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HIGHER KNOWLEDGE ALCHEMY

We must in a great measure thank the alchemists for what they have added to the great science of antiquity. We cannot understand the great principles which guided them, without continuing our studies in the occult science. However, there was one general idea, and upon that we find based symbolical history.

Some claim that it is impossible to practice this great science without one has first found the philosopher's stone. This is an error; as in the workings of the alchemists, obscurity exists on one point, and that was the material employed in the operations.

Before proceeding, we are confronted by two questions.

What is the philosopher's stone?

Is it mythical, or has it an existence in fact?

For many years investigators have searched for proof as to the facts concerning alchemists, and it is now known that they really possessed the secrets of

transmutation. But proof which would be acceptable to scientists is wanting.

In the remarkable work of M. Figuer, he attempts to prove that the alchemists did not possess the secret of transmutation.

Yet he records three facts which stand irrefutable. By an operation the alchemist actually produced gold from the baser metals, and this in the presence of one who was skeptical.

The philosopher's stone is said to be a powder which may assume various colors, according to its degree of perfection. When in its perfect state it appears pure white or red.

Of the two, the red is said to be the most powerful, and possesses three virtues:

- 1st. The transmutation of metals.
- 2d. It is an energetic purifier of the blood.
- 3d. If sprinkled upon seeds or plants, it causes them to accomplish in a few hours the development and growth which would otherwise require months.

We have here the three points which have been claimed by the alchemists.

Yet a little reflection will show us that the three may be said to constitute only one—that is, it re-enforces the vital principles. In other words, the philosopher's stone is but a condensation of the life energy.

The above remarks may be found in one of the most reliable books on the subject of alchemy. The student can by this time read the secret. "If you would become powerful, learn to draw into your body vast

stores of vital energy. You can then, by exercise of a trained will, heal the sick, control the elementals, and, in fact, accomplish all of the wonders promised by possession of the philosopher's stone."

The alchemists sought to hide the great secrets of life from those who would abuse it. They also used a number of symbols, some of which we will try to explain. The first symbol is the straight line.

With the line we have another consideration; that is, its direction.

Lines usually take one of two directions; they are either perpendicular or horizontal.

The vertical direction represents the active.

The horizontal direction, the passive.

The first numbers which represent the active and passive are 1 and 2, which, added together, give us the ternary, which is 3.

Thus the first complete figure formed is the triangle.

Passing on from the figure 3, we find that the figure 4 is the active or first number of a higher octave.

Four represents the opposing forces of two and two. That is to say, it unites the two horizontal and the two vertical lines, giving us a square, which is the symbol of perfection.

This conveys to the occult student a grand lesson on the perfection of life.

Man consists of three principal divisions—Body, Soul and Spirit, or the material, the astral and the divine.

THE HOLY TRINITY

Every trinity must have its fourth dimension. All things be expressed by the word Truth. The holy trinity is Alchemy. Nature is the true alchemist. Man is the chemist. Nature is the great teacher of all. She begins with four kingdoms—Elements, Minerals, Seeds and Fruits.

The four great elements are fire, water, earth and air. To the Egyptian they are known as Isis, Issis, Horus and Osiris. The god of fire, earth, water and air.

Among the Hebrews we find Shadrach, Meshack and Abednago, the three children of Israel who were cast into the fiery furnace, which was heated seven times, which is in itself symbolical of the physical nature of man, with his seven physical senses.

And when the door of the furnace was opened an angel appeared in their midst. So it is with us, when we resist the fires of our natures by turning our backs upon temptation; the angel and comforter appears.

With the Hindus these forces or elements correspond to Brahma, Vishnu, Siva and Atma.

The soul of sulphur is Indian yellow; the soul of salt is ultra-marine blue, and the soul of mercury is Chinese vermilion. Tincture is the name given the gray matter of the brain.

Bible reference, Genesis I: "In the beginning, God created the heavens, and the earth was without form and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep, and the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the deep,

and He said, Let there be light, and there was light." This of necessity made fire the first element manifest in creation.

The fire gases rising and coming in contact with the colder ether, condensed, thus forming water, or the life-giving gas of hydrogen. Oxygen, the fire-gas, is positive; the earth-nitrogen-gas is negative, and water, the hydrogen-gas, is neutral. This gives us our first or Fire trinity. As a combination of these gases form air, we have in it the fourth dimension of our trinity, without which nothing can exist.

These being the first or Father forces, we call them of God the Father, the first person of the Holy Trinity.

In the water trinity we find that sulphur corresponds to fire, as one molecule of sulphur fuses with one molecule of oxygen, which gives us the positive of the water-trinity.

Salt is the neutral, as it possesses the life-giving properties of the water.

Mercury is negative, as it is the mercurial properties of the sap, which causes it to rise in the tree and bring forth fruit.

Earth symbolizes the mother in which the seed is planted.

The product of these three is electricity, and, being derived from the first, it is called The Son, the second person in the trinity.

These first two trinities correspond to John's angel with one foot on sea and the other on dry land.

In the earth trinity, man is the positive. Sperma corresponds to water and salt, the life-giving principles.

The neutral and female corresponds to the earth, and mercury.

The negative product or fourth dimension is ether (representing the higher life), and being the product of the first two, or Father and Son, it is called the Holy Ghost. In order to obtain the fourth trinity, air, and square our sum, we find that Material man is positive, Spiritual nature the negative, and Tincture is the neutral. The fourth dimension of which is Master. That is, when we become master of the forces of our constitution, then is born in us—The Christos.

When one wishes to express a production produced by the 4, the lines active and passive should be crossed at a central point. We have then the cross, the image of the Absolute.

The figure 5 responds to the five-pointed star, which symbolizes intelligence. The upper point represents the head of man, directing the four great elemental forces of nature.

The two ternaries, the one positive, the other negative, when placed together, the one inverted and the other erect, give us the sacred seal of Solomon.

(To be continued.)

The truth is that for which all mankind seeks; only the wise man recognizes it when found.

Vibration is that from which all things came and to which all must return.

OCCULTISM

Lecture Delivered by Dr. T. J. Betiero, before the Hyde Park Occult Society, August 2, 1903.

During all ages of the world the greatest thinkers and brightest men have possessed a power transcending the physical. Such knowledge has always been jealously guarded that it might not fall into the hands of the ignorant or profane.

And he who attained the coveted initiation must have had in addition to a high moral character, patience and a vast amount of perseverance.

Few, if any, teachers of occultism could be found in those days outside the societies of initiation. However, Chaldea, Persia, India and Egypt had its temples where the worthy were admitted to the sacred mysteries. Neophytes and sincere students made pilgrimages of many miles that they might learn the great secrets of life and death.

In India and some of the adjacent islands are found even at the present day remains of the famous temple-caves, whose uses are not understood by the scientists of the present.

In Egypt the far-famed pyramids stand also in their silence, mystic monuments of the past whose uses are known to but few. Some investigators claim that they were designed to be used as great tombs for the royal rulers, others suggest that they may have been intended for astronomical observatories. Before attempting to explain further we will briefly review their history as the records show.

For some reason the builders of the pyramids were not inclined to explain the uses for which they were intended. Some of the early historians gave some hints which were purely hypothetical and are therefore valueless.

According to Herodotus the kings who built the pyramids reigned about twenty-eight hundred years ago. He further tells us that when Cheops, the first of the pyramid-builders, ascended the throne he plunged into excesses, forbade the people to offer sacrifices and kept one hundred thousand men busy for twenty years creating the first and largest of the pyramids. This ruler was not adored by the people, in fact his name awakened much resentment. Yet he may have had a generous object in the construction of this great monument. He may have sought to help his people, and in fact the whole world, and such we believe was his aim. We are also of the opinion that the pyramids were constructed for the same purpose as were the temple caves.

In both cases a private chamber was provided, shut off from the world, where the operator could carry out his evocations and call around him the inhabitants of other worlds.

It is a noticeable fact that a venerable Chaldean made a visit to Cheops shortly before the stupendous work was undertaken. He brought with him large rolls of MS. and enjoyed many private interviews with the king.

In order to better comprehend this statement we shall consider at some length the science of occultism.

There are several very different classes of attainment.

One may seek to develop clairvoyance only. This is usually the ambition of the spiritualists as they seek to commune with departed friends. Another class endeavor to control the elementals by development of the will. Others depend upon ceremonial magic, that is, they carry out evocations and invocations. For this purpose a solitary chamber is best adapted, although the operation is sometimes performed in a lonely outdoor spot. It is for this purpose that we believe the pyramids and temple caves were used.

In these latter one finds a comparatively small room under a gigantic rock carved into the form of a lion or tiger head.

This carving, which is usually rude, must have required a very long time and much patience.

Its object was, no doubt, to frighten away the numerous wild beasts with which the region abounded.

Each one of the great nations of antiquity had a great center, not unlike our present universities. Egypt, Chaldea, Persia and India possessed such centers, known as Mysteries. Both Orpheus and Pythagoras journeyed from Greece to Egypt to learn the great secrets taught there, and each afterward returned to his country and endeavored to enlighten the Greeks.

However, part of this knowledge was too sacred to be given out to the general public.

In regard to the ancient initiation, some records show that the Neophyte first spent a number of days in fasting, prayers and bathing. They were then conducted into the lower part of the temple, where, by a

secret process, the soul was separated from the body, and while the material body remained in a quiescent, the ethereal part of the body wandered through other planes.

The ancients learned at an early day that there were sounds in the universe which escaped the physical sense hearing, and odors existed which were too rare to be recognized by man's sense of smell. They also declared that man is surrounded by invisible spiritual beings which escape the sense of vision.

To become en rapport with such delicate vibrations a certain development of the body and soul is necessary.

In regard to such matters there are some who deny the existence of a soul. While our remarks are for those who believe and know, we may say that if man has not a soul, he cannot claim superiority over the rest of the animal kingdom, as the eye of man cannot be compared with that of the eagle.

The bloodhound has also a far more powerful sense of smell.

If the physical were all, then life would indeed be hardly worth the struggle.

When man gives up the hope of a future life, he becomes weak, indeed. This is shown by the material tendency of the present day. Murders and suicides are increasing, and in the present state of inharmony the world appears to welcome any excitement, not even excepting war. Among the principal causes of suicides we find the desire for wealth and material

love. Yet for all, one who will rush unbidden into eternity makes a sad error, and retards his or her progress for ages.

Notwithstanding the growth of materialism, there is at present a great psychic wave sweeping over the earth.

What the world needs is more real knowledge of God's divine laws. Instead of the blind leading the blind as is the case with many orthodox preachers, we need teachers who understand the interpretation of the Bible and who are able to teach and demonstrate the great truth of being.

The world has passed through many critical stages.

At times humanity progressed, at other times it remained stationary, and history shows periods of undoubted retrogression.

When Moses returned to the children of Israel fresh from communion with God, he was surprised to find that they had created the image of a golden calf and were bowing before it in worship.

He concluded they were at that time unworthy to receive the great knowledge which was sent them, and therefore gave it orally to a few of the priests whom he found worthy.

This instruction was at that time called the Kabals and was afterward known as the Kabbalah.

So it has been in all ages and so we find it in the present day; some knowledge may not be written, lest it fall into possession of the unworthy.

It is pleasing to note among all of the seeming in-harmony that many bright and inquiring minds are investigating and receiving the truth which is destined to reclaim the race and lift mankind to that sublime elevation for which he was intended.

THE NOW

Mayhap the way is brighter,
Than I had first divined;
The past is PAST! 'Tis LIGHTER,
Since I thrust it from my mind.
The FUTURE'S in God's keeping!
'Tis the NOW! that's mine, I find!

—*Nellie Hawks.*

LOVE

Love will brighten the home though the barrenest
lodge;

Love gladdens the way tho' the shadows seem deep.
Love points out the SUN through the veriest hedge;
Love whispers of joy, and will wearied souls keep.

Tho' the task of the day seemeth irksome and long,
And the life is o'er burdened with worry and fear,
Love will bring to the lips, from the heart a glad
song;

Love is filled with the SUNSHINE of gladness and
cheer.

"My very soul is aflame with love! My heart hun-
gers, and my very life has been burned unto dead-sea
ashes through, and because of it! But no one knows
it! NO ONE knows! I never reveal it! I crush
the truth from sight, and have suffered and am suffer-
ing it out in silence!"—and the blue eyes shone tears
that glittered in heartache while the erstwhile sweet
voice broke quiveringly into well suppressed, but

nevertheless detectable sobs, and a forced smile took on the not well feigned "don't care" expression as if to cover, if possible (but it was not possible), the disappointment and the never stilled ache so adroitly hidden from the world.

"Love! Talking of love, are you?—the sweetest of themes that the world ever knew! Why—MY love is of the spontaneous combustion sort and kind, dearie, and everything and every one that *I* love, girlie, MUST know it! SHALL know it!—that's all!"—and as though a bomb bent upon destruction had gone to atoms in a hitherto quiet campus, came the declaration from the bearer of another pair of blue eyes and a frizzled blonde head. And there were smiles, tears, heartache and happinesses and joys so closely intermingled for a few moments thereafter that an outsider and misunderstander would scarce have known whether it was a time of rejoicing at that supreme moment—or OTHERWISE. I listened interested—full of the intensity of the theme and the deep born beauty of the sacred symbol of a Christ-loved world and a divine-born people. For, in all truth, "Love is the theme of my story," always and forever, and were the world less filled with this heavenly and divine commodity, it would be all but unbearable—TO ME. It is the propelling power of the world, given and sanctioned by the Father of All, and illumined by the Sun's own rays of warmth and light. And yet we seek too oftentimes, to crush it down; to hide it out of sight; to deny it to the world; to brush it away

into nothingness when the very soul is seeking, demanding, CRAVING "it's own." Therein have we made life dark and loveless, rather than beautiful and lovely—and all because we may have imagined it WEAK to love too well, if indeed it were possible TO love too well. Mayhap unwisely, at times—but *never* too well! Mayhap with a heart all but crushed, and almost in humiliation at times; but, *NEVER, TOO WELL!*

For each pain, each sorrow, every crushing blow has wrought its cure in measure, and in some one way or another. The heart, through much suffering has grown more tender, more compassionate for another's sorrows and cares, and to the world, through disappointment and grief, one becomes as treasure-trove in truth. For the every pang of ache, and for the every tear of agony thus provoked into expression, the Universe grows richer in unaccounted store.

Are you, sweetheart, of the manner of the "spontaneous combustion?" For, confessedly, *I AM!* and if you are not, you will scarce understand me, and may not approve. But I shall risk meeting the result of the confession, knowing that I do not, at least, stand alone in this spontaneity that is as natural as the bubbling over of a spring, and that has brought to me, both the heart-ache and the joy of life, and in ways almost innumerable. Heartaches are sweet sorrows. I do not covet or court them. But they have been sent into my life, time after time, and each time, when all the worst was over, I have found underneath

them all, a lesson and an awakening that He who rules and doeth all things well, knew to a certainty before sending, were needed and *must be* inflicted before those eyes of the inner sanctuary of the soul could, or WOULD be opened.

"For every experience I thank thee!" has grown to be a part of every prayer, though never forgetting to add, "From further infliction, if thou canst, Oh, God, deliver me!" for I have had enough. Quite enough! At least so seems it to me, though not one of them would I have missed, must the lesson, too, have been withheld.

One of the sweetest of joys that the world ever knew is that of LOVING, and of being Loved. Are you, then, of the spontaneous combustion in love-disposition, I ask? Or have you decided that the world shall NEVER know, and that to this world you will give out the falsity, rather than the truth, and seek to make it believe you indifferent as to whether it is love or indifference it (a part of it) offers you?

If of the latter class, not thoroughly well have you embraced the teachings of our beloved Occultism. It is filled to the brim with love vibrations. Misunderstandings and misconceptions relative to this beautiful science are manifestly abroad. I would seek so far as possible to disabuse the minds of those who disbelieve in it all, and would help, in a spirit of deepest love, to change the tide of affairs into brighter channels, in many a heart and in many a home where discord and dissatisfaction is known.

In one home today, this very magazine is denied entrance because it bears the word and the mark of OCCULTISM. If ever occultism was manifestly needed, it is THERE. But one day there came a letter from an old-time friend of my girlhood, and its import was simply this: "Can you, my Nell, have so far forgotten yourself as to have gone dipping into, and believing in New Thought, so-called, and Occult work and literature? The very words in our household would bring a storm of epithets. I would not DARE, even did I wish to bring such magazines as your's, into our home!"

And an unhappier home upon God's footstool anywhere, I have no present knowledge of. I long to send there, the love-vibrations so strong that a change may take place. Time will tell whether my wishes and my work shall be sufficiently strong to become effectual.

In many another home, Occultism has brought a deeper love and a more tender consideration from one to another than was even known until the beauties of an Occultly-lived life was made evident as possibility, and the natural spontaneity of more than one life has grown into a living reality of the essence of spontaneous combustion. We believe in the time-worn assertion that "It were better to have loved and LOST, than never to have loved at all!" Many a heart is smarting, aching, deeply and almost irretrievably pained and wounded under the giving out of a love that has not been met WITH love. The heart is very

prone to question "WHY?" and to fall beneath the wheels of cruel fate and be crushed. But, there is a REASON, be assured, and one far more potent and reaching than, upon the surface of circumstances, has been made plain. Yet God, all in His own good time, reveals the silver lining to even every SUCH cloud.

Were it safe to say, I should be almost tempted into a confession of the fact—(There! I've all but said it already, so might as well proceed) that MY love and my sympathies are largely extended towards, and engrossed in the heart-aches to which the animal kingdom is subjected, through the thoughtlessness and indifference of MAN. Many of my own deepest heart-aches have been because of the indignities and cruelties heaped upon defenseless animals, while I stood by or afar off, practically powerless, except as I could speak, protest, and WRITE, and thus help the little "MITE" that it was mine to bestow. This same spontaneousness finds me walking the streets of this great heart-burdened, heart-throbbing city, talking to my animal friends, aloud, sometimes. And when I have effusively been blessing the dear hearts and lives of my dumb friends as I see them standing under the burning heat of the mid-day sun, unsheltered, burdened, heated and worn with hard labor, eating the noonday meal of oats from "nose-bags" that are smothery and dirty and uncomfortable, my heart just simply aches, and I fall to thinking, Thinking, THINKING!!! and to sending out love-words to them, as well as love-thoughts, until presently remem-

bering myself I look around, only to find that some one or ones are wondering, evidently, "Is she quite sane?" And with a gentle pat, and word of love in smothered tones, I hasten on towards home, my heart still more tender than ever before, and with a tenderness that leads me higher and higher, in consciousness of the ALL love that has brought all things animate, and inanimate, into existence, and for a CAUSE.

Seek to KNOW the cause—is the teaching of Occultism. Seek to KNOW and to understand intelligently, the Science of Being. We come, we go. We drift, and fail to KNOW. OR, we seek; we find, and learn to understand that ALL is Spirit-Mind.

And Occult people?—they are the happiest among people, except it be among a class so indifferent as to imagine themselves happy in the eternal seeking after material pleasures, leaving all thought of time and eternity to a simple conscience-crushed imagination. But, even their day of awakening is coming, for, sometime, someway, ALL *Must* know! We prefer to have already awakened, and to be living in the light of TRUTH and love.

Have you ever noticed, dear heart, that Occult people are filled with a love that brooks all boundary? Love expressions and endearing names fall as spontaneously from their lips as falls the dews of heaven. And they are heart-felt, too! Love begets love, and it begets likewise, the desire to express it, and the first thing one knows the atmosphere has grown a love-strewn play-ground, and misjudgings, jealousies

and indifferences have taken unto themselves wings and have flown so far away that Heaven has come very near—and the “other place” is disbelieved in entirely, and FORGOTTEN. Love is the very soul of JUSTICE, you know. It is the unit that unites the finite with the Infinite. Love draws upon the Infinite All-love, the Great Breath, first cause of all things in heaven and below, and is poured out in mortal love, upon all mortality, and the world accepting the sweetest of passages and messages thus offered, grows a better place to dwell in, and home becomes literally a paradise, and one’s work, done for love’s sweet sake, becomes a sought-for pleasure, and one rejoices where, in times past, bewailings were more often than not, indulged in.

Love of the spontaneous combustion, effervescent sort or description combines most beautifully with the work in hand, likewise, of no matter what the kind or condition. And one of the happiest housewives ever known was one who, unknowingly was living the doctrine of the LAW of love on which the Universe was founded, when she daily toiled amid the surroundings incident to the life of a pioneer in a new land, and found love to be practically the theme of HER story.

In after years, when time and changed circumstances lifted her out and above it all, she looked back but to realize that those were among the happiest days of her life. In living so close to Nature, many of the heart trials, disappointments and sorrows that

came into her life when she was the better prepared to meet them, had been withheld, and the simplicity of environment had been proving a wise teacher when and where least suspected.

Says one who writes beautifully: "The man who loves every bit of his work will coin his very highest soul into it, and will make it so beautiful that the world will run to see it, and pay almost any price for it." And in truth did a part of the world at least "run" to see a part of the work into which this same housewife had coined her very soul, and eventually they paid for it, glad to possess it.

But we fail to speak the word of tenderness so many times, and when hearts are literally breaking for the jewels that might be so easily given without money and without price. We fear to be called sentimentalists, and crush down and out of sight, even the love-look of the eyes, and that would speak volumes through expressed smiles, and go on alone bearing, and producing heart-aches when, did we allow full swing and sway to the heart at its own dictation—just what a world this MIGHT BE! Have you ever thought of it, really and truly, sincerely and deeply? And after all, do you not deem it wiser to belong to the class of spontaneous combustions, than to go through life suppressing and crushing down and out, the very best that the nature contains, and the choicest of all sentiments that God implanted in the heart of all life and Nature?

I MIGHT discourse learnedly, perhaps, upon the

chosen theme today, and weave many a love-truth into a rythmical wreath to be worn. But I leave all the learned things for our Dr. Betiero to say, while I talk in a woman's way of the things that lie nearest my heart. He teaches you the Science of love, and the Science of being, and he lives what he teaches.

He teaches you the centuries-hidden esoteric truths, and reveals long suppressed secrets which, mastered, make men and women masters of their own destinies, and choosers of their own paths in life, independently, happily and financially. While I have mastered many of the deep and beautiful truths that he makes plain and pleasant, I leave it to him to teach YOU, while I dip merely into the heart of such things as, well!—as I have thus far entered in upon, firm in the belief that my feminine friends best appreciate from me, such talks as dip into “The Very Soul Of It.”

NELLIE HAWKS.

NOTES

Spirit vibrates more rapidly than matter; therefore when one would transcend the physical, the vibrations must be raised.

Right thoughts, right speech and right acts are the basic teachings of occult science. Does any grander or greater precept exist?

Immortality will be given to those who deserve it. Thus it rests with each individual whether or not he will preserve his entity and go forth in the higher cycles of existence.

THE BUDDHIST PREISTS

In China the religion which has the greatest number of adherents is Confucianism.

The followers of Confucius have many splendid precepts to guide them, but this great philosopher said but little of a future life, and most of his rules apply to one conduct in earth life. "Children obey your parents," was his most important advice.

Following this idea through centuries, ancestor worship has assumed an almost ludicrous development. It is said that when a Chinaman returns home after a sojourn in a foreign land, he at once seeks the home of his parents, which is not strange, but his actions in following out this ancient custom are somewhat remarkable. When within a few blocks of his early home he falls upon his knees and crawls through the narrow streets uttering peculiar groans. Continuing thus until he attracts the attention of his neighbors or the passers by, someone who has known his family comes forth, takes him by the hand and bids him arise. If his parents be yet alive he is conducted to the doorway of his home, where he again falls upon his face and does not raise his head until bidden to do so by his parents. He then unfolds and shows the presents he has brought and general jollification follows. If, on the other hand, his parents or either one of them has died, he must conform to a long and curious ritual of mourning.

Yet, throughout the empire there are many followers of Buddha and of Mahomet. However, the Budd-

hists far exceed the latter in number. The rites of this sect are guarded with great secrecy. For a long time in the northern part of China, a young Buddhist priest was annually exhibited who had the Mongolian features but possessed a complexion of unnatural whiteness. Such a phenomenon appealed strongly to the superstitious veneration of these simple people. It was found to be a child which had been kept since its birth in a dark underground room and fed upon certain foods which aided in blanching its epidermis.

The consecration of Buddhist priests usually occurs in the spring and autumn. There seems to be no regular place designated for this ceremony, as it takes place in one or the other of the temples throughout the country.

The candidates may be from 200 to 300 in number, and receive hospitality during the examination period which lasts about six weeks.

The applicants for priestly honors may be of any age from twelve to forty years.

During this period which terminates in their ordination, teaching goes on night and day with but a brief intermission between midnight and dawn.

In some of the temples of India, the corridors where the instruction is given are hung with pictures vividly portraying the horrors and torments of hell; and it is possible that lectures given under these realistic effects of the artists in the uncertain glare of flaming torches, make a powerful impression upon the chela.

Added to the instruction given during this time, the candidate is required to perform all of the services pertaining to his future office, until he becomes perfectly familiar with every branch and detail of the ritual and could perform his part under any condition of mind or body.

In China the final day of real initiation is kept secret, but not so in other countries.

This last part of the service is begun at night. The officiating priests are divided into two groups, one of which is kept busy during the ordeal of offering up prayers for those about to be ordained.

The remainder seat themselves in the form of a triangle before the great screened Buddha, the chief priest forming the apex. Here they chant a service of praise for three hours. Meanwhile the chief priest conducts the final preliminaries.

The neophytes are seated in rows facing his desk. Individually or in small detachments they are called up to take the vows of obedience, celibacy and abstinence from certain forbidden pleasures. The conductor ends this by an oral examination in matters of faith, ritual, etc. At this point the priests and candidates retire to rest and prepare themselves for the ordeal of fire which is to come next. During this time prayers are also offered for strength to endure the trial.

About three hours later, although no set time is fixed, the chief priest, crowned and robed, enters, followed by his assistants. After seating himself before

the idol, he delivers an ordination charge, which completes his part of the service. As soon as the chief priest retires, the candidates prostrate themselves before Buddha, and remain kneeling in their places. The officiating priests then adjust the cone-shaped charcoal sticks which are an inch long. Twelve of these arranged in three rows are applied to the shaven scalp of the neophyte, while his head is held immovable between the hands of the priests. At a given signal these cones are ignited by assistants. The charcoal quickly burns through to the skin, then for two or three minutes it has to be endured in a full glow. It is then extinguished, the ashes are blown away, leaving the twelve burned spots to mark the completed ordination.

The newly-ordained priest again prostrates himself before Buddha, thus ending the ceremony which seals him to his chosen dedication.

In some cases the neophyte has been known to faint under the ordeal or to shrink from the torture; in either case the ceremony proceeds even if force is required. As a rule great fortitude is shown, even by the youngest chelas.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Owing to excessive application to our work and duties, the editor will be forced to take a vacation of ten days. We beg the patience of our friends and brothers who have unfilled orders on hand, such as charms, life readings or other work. All will receive due attention at the earliest moment.

HINDU ASTROLOGY**VIRGO**

Persons born between August 21st and September 22d, inclusive, are said to be under the sign Virgo which is the middle sign of the earth triplicity. They possess great powers and can attain the highest by attracting to themselves happiness and success. They are by nature cool, calm and calculating. They should excel in all of their undertakings and will most assuredly do so if they will banish from the mind all thoughts of failure or fear. Such thoughts destroy one's force and leave them shattered and weak.

Courage should be the watchword, together with hope you will always draw to yourself the very best conditions. With grim determination and a strong will you can overcome poverty, sickness and other misfortune. You will make a success in either business or the polite professions. It is within your power to be a success in whatever avocation you select, if you will be careful to eliminate all low or vulgar tendencies. Selfishness should not be encouraged at any time.

Your sign is emblematical of the hidden fire of the earth, which means that you have power and force beyond your most sanguine dreams.

Method and order are essential to your life and well-being.

Try to do all things methodical. Also develop your higher nature and be guided by naught but high moral precepts.

The science of occultism will cause an unfoldment of your mind and spirit far beyond your expectations.

Always be kind and generous. Some of the world's greatest scholars and musicians are found in this sign. You should read and study much, your musical talent should also be developed as it will be found helpful as well as a pleasurable vibration.

FAULTS OF VIRGO NATIVES

A too strong desire for ruling others. You are apt to see the faults of others without consideration of your own. Meddling with other people's business and all forms of domination must also be guarded against.

Drugs for imaginary diseases, conceit, vanity and exaggeration should also be avoided. Never assume debts or boast of your own attainments. As all of these faults will have a tendency to appear unless guarded against.

This nativity has unbounded possibilities for either good or bad. You may ascend to the highest or fall to the lowest.

Sunshine, exercise and a bright, happy mind will generally keep you vigorous and healthy.

When not too critical or exacting, success will usually attend your efforts at love-making. It will be well to accept as a partner one who has a bright, cheerful nature. Above all, do not expect too much of your wife or husband.

Do not allow jealousy to creep into your married life. Live close to nature, and keep your mind free from low thoughts. Poverty will be found very trying to the Virgo native. Live on a high plane and success will be yours.

Mercury governs this sign. The gems are the pink jasper and the hyacinth. Astral colors—gold, black sprinkled with blue dots. Stomach trouble and nervousness are the most common diseases of this sign.

You will harmonize best with born in Libra Sagittarius and your own sign. The true native of Virgo is of medium height, with noble expression of countenance.

Brotherly love and harmony will do more for civilization than all the armies and navies of the world.

THE SIMPLICITY OF IT

As we come into harmony with Nature and respond to the element of Love and Life that pervades the aura of our intelligence, we long to impart some of the buoyancy of our own spirit to the weary, hungry creatures around us. As we gaze lovingly and deeply into their eyes, we see what only an awakened person CAN see, and we are almost overwhelmed by the appalling stagnation in some, and the burning desire of others. We are led to cry out "God help us to aid them." Mere words are useless, we must have Omnipotent LOVE, the electric fire of ZEAL, and the knowledge of VICTORY in our own life, coupled with the energy of DIVINE WILL, to enable us to successfully aid the struggling ones who have but just arrived at the interrogation point—What—When—How?

Almost daily I am constrained to ask for more of the "Power which Invisiblizes." For I can see the spirit within, looking forth through eyes, which are truly "The windows of the soul," pleading for Freedom.

The very simplicity of our beautiful, spiritual life, seems to be it's only hindrance, people *appear* to require some difficult problem.

Earnestly and lovingly I suggest to them the necessity of sitting alone with God and their own spirit, and inhaling deeply (in a well ventilated room) with the thought of accepting Intelligence, Health, Love and Power, and exhaling with the thought that weakness and discouragement goes out with the departing breath. Often my words are met by incredulity.

Easily, but firmly, I refer to my own personal experience, and sometimes my suggestions are accepted. I then enjoin upon them the necessity of Air, Water and Right Affirmations, and the abandonment of all

practices or associations that hinder spiritual or physical advancement, and the perseverance of daily practice in the "Silence" and the cultivation of the WILL.

In some cases the awakening is marvelous, but with sadness I am bound to confess that the majority prefer something that they can buy or swallow, and to remain in bondage to the creeds and habits of their grandfathers.

I meet some who want Power and Health for the realization of earthly or base desires; to such I can only say, "You can never be truly happy or satisfied until you come into harmony with the forces that govern the Universe."

Some have grand schemes for the uplifting of humanity, in the way of systematic educational training for adults as well as children in the sciences, hygiene and simple, unsectarian religion, but have neglected to properly train their own children, and have not learned to control their temper or overcome their own wayward tendencies and habits.

After an interview with one such, I was impressed to pen the lines I herewith annex, there are many that need the same admonition.

APPROPRIATION

Awake, my friend, awake, to blessings right at hand—
The loyal hearts you must not break, they form a helpful band

By which your own soul true shall brighten many
lives,

And bring as recompense to you The Peace which
Freedom gives.

Reach forth thy hand and grasp the power so freely
given,

By which the light of LIFE may clasp with firmness
joys of heaven.

Success awaits your touch. If you but claim your
own
By proof of WORTH, there shall come much to you
before unknown.

The sorrows of the past were but the pruning, sure
To clear the way for strength at last. For glory to
endure.
So gladly lift thine eyes, and let them shine on all,
For dauntless Optimism defies Defeat, though nations
fall!

—Lillian E. McNair.

DEPARTMENT OF ORIENTAL MYSTICS

To my dear brother mystics in all parts of the world:

Dear Brothers—You are called upon to concentrate your will upon Brother Thos. A. Wilhelm, of Sierre Leone, Africa. He sincerely requests your aid in overcoming a case of nervousness brought about by his arduous duties as civil engineer in the unhealthy country in which he resides.

And we hope each member will contribute his quota to our usual mid-day concentration for the Success, Health and Happiness of all our members. Our work is beginning to bear results as attested by letters from various parts of the world. It was our intention to publish in this issue a beautiful inspired poem by Sister Agnes Bacon of California. But owing to unforeseen conditions it cannot appear in this issue. Do not fail to send in your experiences. Fraternally,

DR. T. J. BETIERO,
Secretary O. M.

EXERCISE FOR THE O. M.

Each morning when you awaken lie quiet for about fifteen minutes, concentrate upon the following:

"I will to be my Higher Self. I command all evil forces, larvae or elementals to leave my presence forthwith and to forever remain away from me. In the name of Grand Adonay I command that success, happiness and the illumination be mine."

Afterward resting on the back take long, deep regular inspirations and expirations.

We call attention to Our Plans in another part of the journal which should be read by all mystics. We look forward to the time when we shall be able to erect a central temple and give the exoteric work of our order.

The trying times in which we live call for earnest occult effort from every mystic in the land. The earth is now passing through a destructive vibration. Weak or unbalanced men commit crimes, and other weak men rush to execute them. There is a growing disregard for law, without which no country can long exist as a nation.

As one Chicago preacher remarked last Sunday, "If a crowd of—good men—may lynch a bad man, it is equally possible for a crowd of bad men to lynch a good man."

We seek not to champion any race or individual. As teachers of the great science of peace, we shudder to contemplate the threatening aspect assumed by mobs toward the government. Let every mystic send forth vibrations of peace for all the world.

Our beloved society is growing and if our growth continues, the time will come when our vibrations will be more potent for peace and harmony than all of the armies and navies of the world.

SUCCESS DEPARTMENT

Nothing succeeds so well as success.

In all of this great universe nothing happens by chance. True! many things may appear to be the result of chance or so-called luck, but a closer investigation will show the action of immutable laws. If we are unable to discover such law, it is not because of its non-existence, but for the reason that it escapes our limited powers of observation. This great cosmos is enabled to exist as one harmonious whole only by the action of laws directed by the Divine Will.

When you feel gloomy and despondent you experience what may be called ill-luck.

When you say you are unlucky, you at once admit that you are surrounded and oppressed by evil and mischievous elementals.

Remember that you are one of God's creatures and as such you are entitled to life and the pursuit of happiness.

Let your soul awaken! Cast off all gloomy forebodings.

When you read this article call a sudden halt. Examine yourself and if you find that you are oppressed by trouble of whatever nature, make the following declaration with all the earnestness of your nature. Say:

"I am a part of the God principle, and as such I demand success and happiness."

Then start about doing good in the world. Talk to your friends about the grand truth of occultism. Interest them in the Oriental Mysteries. Send us three subscribers and become a member of the Success Department of the Oriental Mystics.

We will forward your name at once to our Adepts who will henceforth give you the benefit of their silent

concentrated thought. It makes no difference where you live, or what your occupation, such aid must be of inestimable benefit, as by receiving the constant aid of such developed brothers, all evil elementals will be banished from your atmosphere.

You will also receive by return mail an elegant certificate and degree No. 1, and the famous sacred initiation which explains the mysteries of the sacred name.

Now friends join with us. You can do no greater service for your friends than place before them the great and grand truth of occult science.

Unite with us in our efforts to uplift humanity.

Do your part. Peace, happiness and success will be yours.

OUR PLANS

Dear Friends:—We have some good news for you. As we feel that our interests are yours. Under spirit guidance we have decided to establish a great center for our work. We have now under consideration several tracts of land, where we shall establish a temple and an occult colony. Here we shall, with our followers, live the true life according to our best light and guidance, healing the sick, teaching the truth, and giving the initiation to the worthy. The details of our proposed colony have not as yet been completed, but in due time all will be unfolded. All sincere investigators who are willing to unite with us may send for particulars.

With the blessings of the Absolute, I am fraternally,

Yours,

DR. T. J. BETIERO,
Secretary O. M.

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