of his parents. No one was permitted to visit him save the

physician, Pondichery and the necessary nurses and attendants. Finally the sad news was proclaimed that young Keshavah was no more. So dreadful had been the ravages of the plague, however, that the populace gave but little attention to the event, which under less distressing circumstances would have called forth widespread grief and sympathy.

The perfidious regent appeared overcome by his assumed grief, and after the most ostentatious ceremonies, the body was laid in the royal vaults. Pundit Sing was shortly afterward proclaimed Maharajah of all Kashmir, and the young heir was soon forgotten.

CHAPTER IV.

"The night that followed the funeral service of little Keshavah was dark and dismal, and but few lights shone in the stricken city of Kashmir. As midnight approached these began to vanish, one by one, until it looked almost as gloomily as a city of the dead.

"Along the winding road that led up to the royal sepulchre on the lonely mountain side the old physician, Pondichery, might have been seen slowly ascending bearing upon his shoulders a small coffin which contained the body of a child.

"The solitary guard who paced to and fro in front of the sepulchre of the royal family, now and then paused in his monotonous walk to cast an impatient glance down the tortuous road.

Finally the silent city was reached, where the old man, almost exhausted, placed the coffin in the arms of the waiting guard, who quickly entered the nearest vault.

The young man reappeared shortly and returned the coffin to the old physician. An exchange of the small bodies had been made. A few words passed between them, and after the bestowal of a final word of caution,

to which the guard nodded assent, and a handful of gold, which was eagerly received, Pondichery left this gloomy place, bearing upon his shoulders the same small coffin.

"But it now contained life instead of death. When the wide, dusty road at the foot of the mountain was reached, he found the monk Gobab awaiting him with a cabriolet.

"The narrow box with its precious contents was placed across their knees and a few seconds later, they were speeding away to the Ouri monastery."

"What! To *this* monastery?" I exclaimed, as I perceived the overwhelming significance of his words.

"Yes," said my higher, Astral Self, "to this place; and as you have already comprehended the truth, I will confirm your belief that the coffin contained the infant Maharajah—yourself.

"On the way here, Pondichery and his companion exchanged but few words, Gobab contenting himself with asking:

"How did you manage the guard, O Great wizard of herbs?"

As I came upon him, O worthy friend, his auric color caused the mystic pentacle to vibrate, Pondichery replied, therefore some gold pieces were my best introduction.

Have no fear for his silence, the physician continued as Gobab shook his head dubiously, a word in regard to this matter would cost our lives, and this the sentinel knows only too well.

"What is the mystic pentacle," I asked, "and how did Pondichery use it?"

The mystic pentacle, answered my visitor thoughtfully, is one of the four great emblems of the most secret book of divine wisdom among the Magi, or wise men of Egypt. The other three symbols are a cup,

the Magi's wand, and a sword. The use of these emblems in determining the starry spaces, in measuring the interstellar depths and distances, in navigating the deep to unknown shores, in evoking and commanding the elementals of the earth, air, fire and waters and in discovering the most secret things of the triune worlds, of Divinity, Man and Nature—is the reward of the Magi initiate. You have but to choose, to obtain this sacred wisdom.

But how was the regent deceived as to the infant Maharajah's death? I asked, as my mind reverted to the strange story.

Under pretense, O loved one, of carrying out the murderous design of Pundit Sing, Pondichery administered to the child one of his secret potions. This powerful mixture induced a state so nearly resembling death that the heartless usurper was easily deceived, and for a time even the old physician feared he might have administered a drop too much.

"After making arrangements with his old friend Gobab to receive and secretly care for the young Maharajah, he substituted the body of a poor child, that had passed over that day, the body of whom he had covertly secured for the purpose.

"Arriving at the monastery, Pondichery in the seclusion of Gobab's private room, quickly restored the child to normal life. This accomplished; his face lost its look of haggard anxiety. His face radiated with satisfaction, and kneeling by the side of the restored infant, he gave thanks to One that he had been enabled to protect and preserve his "sacred trust."

"A short time afterward the great, good and learned Pondichery was secretly executed, or murdered rather, by order of the usurper, who reasoned that 'dead men tell no tales.' He was struck down while making obeisance to the regent—who had summoned him to a

retired room of the palace for a pretended private audience.—He fell at the ruler's feet a corpse from one swift and treacherous blow from behind. This was the dread omen of the secret laboratory fulfilled.

"The unseen assassin did not escape. As the regent looked down at the lifeless body of his victim, a fearful flash of blue light pervaded the apartment. The swordsman fell dead beneath its stroke. With a cry of mortal fear Pundid Sing fainted and fell across Pondichery's bleeding body and the sword of the executioner. Again the lightening flashed, and indelibly imprinted on the flesh of the regent a vivid picture of the sword and the wound it had made. The sight of this, which he carefully conceals, has ever filled the regent's heart with fear, and he would gladly give his throne to be rid of it.

"Before his tragic end, Pondichery, with his usual forethought, had placed a sufficient sum of money in the care of Gobab for the education and proper maintenance of the royal child.

"He charged the faithful monk not to impart to the boy, for some years, any information concerning his royal birth; and as a necessary precaution, you were renamed Hari in place of Keshavah."

He paused a moment and then continued.

Now you know all. You are the rightful ruler of Kashmir. Proof are now in possession of Gobab and others, and witnesses are also at hand, to place you upon the throne. This will of course, give you earthly power. Yet as I said before, you are to choose this night whether you will become a ruler of men or a servant of God. To-morrow the Lama will arrive and you have already been decided upon as the chela selected for initiation in the Egyptian Mysteries.

(To be continued.)

WHY YOU SHOULD BE AN OCCULT SCIENTIST

A great many letters are received every week asking "what benefits result from the study and development of one's latent or occult forces?"

We will say in reply:

That the planetary vibrations caused by the peculiar relations of the planet Saturn to the house of Capricornus have projected upon the earth, for the last two years a peculiarly harmonious vibration. This vibration has tended to make many insane, and to cause idiosyncrasies in others. It has in fact, filled the minds of men with that restless desire for activity which may take any form. It may cause war, riots, or as we have seen demonstrated of late, it may lead to such acts of cruelty, as the burning alive of human beings. There is, indeed, no limit to what it may lead to, as it causes that condition of restless inharmony which may result in either crime or suicide. The human beings who fall victims to this psychic state or condition, are entitled to our most charitable considerations.

Each student of occultism knows that its first effects are to bring about a state of quiescence, which is later followed by complete harmony. If you are a student of this great science, you should never lose an opportunity of interesting others. Begin with your circle of friends and rest assured they will thank you when they begin to realize the results. It brings a peace and contentment that cannot be otherwise obtained on this earth. It is the only science or religion which answers all the perplexing questions of life and death. It gives one an understanding of nature's laws undreamed of, improves your physical and mental health, and enhances all of your faculties. Without discussing the special powers to be attained. We will say in closing—It makes one a perfected being and prepares him for the higher life.

SUCCESS DEPARTMENT

Springtime has come again. All nature is awakening to activity. The birds and flowers will soon spring forth with beauty and harmony to teach us the story of the Absolute Creator and His love for us, as well as all things.

Not a drop of water or a grain of sand, or the most insignificant worm or insect escapes the provision of Divine Law.

So let us rejoice, dear friends, in the possession of life, and such comforting knowledge.

Let us put aside our sorrows and enter the fields of truth, and spread the seeds of kindness and universal love.

Let us refrain from destroying any of the works of the Creator.

Let us discourage others from all forms of cruelty to the lower animal.

Now, friends, we are working hard to give you the best and most instructive Occult Journal in the world. If there are any suggestions you can give to make the *Oriental Mysteries* better we shall be glad to hear from you. Perhaps we cannot promptly answer your letters, but we shall none the less be glad to know our mistakes.

We want you to interest your friends, and in fact, everyone, because this little journal will continue to uplift all who read it, as it has in the past.

Send three subscribers and have your name entered in the Success Department.

If you can send us more than three you will have a chance to secure The Higher Knowledge.

Brother W. S. French of East Lake, Tenn., is now in the lead. Beat him if you can.

We send with this issue our strongest thoughts for Health, Success and Happiness to all of our readers.

ORIENTAL MYSTICISM

By SHRI SHANKARACHARYA

The Sankhya philosophy, the immediate predecessor of the Vedanta, taught its disciples to look upon the world as an unmixed evil. Long before the Mahabharata was written the doctrines of this great and ancient philosophy held their sway over the Aryan mind.

The atmosphere of Aryan metaphysical thought is wholly saturated with the lofty pessimism of Kapila. There is very little doubt that Buddha drew his inspiration from him.

Modern opinions differ as to the true import of the system propounded by Buddha. Beyond the fact of its being a splendid moral code we cannot definitely say what Buddhism really is. At all events the prince of Kapilavasta himself was very reticent as regards the ontological portion of his system. The consequence was that his disciples put contradictory interpretations upon the philosophy of their master.

The word Nirvana meant at that time nothing else than the annihilation of the individuality of man. And as this doctrine is in direct antithesis to the kernel truth of the vedanta, a reaction against it naturally appeared in the outlines of the philosophical teachings of later masters.

Another factor which influenced Sankara from an antiquity more remote than that of even the Sankhya philosophy is the Veda and its off-shoots, the Upanishads. The Advaita philosophy is the child of the most ancient scriptures in the world—The Vedas. The Upanishads have been variously interpreted by different commentators. There is the Advaita school, the Bishistadvaita and the Dvaita schools. The second is headed by Ramanujacharya and the Dvaita by Madacharya. But in spite of the difference of views of these great teachers, they have all been influenced in no inconsiderable degree by the far-reaching

and all-comprehensive influence of the Vedas and Upanishads. Even the system of Kapila, a system which betrays profound original thought at every step, did not shrink to acknowledge the high authority of the Vedas. For the Vedas are regarded all over India as the inspired word. Those systems of philosophy which disregard the Vedas, sprang up and vanished in a short space of time, leaving behind them a few unpopular doctrines. Religious India at the time of Cankara was divided into a number of warring sets. Innumerable little schools of thought sprang up here and there founded by little teachers. The sublime philosophy underlying the Vedas was interpreted and distorted in various ways according to the prejudices of particular commentators.

The ancient doctrines of Kalipa and Vyas were deformed and mutilated by men who were wholly devoid of the very genius of philosophical thinking. A reaction was necessary and a spiritual revolution was at hand. Amidst the jarring notes of discordant sects fighting against one another with their little theories, rose the majestic keynote of Oriental Mysticism, drowning all other sounds by its wealth of melody. Once more India looked up to her spiritual ideal, and mankind was saved from spiritual anarchy.

MAN'S OCCULT POWER

[Continued from February Issue]

In man we find the body soul and spirit or the material body, astral body and divine body or soul.

These correspond with the three great planes.

The physical plane, astral plane or divine plane.

These were known to the ancients as the Three Worlds.

The division into three worlds and their still further development into a greater or lesser number of concentric spheres, inhabited by intelligences of more or

less purity, was known long before the time of Pythagoras. As it was thus taught in Egypt, Tyre, Babylon and was also known to the Hindus.

By the teachings of Pythagoras the Universe was considered as a great animated whole, composed of Intelligence, Soul and Body, which was called Pan.

He taught that man was composed of the same but in an inverse manner, as Body, Soul and Intelligence; and each of these may be still further divided into three subdivisions.

Every Ternary from that which comprises the Universe to that which forms the most feeble individual was comprised in one unity according to this great ancient teacher.

Thus was formed the great quaternary or sacred Tetractys of Pythagoras.

Following this idea man was considered as a relative unit, contained in the absolute unity of the great whole.

The soul is that which contains the passions and presents in its turn three divisions—the Rational soul, the Irascible soul and the soul of Appetite.

Still following this ancient philosopher—we find the appetite faculty of the soul consists of Intemperance or Avarice.

The faculty of irascibility consists of cowardice. The faculty of reason consists of Folly.

To avoid these vices the philosopher recommended four virtuous principles to his disciples.

Temperance for the faculty of appetite. Courage for irascible faculty. Prudence for the reasonable faculty.

And for the three faculties together he recommended Justice.

This he considered the most perfect virtue of the soul. Thus we have no sooner begun the study of Analogy, than a study of the three worlds becomes necessary. This expression of Three will be found all through the writings of antiquity. It pervades the metaphysics of the centuries and comes to us through the lapse of ages.

Plato who saw in music other things than are known to our modern musicians, perceived also that numbers had a sense unknown to algebraists of the present day. He recognized the same secrets that were known to the Egyptians and other Oriental nations.

There is an intimate relation between the seven notes of music and the seven principal colors.

Musical vibrations also produce shapes and forms. A simple yet satisfactory test may be performed by anyone.

Stretch a thin piece of rubber or membrane over the large end of a horn. Sprinkle over it some fine sand or dust. Then whistle or sing through the trumpet or horn and you will see the sand forming itself into beautiful flowers or designs in perfect accord with the harmony of your music.

"IT IS ALL RIGHT"

The mistakes of YESTERDAY are the lessons of TODAY. Hence, the mistakes of yesterday were literally and in truth, just as daily avered to be, all for the best, and—ALL RIGHT.

No matter how *seemingly* serious: no matter how filled is life with heart-aches and regrets because of them: though the days and ways grew dark and the nights stretched long and dreary through misgivings and useless wishes concerning those seeming mistakes

ALL was fashioned according to PLAN: all transpired just as it was to have transpired, and—ALL things WERE, and ARE, "ALL RIGHT!"

How *strangely* strange, unreal and untrue the statement sounds to you—if it sounds to YOU as it sounded to me when first the much used expression (among people who look upon all transpirings from an occult standpoint of discernment) was voiced in my presence, and for my special benefit.

In consternation I looked into the eyes of the friend who had thus comforted (?) me with her, to me, at that time, very doubtful manner of consolation.

From a heart heavy with fear and anxiety, carried through days of regret at an apparent mistake made, and a heart sodden with unshed tears, I had poured out my tale of woe and unhappinesses before this new found friend who was versed in occult lore some years beyond me. And in a tone of actual cheerfulness and evident thankfulness that things had taken the turn that they HAD, she gave me to know that she looked upon it in every particular, as one more of the happenings that are NOT happenings at all, but sent into life for the express purpose of soul development, and a true soul's awakening.

With voice of protest I argued. It could NOT have been for the best, I declaired. And I had gone so far as to question the Higher Power that had allowed me to be drawn into the vortex of sorrow and unhappiness *so deep* that all Eternity could not obliterate the saddened memory. Sensative to a degree *that is useless*, as had often been said, all things, in my eyes both mortal and spiritual, took on an aggravated, or exaggerated form. Reincarnation after reincarnation, I avered, would return to me with its overwhelming record of mistakes and failures, where I had so desperately struggled for successes and perfectness.

And to tell me that it was "All right!" Could I bear or believe it?

And only to be met with a smile of assurance and those same strange words to me, that from that day to this I have been learning to SAY. Not only have I repeated and taken heart of the sentiment, but repeatedly and repeatedly have proven since then, that in deepest disguise though blessings may come, blessings have they been none the less; each with a lesson of its own in the bitterness and sting, and each with a leading on to a deeper and greater faith.

Of infinite wisdom and of real faith in those days, my understanding was so vague and indefinite that, but little of comfort came to me from the gentle reminder that no matter what comes, it is manifestly for the best and all right. My protest was as gently met with the assurance that TIME would disclose the WHY and the wherefore of all these things, for which I was clamouring to be shown or told. And there was nothing left to do but to accept with what calmness and patience I might be able to command, the unfoldment of the LAW and His plans, gathering therefrom the lesson that MUST be learned before one has come to believe in all sincerity that EVERYTHING is ALL RIGHT.

Faith was weak, and the Spirit of unbelief in it all was STRONG, for a time. After much thought, and strengthened by many comforting messages from the lips of the friend who had passed this way before me, and who had found pitfalls many, and heartaches and misgivings a part of the difficult ascent to the plane of spiritual insight, I too, began to see that for a purpose it had all taken place, though perilous had been the path marked out for the ascending.

Even a prayer of thanksgiving—now that it was a look backward that could be taken—was sent forth and upward, that my lines had been cast in places so

lightly paved with peril, and so safely passed. I had rode out the storm and found in the calm, that not for all the world would I figure if I could, in the undoing of one step of the way that had led me to the heights where, in perfect faith and trust I could look out and say as had been said to me—IT IS ALL RIGHT.

A debt of gratitude I felt myself in owing. The way had grown comparatively a path of peace that came more nearly to making life a joy, than all the past had afforded. What could I do that might in measure recompense the friend who had drifted into my life when most needed, and had guided me safely over seas and breakers?

Such were the thoughts that came thick and fast when I had passed the shoals and had found a firmer footing. Deeply interested daily in the literature of occult nature that had found its way to me also, when I had been prepared to receive and believe its teachings, I felt the debt of gratitude grow stronger until I could find no rest till it should be paid, or partially so. And so, one beautiful fall day when all the world had seemed to be beaming with praise for the self-discovered beauty of its own, I stepped aboard the train that would take me in less than two hours to where lived, and LIVES the friend who took me by the hand and led me to where the blind are made to see,—that I might ask of her,—what may I do for you dear heart?—now that I have found the wisdom and the truth of your message to me when I needed and found you, and you had told me that "IT WAS ALL RIGHT."

For answer came the assurance that the debt was, as I felt it—a debt of honor, and one that she knew I would wish to repay so soon as I had found myself really indebted. And to-night, sitting at my typewriter, I pay another instalment of that never ceasing debt of thanksgiving and gratitude, in my efforts to

make plain to all who care to read my messages of hope and love to them, that LIFE is one great school of EXPERIENCE and DEVELOPMENT, and *that* whether we shall make the most of our opportunities FOR soul unfoldment and Divine enlightenment or NOT. The experiences incident to a sojourn on this plane are sure, and that justice, whether swift or slow, is SURE.

Learn to say and believe—YES! and to KNOW that whatever the experience—it is in all truth, ALL RIGHT. When one has taken this truth well to heart, it is wonderful to note the different light in which all life is viewed. It rather turns the plane of life into a vast play ground and experimental station. It lends zest and gives an added charm to the once prosaic task of so serious a thing as “making a living,” and lights the once mysterious path towards the goal.

In our home, and among those with whom we most associate it has come to be the daily admission that whatever is, IS BEST, and that whatever of either disappointment or seeming failure may come, it is as truly to be viewed as perfectly just and right and for a REASON, as when fortune smiles and everything seems to be coming our way.

It is more gracious to say that an occurrence is all right when the tide has turned against one, than to say it when the heart is filled with smiles that so readily find expression about the mouth and eyes, when the sun seems to have risen most brilliantly upon our highest hopes and expectations.

Why not then, learn to be GRACIOUS and thankful under the stress of test and trial? It is the chiefest of all development exercises, and its returns outrival the rays of the sun itself in bringing sunshine into the home as well as the heart. Just remember and KNOW that, EVERYTHING IS ALL RIGHT, and

the whole world will swing to the rhythm of harmonious vibration, as intensioned with the beginning of each new cycle of time. Man-made laws and the Divine Laws man-broken, have been instrumental in bringing the world into the chaos of inharmony and heartache that prevails when the tumult of war reigns, and restlessness surges rampant in the almost Universal heart. But even this, belongs as in part to the great whole, and from out the chaos of darkness will arise practically a new world, in time,—a world more beautiful with love, and *justice in prevail*, and the FAITH that all things have been working for good to those who have been truly seeking enlightenment from the Higher Forces for the betterment of mankind, rather than for the millions individually that men are most seeking to line not only purses with, but strong-boxes, banks and vaults.

NELLIE HAWKS.

DEPARTMENT OF ORIENTAL MYSTICS

Dear Brother Mystics in All Parts of the World:

I have been away from my active duties for almost two months, but have again returned, and am with you in spirit at all times.

Our absence has been but briefly explained to the laity, but to our brother mystics we will say—We have been in retirement. In the silence, wherein our forces could be renewed with divine contemplation. As you are doubtless aware, in the orient, all chelas or masters leave the depressing vibrations of artificial life, and the gross materialism to seek soul rest. It may be obtained in the silent paths of the forests or by the shores of the ocean and in the vastness of nature's solitude.

The conflicting vibrations of the unreclaimed constitute a veritable cross to those who have entered the

higher planes. No doubt many of you have not as yet received a reply to your last letters. But patience beloved. Each and every one will in due time receive a personal reply.

With best wishes for the success and happiness of all Mystics,

I am, fraternally,

DR. T. J. BETIERO, Sec'y O. M.

The whole solar system is moving. The whole of our vast universe is moving in a direction opposite to that in which the planets are going.

It passed several years ago from the Sign of Pisces and entered the sign of Aquarius. It requires 2,250 years or thereabouts to move through each sign, and during that period humanity undergoes an almost complete change in both physical and spiritual vibrations.

Aquarius is the House of Uranus. Uranus is the planet which gives out the most delicate spiritual vibrations. Under these influences startling changes may be expected and mighty events may be looked for, swiftly and silently they will come.

Many marvelous psychics may be born during this period.

Much insanity and strange mental diseases may prevail for awhile, but the change means a higher and more spiritual race.

Our work will prosper, because we are teaching the eternal truth which must prevail.

By our disastrous fire, much valuable stock, letters, books and literature were lost. We are doing our best to answer all letters and orders and expect to soon be again running smoothly. Note our new address 3008 Michigan Ave., The Potomac Bldg., Chicago, Ill.

COMFORTED

I longed to sing a sonnet,
 To the pulsing, throbbing world.
 Had felt my pinions fettered,
 My wings too long close furled.
 I longed to unfold a story,
 That should live to the end of time:—
 And I longed to tell it sweetly,
 In tender-toned, sweet rhyme.

A restless, surging Spirit
 Brought the lines of care and fret:
 'Til *another* Spirit whispered,
 "Be brave! Brook *no* regret."
 A thought came swift—consoling,
 "Let HOME thy poem be.
 Some day thy heart might sorrow,
 For if time should set thee free—

From the planning, and the toiling,
 Thy heart would break with pain.
 Back to the prosy duties
 I turned my heart again.
 The story is left to guessing:—
 Tale the world will never miss.
 There are duties sweeter pressing
 The soul's approval—this.

I had fancied 'twould be pleasure
 To gain the world's acclaim;
 Had dreamed 'twould be full measure,
 To bear world-given fame.
Mere baubles—easy shattered!
 Joy of home and heart
 Were best of all. But NEEDED—
 The soul's each ache and smart.

—Nellie Hawks, Chicago.

COLONY OF ORIENTAL MYSTERIES

To all of our friends who are interested in our colony movement will say:

We have now under consideration a beautifully situated tract of land of 160 acres, situated in the clear, healthful atmosphere of the Pacific Coast.

One of our brother mystics is now investigating. It can be secured for about \$15,000, and has on it several fine mineral springs. It is our intention to build a sanitarium, where all kinds of baths may be given. To erect a temple wherein we will give the initiation and teach the Ancient Mysteries, which are not, nor have they ever been, lost. We shall also establish our printing house for publishing our books and literature as well as the Oriental Mysteries.

Every mystic is interested in this grand object, as it gives a permanent home amid harmony and the most perfect conditions.

For this great object, money will be required. Although we have planned to make our enterprise self-sustaining from its first inception, we desire all possible aid. If you have a portion of this world's goods, and desire to make your future home with us, write and let us know just what you are best fitted for, and how much you are prepared to invest. For it is in fact a better investment than life insurance. We will need lecturers, nurses, attendants, artisans, healers, printers, etc. We do not intend to form a stock company.

But will accept loans from our members, to be payable at end of a certain time. In this way we hope to soon be able to announce definite plans. All matters connected with our colony will be handled according to—The Golden Rule. We require \$10,000 more to obtain the desired land. All letters pertaining to financial matters are sacredly confidential.

OBSESSION

To discuss the subject of obsession, it is necessary to differentiate between superstition, material science, consisting of facts plainly demonstrable and occult science which is none the less based upon facts which are, however, less easy of demonstration.

The Bible records many instances of obsession. And the exorcism of such evil spirits formed an important part of the miracles of Jesus.

The question naturally arises in the minds of thoughtful students, whether or not these unusual conditions may not exist at the present day.

From our own personal experience and observation, as well as from the testimony of others, we answer the query most positively in the affirmative. Obsession actually exists today as it did in past ages.

For example, there is a lady now living in New York City who by her strange and inconsiderate actions for several years past has shocked and humiliated her husband, children and friends. Several years ago the lady in question was passing through that trying period—the menopause. Becoming discouraged with the efforts of regular practioners, she decided to place herself in the hands of a “magnetic doctor.”

The doctor, like many others, had but slight knowledge of the great science he practiced. Thus day after day he put his patient into the hypnotic sleep, without a thought of the grave dangers to which she was subjected.

At the end of several weeks she returned to her home and family.

But lo! and behold, though her relatives were delighted with the improvement in her health, they were pained and surprised to find that she was no longer the loving wife and mother.

She was as a stranger and an interloper. Instead of the economical wife of the past, she seemed now seized with a frenzy of extravagance. Every day and week new ideas were evolved by which she could expend the modest income of her spouse. Then the savings of a lifetime were attacked, and, notwithstanding the protests of a patient and kind husband, they soon began to vanish. Extravagance was followed by eccentricities and even indiscretions, until the heart-broken and discouraged husband brought her to an oculist for examination. The latter discovered that the unfortunate woman was a victim of obsession.

As she was receiving the treatments above mentioned, the operator put her into the deep trance state, without the proper precautions. While thus resting in the negative state, some wandering spirit took possession of her physical body. By her later actions, one must infer that the intruding spirit was a spendthrift, selfish and of low character.

Therefore when the lady returned to her home, the spirit or controlling force of the material body was truly a stranger and without regard for those who had been previously beloved. This sad story is a plain statement of facts. It is worthy of careful consideration by all who make use of nature's fine forces in treatment of diseases, or development of the higher powers. As it verifies the adage that "a little knowledge is truly dangerous."

HINDU ASTROLOGY

All persons born from February 19th to March 21st are in the sign of Pisces, which is a Feminine, Fruitful and Watery sign, ruled by Neptune.

This is the planet of Inspiration and Idealism. Those born while the Sun is in Pisces are inclined to take

life easy. They are usually kind and loving and will sometimes smile at misfortune. They possess a strong imagination and are very idealistic, will often make hasty remarks for which they are sorry.

Such natives are naturally attracted to the secret or occult sciences and if they once enter upon the subject they will seek to penetrate to its profoundest depths.

Studious, methodical, logical and mathematical, they apply the light of reason to all affairs in life, which tends to make them successful.

A point against them and which they should seek to overcome is their lack of pride and self-esteem, which causes them to often undervalue their ability. As a whole, these natives will be found timid, very modest and easily influenced to tears. Music and beautiful scenery impresses them deeply.

Yet when once their minds are set upon attaining a certain object, they do not easily give up. Though lack of confidence often keeps them out of pursuits to which they are adapted.

The Pisces natives harmonize best with Cancer people, and those born in the sign of Scorpio, and moderately well with Taurus and Capricorn.

For employment or profession they should select a line requiring intuitive judgment and a power to make the best of conditions. Trades where discretion is required. Politics or Attorneys at Law.

The planetary or ruling gems are the Amethyst and Jasper.

For location of home—a place should be selected either in a wild broken mountainous country, where the grandeur of nature is especially marked, or near the ocean or a large body of water, where the soul may constantly contemplate the awful sublimity of the Infinite.

NOTES

The Star of The Magi was during its life a clean, high-class occult journal, reflecting the unimpeachable character of its editor Dr. N. E. Wood.

However, the doctor, who is one of Chicago's most prominent physicians and business men, decided to discontinue its publication. Arrangements were made whereby the Oriental Mysteries will be supplied to finish out all outstanding subscriptions. And we hope that the Mysteries will find favor in their sight and that we shall be favored with a renewal of their subscription as the latter expires from time to time. As a considerable number expires during the coming month we hope they will decide to continue with us.

The great serial story Nedoure Priestess of the Magi, was published in an abbreviated form some years ago in the Star of the Magi. It was our intention at that time to publish it in book form. Our reason for not doing so was, that it contains a vast amount of secret knowledge, which would be dangerous to place in the hands of the public at large, although we sincerely desire that every occult student shall have a copy. It contains full details of White and Black magic. While we are not teaching the latter, it is well for our friends to be familiar with it, in order to protect themselves from the ignorant or vicious. We are sure its great value as an occult relic will appeal to every reader as its publication proceeds. The edition will be limited to the number of subscribers, so that we expect to supply the full demand, but shall order no extra copies. We doubt if our illustrations can be ready for some weeks. However, if you intend getting a copy and wish to be certain of it, the price is \$2.00, address Nellie Hawks, 3008 Michigan Ave., Chicago, Ill.

AND NOW I KNOW

Ah! heart of mine, I realize today

What cowardice; in asking that no more
Should sorrows, frets and disappointments come my
way.

I understand, as I had not before.

Aye! Now that I have analyzed, and thought,

I realize that liberty is *always* dearly bought;
And longed-for peace of soul is *ever* wrought
Thro' suffering! Thro' conquering trials sore.

Had wormwood never entered in at all,

The joy of living-love had not been mine!

Had never hope and bliss been turned to gall,

I ne'er had tasted Love's own nectared wine.

Had minor chord ne'er floated thro' my life,—

Had pain ne'er pierced more keen than blade of knife,

And never had I battled with earth's strife,

I had not known the way to heed *thy call*.

No longer is my prayer, a prayer of *plea*

That every woe of life shall fall away.

I only ask that strength be given me,

To *brave endure* what cometh day by day.

I realize the *gift* of care and pain;

It burns from out the soul—the *dross!* I gain!

And tho' the heart send forth a sad refrain

Betimes. For strength and peace I've learned to
look to THEE!

NELLIE HAWKS.

3000 Michigan Ave., Chicago, Ill., Potomac Bldg.

BE YOUR OWN

PHYSICIAN

Is the watchword by those who have adopted the Schaefer System of Healing. So as our soul needs spiritual assistance, so our physical body needs physical help in the hour of sickness, and the best help for our body is the Schaefer Healing Apparatus, as it will cure every dis ease of mind and body. No drugs of any kind. For further information, literature and testimonials, write to the inventor,

Prof. G. H. A. Schaefer, 122 West 20th St., Erie, Pa.