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The CHRISTIAN ÆSOTERIC



February

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1939

ÆSOTERIC FRATERNITY

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BY HIRAM E. BUTLER

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VOLUME XLVI OF THE ESOTERIC SERIES

LIGHT AND DARKNESS

MIND AND LACK OF MIND

BY H. E. BUTLER

"IN the beginning God created the heaven and the earth, 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 waters, and God said, Let there be light: and there was light, and God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness."—(Gen. 1: 1-4).

"And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep:" all thoughtful men and women will observe that while this is a quotation from the Bible, yet the thoughts contained therein concern things of every hours' and every day's experience. You may have thrown the "old book" away a long time ago, because you thought it to be of no account, but now lay all that indifference and prejudice aside, and forget that these are words from the Bible and think of them as words of fact. Perhaps I had better help you to think about them.

First, What is light?—It is the means by which we

see and perceive the orderly arrangement of nature. Trees, shrubs, plants and flowers, the beauties of nature, you delight in them because they are all in order, order of color and form. But night comes on and all is in dimness and darkness, you can see nothing of the form and beauty of nature, and you soon feel like lying down and going to sleep—going into the oblivion of unconsciousness. You desire to remain in that oblivion until the light comes and reveals to you the order of nature. “The earth was without form and void,” there was no order, no distinguishing of one thing from another, and consequently darkness prevailed over all the earth. Did not the sun shine upon the earth? Did not the stars manifest their glory just as they do to-day?—Yes, but there was no orderly, discriminate mind to perceive and to rejoice in their glory. “And God said, Let there be light, and there was light;” when the Spirit of God moves upon the waters of life and God says, “Let there be light,” what takes place in your consciousness?—Does not the mind awaken? all the faculties of human consciousness become intensified? Under these conditions you look around you, and, as with the light of the sun, see all things as they really are; this is the perception of real truth. After century after century of perversion, discord and inharmony, there is little knowledge or perception of truth.

The words quoted, “The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep,” express the condition of the majority of the human family to-day; their minds are “without form, and void;” they are vacant-minded, with no real thought and very little intelligence; and know nothing but to eat, to drink and to die. Truly, darkness is upon the face of their deep.

We have been trying for many years to awaken the minds of the human family to life and order, to form and energy, so that darkness may pass away and allow the sunlight of Divine truth to shine into their souls. When this comes to pass, then will be fulfilled the words, “And

God saw the light, that it was good." Does God see the light in your mind and soul?—the capacity to think and to know and to recognize the facts of things that are, in contradistinction to the perversion, the chaos, of the minds of the whole world. If you have this light in your soul, God will look down upon your soul with loving sympathy and say, "It is good, here is an organism that has begun to take on my likeness—*my child! my beloved!*" As you think the thoughts of God and of nature, and bring them into their order, the Holy Spirit will begin to breathe into your consciousness the breath of life, and you will begin to realize that you are a living soul.

Turning back to the first thought we observe that there was chaos and everything was "without form, and void," that darkness prevailed over all the earth, but when order came—the recognizing and discriminating between things that are and the void that is not—there was light, and knowledge was the effect of light. As you well know, knowledge is the effect of sunlight on the earth. There is a perverse and dark spirit that occupies and intensifies the minds of many of the human family, and causes them to say, "We do not care anything about the letter, we follow the spirit." Poor deluded children of the night! They know nothing of spirit, they know no light, all is darkness upon the face of the deep. They do not know or realize that form and order are the source of life and light, and that to ignore the order of physical form is to disinherit, disembody spirit. There is no consciousness in man except the consciousness arising from knowledge. If you should awake in the morning having forgotten everything that you had known, what consciousness would remain? If your forgetting was of the soul as well as of the body you would know nothing, your mind would be an absolute blank; yes, the earth would be "without form, and void," and darkness would be upon the face of the deep.

Therefore, dear children, remember that *to know* is

light, and *not to know* is darkness; an orderly mind is the garment of spirit, and to dwell in the Spirit of God where all is light, is to dwell in a condition where the soul knows and recognizes all things. In the past I have heard, like the shriek of the damned, the words, "Jesus—Christ—and—him—crucified;" those who say these words know not what they say. The expression means simply this, "I am too lazy to think, too sensual to know, and I want to wallow in the filth of my sensuality and vileness."

"God said, Let there be light." Is your soul and your mind and all that you are, alive and awake to know the truth? If you are awake to know the truth, then you have heard the words and are impelled by the mind of God to go forward, to obtain knowledge, wherever it may be found; but if you are not awake, then the words have come to a dead clod that will not respond. This condition of the people takes me back to the words of the grand old prophet, Isaiah, "Awake, awake, put on thy strength, O Zion; put on thy beautiful garments, O Jerusalem, the holy city" (Isa. 52:1). Oh! that I could send thruout the length and breadth of and around the world, a powerful word that would say to every soul, "Awake, . . . put on thy beautiful garments!" of right thought, of right life, and unity with the Father.

In conclusion we wish again to call your attention to the fact that in chaos, without form, all is void; but in order, light appears. In that conscious intelligence we look upon the tree and say, "It is beautiful;" upon the flower and say, "It is lovely." This recognition of order is the beginning of real consciousness, real mind. Please do not forget that when the Spirit of God moved upon the waters, there came forth form, order, harmony. It is the Spirit of God that causes form and order. Do not talk any more about following the spirit and disregarding the order in everything, for thereby you are lying to the Spirit of God.

The manifestation of the spirit is first in the soul con-

sciousness, but this is not enough, for unless there are the two witnesses the truth is not established. The second witness is its manifestation in the physical form in the material world. God spake of things that are to be, as if they were already; because the potentiality of his mind was the only potency in all manifest nature. We read in Genesis 1: 27, "God created man in his own image," because he sent forth the Word or Thought, and nothing could let or hinder it, and it went forth into nature to bring forth first physical form and order thru which comes spiritual consciousness.

The Word began its work in the past and is still working; and the time has come when the word of God speaks to your soul, "'Awake, put on thy strength,' the strength of the everlasting name, 'I will be what I will to be.' Put on the 'beautiful garments,' a perfectly orderly mind, conscious thought.' Oh! what is so beautiful as a mind in such perfect order that it brings consciousness, knowledge. When your mind is in order, when you know the truth, and when that knowledge of truth shines forth from within you, what else can be equal in excellence and in beauty? Nothing! No, nothing. The beautiful rose is beautiful because of its perfect harmony of order and color; and that beautiful mind, that has laid hold upon the Universal Mind and is in harmony with its manifestation in physical form and spiritual consciousness, is as the noon-day sunlight to the darkness of night.

When you have established within you that orderly mind, then will you dwell in Jerusalem, the city of peace, where no storm can shake that inmost calm.

Divine Light and Peace be with you!—(B. R. Vol. XII.)



Great is wisdom; infinite is the value of wisdom. It cannot be exaggerated; it is the highest achievement of man.—Carlyle.

MY CREED

I hold that when a person dies
His soul returns again to earth;
Arrayed in some new flesh disguise
Another mother gives him birth.
With sturdier limbs and brighter brain
The old soul takes the road again.

Such is my own belief and trust—
This hand, this hand that holds the pen
Has many a hundred times been dust,
And turned as dust to dust again.
These eyes of mine have blinked and shone
In Thebes, in Troy, and Babylon.

All that I rightly think or do,
Or make or spoil, or bless or blast,
Is curse or blessing justly due.
For sloth or effort in the past.
My life's a statement of the sum
Of vice indulged or overcome.

—John Masefield.



No able man can be deprived of his belief in immortality. I am convinced that our spirit is of an indestructible nature, lasting from eternity to eternity; it is like the sun which only seems to set to our earthly eye, which, however, shines perpetually.—Goethe.

INSPIRATION

An inspiration is a joy forever, a possession as solid as a landed estate, a fortune which we can never exhaust, and which gives year by year a revenue of pleasurable activity. To have many of these is to be spiritually rich.

Robert Louis Stevenson.

WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES

(QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS)

BY ENOCH PENN

MORALITY AND CLEANLINESS

Question.—You made the statement in a previous issue of your magazine that the angels would come near and stay with persons who were clean morally and physically, that is, clean in accord with the standard of the angels. Then you stated that their standards are not the same as our standards. I can believe that idea relative to being moral, but in what way the standard of physical cleanliness differs I fail to see. I should like to hear what your idea is about this.

Answer—The standard of physical cleanliness required by the heavenly ones before they will come and stay near one is chastity, sex-cleanliness. We may illustrate this by quoting from a story we read many years ago in a periodical published in India. We do not remember the exact words, but will give the sense. “A young man was walking along a road accompanied by an angel. As they went on they came to the decaying body of a dead dog lying in the road. The young man turned up his nose in disgust, and edged away from it. But the angel paid no attention to it. After a while a beautiful young woman came toward them, and the young man ran to meet her, but the angel turned up his nose in disgust, and edged away.”

Most persons pay but little attention to smells. But they who are living the regenerate life, sometimes note a most disgusting odor from the body of one who has lost seed a few hours before. Likewise persons who practice self-abuse sometimes carry about with them a suffocating odor, and this, no matter how scrupulously clean the body may be. This disgusting and suffocating odor seems to be one phase of the idea presented in the Bible of evil men being tormented with fire and brimstone. For even as the fumes of burning brimstone stop all inspiration, so does the effluvia from the bodies of the sexually unclean,

who are being burned by the fires of sex-passion, prevent the inspiration of higher, uplifting thought.

As to one of the effects of the moral state: we once heard a man say: "When I get mad it makes my head ache." He did not know that he caused sensitive persons near him to share his headache.

The moral sense of the people is very much astray. A small boy, whose father was very much opposed to the use of tobacco, said in our hearing: "If you smoke, you won't go to heaven." That was his standard of morality. Without knowledge or discrimination he accepted what he was told and voiced it. But is not that the way the moral standards of nearly all the people have been formed? How many grown persons are there who, when they say of a thing, "It is wrong," know what makes it wrong. In other words, Is not the moral standard of nearly everyone based simply upon what he has been told as a child, without discriminating thought on his part? Is the normal person able to prove the correctness of his moral standards?

What is it that makes right right? and what is it that makes wrong wrong? If you do not know, then why say of a thing "It is right," or, "It is wrong."

Deep piety and true righteousness are not the same thing. It was because the ultra-pious scribes and Pharisees of his day accepted without discrimination the things they had been taught that Jesus said to them, "Ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when ye have made him he is twofold more a child of hell than yourselves." And, "Ye will neither enter into the kingdom yourselves, but ye hinder those who would enter in."

PEACEMAKERS

Question.—You state in your magazine that the words of Jesus, which he quoted from the Scriptures, "Thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thy heart," seeing that "God is the life in which we all live as fish live in the

sea," that implies that men should constantly keep their hearts open toward that life in which we live and allow it to enter into and radiate from them constantly. Assuming this to be correct, What do you think would be the result of so doing?

Answer.—Into every person's body life enters, and flows its course in and out of the body. And the quality and character of the life received is determined by the desires, the loves of the heart, and the character and quality of the person. Because of these things the life of the world in passing thru the people is being continually characterized by the people. Flowing thru some persons, especially thru those who are trying to live righteously, the world-life is to some extent being purified, but flowing thru others, the world-life is being constantly polluted and poisoned.

If one conceives of God as being a good, kind, intelligent life, and reaches out with desire for that life, the life entering into and flowing from that one will be to a greater or less degree qualified by that conception of the character of God; and because the conception of goodness causes goodness to be received, and goodness gives peace, and that peaceful life flowing out brings a measure of its peace to those about, this makes of that one a peacemaker. And we have the words, "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on thee."

When one follows Jesus far enough in the regeneration he becomes conscious of a light, the light of the Holy Spirit, for "God is light." In time this light will fill the body, as Jesus said, as the light from a lamp fills a room. When one who thus can see and know God, learns to love God, that Holy Spirit flows into and thru and out of him as a healing and life-giving stream. It was of this one Jesus said, "Out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water," and he thus becomes a fountain of life to the world. Likewise Jesus said of these as they go on in a fuller development in the regeneration, and radiate

more and yet more of that Spirit-light, to those who have eyes to see, "They that be wise shall shine as the sun, and as the stars forever." It is they who thus fill the world with the light of the glory of God, who shall bring peace to the world, and who shall yet save the world from sin, sorrow, and death, for they are children of God. And it is they who shall be received into and form the Christ-Body, which, as God the Son, shall save the world from sin, sickness, sorrow and death.

MAGIC POWERS

Question.—At times you speak of the effect upon others of certain attitudes of mind, or of doing certain things that are morally wrong. Why don't you take the simple things of ordinary life that we all do, and state clearly the natural results that follow?

Answer—The things we do that we need to understand are wrong, are forms of black magic. For instance, in many places the prophets of Israel admonished the people, "Thou shalt not imagine evil against thy neighbor," and other statements to that effect. God said, "As I have thought, so shall it come to pass." And we are made in the image of God. If we were to explain freely to all, the powers of the imagination, and of the effects of the emotions and the feelings, it would place in the hands of evilly inclined persons, knowledge of how to influence others detrimentally, and we would be largely responsible for the evil done. For this reason many of the simple facts of life, so far as is practical, should be offered the people in such terms as will inform those who will use that knowledge rightfully, and will not inform those who would use it wrongfully.

ANGELS

Question.—Why is it that we see angels nearly always pictured as women, altho sometimes in the Bible they are mentioned as being men?

Answer.—The term angel means a messenger, and implies simply their manner of service. As used in the Bible it usually refers to those souls who have developed to such a degree of spiritual consciousness that they can watch over the people and be messengers to keep those high and Holy Ones in authority in heaven, the Elohim, informed of the affairs of the world and men. To be an angel is not a matter of sex, and the Bible in mentioning certain men in the body calls them angels; as in the case of Sodom.

In regard to Sodom, the LORD said, "I will go down now, and see whether they have done altogether according to the cry of it, which is come unto me; and if not I will know." That is, the angels had brought such bad reports about the doings of the people of Sodom that one of the Elohim thought best to go and see for himself, and the result of his investigation was that he ordered Sodom destroyed; evidently, this was because the people had become so corrupt that there was no hope of any improvement in them or in their descendants.

THE MIND AND THE HEART

Question.—I should like to know which one should develop first, the mind or the heart? Paul thought that the intellect amounted to nothing without love. What do you think about it?

Answer.—We do not question Paul's conclusion, but there are many things that must be known and understood before one can properly and wisely direct the emotions and loves of the heart. He must know the fundamental truths of life; and be able to apply that knowledge properly. He must be able to group those truths into an orderly mental structure. As Mr Butler has said, "There is plenty of knowledge in the world, if properly applied, to save the world, but it is not gathered and arranged in orderly form, and for this reason it is not effective." No matter how much heart, or love, one may have, without the guiding mind love is just an uncontrolled force, and

is just as likely to be used wrongly, and therefore for harm, as rightly.

JESUS

Question.—Where do you in your mind place Jesus in the scheme of things?

Answer.—Our understanding is that Jesus claimed to be one of the Elohim, one of the Gods who said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness," who constitute God the Father. And that he was chosen and commissioned by them to be the head of all men and king of all the earth when, or as, men are redeemed by developing into that degree of Godlikeness and spiritual consciousness and powers determined for them.

As a sufficient number of individuals reach the proper degree of development they will be gathered into one body, the Christ-Body, and formed into his Church. This one of the Elohim who was chosen and commissioned to be the head and king of humanity and of all the earth, entered into and took possession of the body of the man Jesus, and worked thru it, and gave to humanity the vital truths of life, teaching man how to grow and develop into that Godlikeness determined for him. When his followers shall have reached the proper degree of Godlikeness and spiritual consciousness, he will gather them together into one Body, and they, the Christ-Body, will take the dominion over all the earth, and become the God and king of all the earth. This will be the fulfilling of the Creator's purpose in man as it was declared at his creation.

After Jesus went away he sent his life into his disciples as Holy Spirit, and it is by receiving this Holy Spirit that man is able to become conscious of Spirit, conscious of and in the heavenly world, and able also to be recognized and accepted by those in heaven as one of them. For we are not saved by the death of Jesus, as we have been taught, but, as Paul declared, "We shall be saved by

his life," which he sheds upon us as holy Spirit. And Paul says yet again, "According to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; which he shed [sheds] on us abundantly thru Jesus Christ." For the death of Jesus on the cross was not a sacrifice for sin, as we have been caused to believe, but he said it was "that I might rise again." He rose to justify his followers' faith in his teachings, that it is possible for man to overcome death and live forever, by receiving of his life, given to him as Holy Spirit. For by living consciously in and from the Holy Spirit, which a chaste, sexually clean, person can learn to do, one attains to an eternal consciousness, a consciousness that is not dependent upon the physical body, and so is not extinguished by the death of the body.

Jesus said, "as I live by the Father," by receiving life from the Father, "so he that eateth me [receives of my life, given as Holy Spirit] shall live by me." Therefore he said, "Because I live [if you live from me] ye shall live also." That is, "you shall live as long as I live."

UNDER THE LAW

Question.—What do you think Paul meant when he said, "But if ye are led by the Spirit, ye are not under the law." To what law did he refer?

Answer.—There is no room to doubt that Paul here refers to the Mosaic law of rites and ceremonies. In another place he refers to those who are "zealous for the law;" that is, they were very zealous to keep the law in all its minutiae. Again, Paul says that they who follow Jesus fully will in time become conscious of being led, or prompted, by the Spirit in the different important affairs of life. And his words, "Ye are not under the law," very evidently mean that when one gets to where one is guided by the Spirit one is no longer under obligation to keep the law of rites and ceremonies, the ritualism, which is a system of types and shadows, the ob-

serving of which could not make one perfect, and, as he said, "is a schoolmaster to bring us to [a knowledge of] Christ."

One of the charges made against Paul by his enemies was that he taught the people to disregard the law of Moses. But the truth is that Paul taught that when the spiritual truth symbolized by the law was grasped, then the ceremonies which led to that realization of the truth could be safely laid aside, for that ceremony was simply a means to an end, and the end being attained, the means to that end had served their purpose.

IS THE BIBLE TRUE?

Question.—While most persons accept any statement found in the Bible as wholly true, and an apt quotation from the Bible usually settles an argument, yet I would ask, Is there any way of proving the moral teachings of the Bible to be true?

Answer.—The only way we know is to put the teachings into practice, and if you fulfil the conditions imposed and do not get the promised results it seems you would have occasion to doubt its accuracy.

One difficulty is that most persons read the Bible with many prejudices, and thus they read into it things that are not there. Again, while most persons are quite indifferent to what it does teach, some seem to be able to grasp but one fragment of an idea, and accepting that by itself they are apt to carry it to a ridiculous extreme, and do something very foolish, thinking to please God. Another difficulty is that the Bible is partly history, partly devotional exercises, as the Psalms, and largely symbolism, parable, and mystic terms very difficult for one to understand without having had the experiences necessary to give a perception of the meanings. Apparently the intent of the writers being to teach only those who were putting the teachings into practice in their daily lives. And, as a matter of course, to no other persons can the teachings be more than a matter of curiosity.

THE DAY OF CHRIST

Question.—We read in Philemon 1: 6, "Being confident of this very thing, that he who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Jesus Christ." What in your understanding is intended by the words, "the day of Christ"?

Answer.—Paul wrote: "My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you." The word "Christ" as used here does not refer to the man Jesus, but refers to the Holy Spirit which man can receive as an anointing or baptism. Of this Holy Spirit Jesus said, "which the Father will send in my name." And it is the Holy Spirit which man receives that is to save him from death. As we read, "The mystery which has been hidden from ages and generations, christ in you, the hope of glory." The fact that it is by receiving this anointing Holy Spirit that men become anointed ones, christians, and are thus to be saved from death, we see clearly by the words, "According to his mercy he saves us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing [repeated giving] of the Holy Ghost; which [as the Christ Spirit] he sheds on us abundantly thru Jesus Christ our Savior."

These quotations give us every reason for believing that "the day of Christ," is that time when the Christ Spirit will take form in us as our spiritual self, the "new man," which constitutes the re-birth, the regeneration, the awakening into a spiritual consciousness.

MIND AND CUNNING

Question.—I have many times wondered why it is that we read of criminals showing wonderful capacity in committing their crimes, and equally wonderful ability to avoid capture. And yet, when captured and tested as to their natural ability, they are said to have the mentality properly belonging to children. In a statement relative to Al. Capone there was express a fear lest the police of Chicago may yet have a difficult time with him

when he is released, and yet after his arrest, his tested mental ability was rated as belonging to a fourteen year old child. It seems to me very strange, and I wonder what you think about it.

Answer.—The cunning of the unthinking animal will sometimes for a time baffle and outwit the best efforts of thinking man. We are informed that some men who have built up great business enterprises have shown but little mental ability outside of their own particular line of effort. This shows that it is not always so much a breadth of mind as a skill in knowing and handling men, and a clear perception of natural results, that was largely the basis of their success.

The cunning of the unthinking animal, and the cunning of the animal man whose mind is unhampered by any regard for moral, social and ethical considerations, have back of and supporting them the creative mind of Mother Nature.

We may say that Mother Nature has no moral sense, tho, indeed, she has some very severe and merciless laws. There are some who say that "There is no such thing as morality," and we certainly know that moral standards differ. Persons who reason this way are not wholly without support. Paul said, "All things are lawful for me, but all things are not expedient." This sounds very much as tho he refrained from doing certain things not so much because of a moral code, but because reason and prudence dictated that the results must forbid the action.

THE EFFECT OF CHRISTIANITY

Question.—As you probably know, there are among some in Germany a strong opposition to the Christian religion, with the claim that its teachings tend to weaken the moral fiber. Do you think so?

Answer.—When a boy, I heard a man say, "If there was no hereafter I would do things I don't do." We have at times noticed the tendency in a certain class of

religious minds to a weakness of moral fiber, but we feel free to say that it is not the teachings of the Christ followed in their true spirit that is at fault, for to follow him fully and correctly, demands a strength of character and of moral integrity that very few possess. The teachings of the Christ are not intended for the immature and morally weak, for such cannot follow them, they are intended for the mature in mind and soul-development.

To our mind, so far as there is a tendency to a weakening of the moral fiber, we attribute it to the doctrine of the vicarious atonement, which teaches the dropping of moral responsibility by shifting the guilt upon the innocent, a doctrine, by the way, that Jesus never taught. This doctrine is strengthened in the minds of the credulous by threats of fiendish punishment to be meted out to the one who sees no reason for accepting that vicarious escape from the results of his own actions. If the Bible teaches anything clearly, it teaches that we are judged by our works, that the natural results of those things we do shall come upon us.

The present state of the war-mad nations and the war-affrighted peoples of Europe, shows in no uncertain manner that there is something vitally wrong with the Christianity of to-day. It shows that the true manhood that would be developed by the proper understanding and practising of the teachings of the Christ is sadly lacking.

There is much of silly namby-pamby sentiment that parades before the world as Christianity, but we believe that truth and right will yet prevail, tho it may take long.



"THEY will come back, come back again,
As long as the red earth rolls,
He never wasted a leaf or a tree,
Do you think he would squander souls?"

—Kipling.

THE FIRST PRAYER IN CONGRESS

IN Thatcher's Military Journal, under the date of December, 1777, is found a note containing the identical "first prayer in Congress," made by Jacob Duche:

"O, Lord, our heavenly Father, high and mighty King of kings, and Lord of Lords, who dost from thy throne behold all the dwellers of the earth, and reignest with power supreme and uncontrolled over all Kingdoms, Empires and Governments! look down in mercy, we beseech Thee, on these American States, who have fled to Thee from the rod of the oppressor, and thrown themselves on Thy gracious protection, desiring to be henceforth dependent only on Thee. To Thee they have appealed for the righteousness of their cause; to Thee do they now look up for that countenance and support which Thou alone canst give. Take them, therefore, Heavenly Father, under Thy nurturing care!

"Give them wisdom in council and valor in the field. Defeat the malicious designs of our adversaries; convince them of the unrighteousness of their cause; and, if they still persist in sanguinary purposes, oh, let the voice of Thine own unerring justice, sounding in their hearts, constrain them to drop the weapons of war from their unnerved hands in the day of battle.

"Be Thou present, O God of wisdom, and direct the counsels of this honorable assembly. Enable them to settle things on the best and surest foundation, that the scenes of blood may be speedily closed, and order, harmony and peace may be effectually restored, and truth and justice, religion and piety, prevail and flourish amongst Thy people. Preserve the health of their bodies and the vigor of their minds; shower down upon them and the millions they here represent such temporal blessings as Thou seest expedient for them in this world, and crown them with everlasting glory in the world to come. All this we ask in the name and through the merits of Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Savior. Amen!"

PLANETARY INFLUENCES FOR FEBRUARY

HELIOCENTRIC POSITIONS ARE USED THRUOUT

There is necessarily considerable repetition in stating the planetary influences from month to month, as the larger planets remain in a sign of the zodiac for a considerable time.

URANUS ($\hat{\oplus}$) IN SCORPIO (M)

Uranus is in the sign Scorpio. As Uranus is the embodiment of the Creative Principle Sensation, which principle is the basis of all consciousness, being in Scorpio turns the attention to the sensations resulting thru the functioning of sex, giving a perception of the, usually ignored, undesirable effects on the body of sexual indulgence or of any loss of vitality thru that function. The perception of these undesirable effects of the loss of vitality will prompt to the restraint of the sex-impulses and give an inclination to chastity.

It will also disincline to express the mind fully, giving a tendency to hide one's thoughts, with the inclination to carry out one's plans in silence and secrecy. These influences will be most perceptible to persons born in the sign Scorpio, from about October 23rd to November 22nd of any year, and by persons otherwise qualified by Scorpio. And particularly now by persons born on or near November 9th.

SATURN (h) IN LIBRA (L)

Saturn is the embodiment of the Creative Principle Transmutation, which causes changes from one state to another state, which is the reason its influence often brings sudden and complete changes. These changes are just as likely to be for the better as for the worse, altho even changes for the better sometimes cause temporary inconvenience.

Saturn is now in the sign Libra, and while in the sign Libra all the disturbing influences of Saturn, with its tendency to bring about sudden changes, are felt by persons born in the sign Libra, from about September

23rd to October 23rd. All persons born between these dates, and especially those born on or near October 11th, are liable to see sudden and decided changes in their lives and affairs.

While Saturn is in Libra it will tend to improve the mechanical abilities, which will lead to increased improvements in that line. It will increase ideals and visions and the appreciation of the reality of things unseen. It will aid those who seek to improve the domestic and social conditions by giving perceptions of better and higher states relative thereto; but to those who seek simply the enjoyments of the senses it will incline to license rather than to restraint.

JUPITER (♄) IN VIRGO (♍)

Jupiter is the embodiment of Fermentation, and in whatever sign it may be it tends to strengthen the corresponding physical function.

Jupiter is now in the sign Virgo, and while in that sign it will strengthen the general digestion, and thus tend to improve the general health. But it will increase the general desire for an abundance of rich and highly seasoned food, with inclination toward sensual pleasures.

Jupiter in Virgo is now bringing fermentation into the lives of all persons born in the sign Virgo, between August 23rd and September 23rd; they will experience, what is not common to Virgo, an uneasy restlessness, and increased apprehension of possible coming events. This fermentation is now affecting especially those born on or near September 3rd.

MARS (♂) IN ARIES (♈) AND TAURUS (♉)

Because Mars is the embodiment of the Creative Principle Cohesion, the mother principle, its influence tends to bind and restrain in whatever sphere or department of life it may be operating.

Until February 8th Mars will be in the sign Aries, and while in that sign it will increase and improve the ideals relative to home and family.

Mars will enter Taurus on February 8th, and while in that sign it will tend to intensify the feelings and emotions of the people, and to increase jealousy relative to the treatment their own children receive from others.

EARTH (\oplus) IN AQUARIUS (∞) AND PISCES (\textcircled{X})

The Earth being the embodiment of the Creative Principle Order, its presence in a sign tends to bring an increase of order, and consequent ability, into the lives of all persons who were born while the earth was in that sign.

Until February 19th the earth will be in the sign Aquarius and while in that sign it will make the trading inclination more active, and it will increase the tendency to gather at places of public entertainment. Likewise politics, economics and social questions relative to the public welfare will receive increased attention.

On February 19th the Earth will enter the sign Pisces, and while in that sign it will increase the restlessness, anxiety and apprehension of coming evil among the people. It will also turn the minds of the people to careful forethought relative to adequate provision for possible future contingencies.

VENUS ($\♀$) IN PISCES (\textcircled{X}), ARIES (\cap)

AND TAURUS ($\textcircled{\sigma}$)

The planet Venus is the embodiment of the Creative Principle Discrimination, and in whatever sign it may be it increases the general discrimination relative to the characteristics of that sign. Discrimination gives keen perceptions, and prompts to positive likes and dislikes.

Until February 3rd Venus will be in the sign Pisces, and while in that sign it will cause an increase of physical restlessness and activity and desire to travel. Also it will incline to an uneasy, undefined dissatisfaction in the love life, with disinclination to marry, yet an inclining to faithfulness in love. To those born in the sign Pisces it will increase the love for and appreciation of the opposite sex.

On February 3rd Venus will enter the sign Aries, and while it is in that sign it will increase the ideals relative

to loving and being loved; but it will add great caution in matters of love because it adds great love of harmony and dread of conflict. It will increase the love and appreciation of the opposite sex in those born in Aries, between February 19 and March 22.

On February 22nd Venus will enter Taurus, and this will turn the general attention to seeking pleasurable sensations in everything, and will increase in those born in Taurus their love and appreciation of the opposite sex.

MERCURY IN CANCER (\odot), LEO (\varnothing), VIRGO (\wp)

AND LIBRA ($\underline{\omega}$)

Mercury is the embodiment of the Creative Principle Force, and in whatever sign it may be, the corresponding physical function of the people is strengthened and made more active.

Until February 10th Mercury will be in the sign Cancer, and while in that sign it will tend to increase the general physical vigor, and will add to the solicitude for the welfare of children.

On February 10th Mercury will enter the sign Leo, and while in that sign it will strengthen all the impulses of love and kindness, and will therefore strengthen all conjugal ties, and thus tend to increase the general happiness.

On February 18th Mercury will enter the sign Virgo, and this will tend to strengthen the general digestion, and thus to improve the general health; but it will lessen discrimination, and thus tend to mistakes in judgment.

On February 25th Mercury will enter the sign Libra, and will tend to improve the general foresight in business, and thus give added success in business ventures. Also it will tend to improve the general health.

A SUMMING UP

The suspicion and combative feelings of the preceding month will be modified somewhat during the first part of this month, because of a strong desire for peace and harmony. During the latter part of the month the mental struggle and apprehension of coming evil, and the combative feeling, will be increased.

LETTERS

Los Angeles, Calif.

Dear Friends:

Your kind letter came, and also the "red berries," which lasted for days—the whole house enjoyed them.

While this period of transition lasts there seems to be no end to the vicious plans and "crack pot" ideas. Nothing will be done about it until we are about in complete chaos—then the world will come to their senses. One of the most deplorable ideas is the discouraging and even destroying of all individual initiative and putting all men on an equal footing. Where would the world be, in any department of life now, without individual initiative? This doctrine is spreading all over the world Regimentation of men! That is the idea! Stop striving as an individual, you won't get anywhere! Should this idea grow too powerfull, the world will crash. Many in the world to-day, talk of a group of mediocre men and women being able to run any kind of business, or any other endeavor, to a successful issue.

So many things are gauged by small values. Most of the modern music and art is badly disjointed and seems to me to depict the mental state of the world. Of course, on the other hand, there are plenty of people who are still sane and making strides forward. There has been an interesting book recently come to my attention, which was written to show that slip-shod methods won't do. The author is one man who is openly preaching that the doctrine of mediocrity will not do. The book contains thirty pages on sex-transmutation, as a means to success. While not as clear cut in some places as it might be, still, the fact that the subject is mentioned in the book at all is remarkable. I have an idea the author has been reading some of Mr. Butler's books. . . . (Dr.) F. B. W.

Dear Friends:

Two years ago I began to live the regenerate life.

The results, so far as retaining the seed, have been discouraging. The best article on this subject, that I have read, is Enoch Penn's reply to Theodore Price in the October issue of "The Christian Esoteric."

The only way you can overcome is by consecrating your life unreservedly to God, regardless of where it may lead. The matter of overcoming must mean more to you than everything else, more than worldly riches, for to "lay up treasure in Heaven" (by retaining the seed) must be the supreme aim and goal of your life. There is no objection to having worldly possessions, provided they do not rule you and are subservient to the great goal you are striving for, to overcome and ultimately to become a son of God. For as "he who endureth to the end" is saved, so he (or she) or whoever strives and struggles on to obtain dominion, pressing ever onward, never giving up, and not permitting himself to wander from the "straight and narrow way" is bound ultimately to overcome. F. B.

El Paso, Texas.

Dear Friends:

Please find inclosed money order for my subscription renewal. The November number is wonderful, as it talks of "Life Eternal, to know God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent." I can say that I have been in that thought for over forty-five years. I consider I Cor. 15th chapter to be the resurrection chapter, and that we are now in the resurrection at the end of the age. I sent for Mr. Butler's writings over forty-five years ago, for control and master-ship, and have made a study of his teachings for a number of years, and have gone over everything that I could find for the last fifty years. As I made up my mind at that time to be master of myself, but had no one to help me but had to rely on God. Family relations did not help me, but, thank God, I have come out victorious at last, with God's help and with Mr. Butler's

teachings, and the Esoteric writings. It is wonderful how it clears the mind and makes one see things as they are. My whole being is regenerated, and I am coming into my own, and my every thought is being purified; as Jesus said, "If you look on a woman to lust after her, *et cetera.*"

With love to all, and God's blessings, C. R.

Portland, Oregon.

Esoteric Fraternity:

I have the pleasure to enclose a P. O. Order for my subscription renewal for another year.

I have been thinking that with present conditions our expressions "Merry Christmas" and "Happy New Year" are not very appropriate, and so this year I have been saying instead: "I wish you the Oriental benediction, 'May your shadow never grow less.' "

I have been an American citizen for more than a year now and have had occasion to note twice, the last year—the primary and the general elections,—that our problem, in my opinion, is "distribution." It is simply an atrocity that our people have to jump off our river and street bridges here to end economic misery, while there is an unlimited volume of everything they need unconsumed. There should be a way to put the money in circulation, which is our necessity. The body economic cannot live, no more than the body physical can live, without the elements conducive to sustenance—money and blood being involved, as means of providing an existence.

Yours very truly, J. G.

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HE who bestows the same love upon others as he doth upon himself, may be entrusted with the government of an empire.—Lao-Tsze.



JANUARY 20—FEBRUARY 19

ALL persons born between January 20th and February 19 of any year are born under the zodiacal sign Aquarius, or the Waterman.

The Genius is the higher self or the spiritual soul, and the Genii ruling this branch of the Body of Humanity govern mostly the nerves of sensation and the bones and framework of the system and, consequently, a corresponding department of service in the Grand Body; and from this sign, Aquarius, are found servers in every department of the body of humanity.

The symbolic language of the Bible as given by the angel to John, in Revelation, says: "The waters thou sawest are peoples, tongues and nations." This is true, for the people of Aquarius are lovers of society and its customs, especially of art, beauty and excellence of appearance.

Their sphere of use is with the public, and they are endowed with abilities accordingly. They are very sensitive, to sense the conditions and qualities of those whom they contact; and they have great power in their eyes, both as to the discernment of the character of persons, and also

in their ability to control others by the power of the eye thru causing them to think and to believe as they do by looking at them.

Persons of this sign are active, nervous and restless, and are liable to nerve diseases and fevers; the slightest ailment will produce fever or inflammation. Their nervousness frequently takes the form of timidity, especially in women and children. This timidity should be carefully guarded against. They should avoid cold, damp places, all nervous excitement, exciting scenes, *et cetera*.

They have much to do to conquer fear of what the people may say about them; love of reputation being very strong with them. Love of honor and high position in the world of men is a great barrier to the development of their true, spiritual selfhood, because of their disposition to conform to the habits of society.

When they are organically fine they very readily develop the power to know the nature of persons from psychometry, by means of some article with which the person has been in contact.

The first appearance of spiritual development is in their feeling of annoyance at the presence of certain persons; then follows the psychometrical ability; then the consciousness of the presence of persons long since in spirit-life, and especially of those who had attained fame or who possest power, from whom they receive knowledge of history, of lost arts, the sciences, and of social habits.

Their Genii endow them with knowledge of inventions and of the arts, and knowledges concerning the mental and physical laws governing the various phenomena of human life. They are like the phonograph to reach the thoughts, feelings and needs of the body of humanity; and there are those who can sit in their room alone and perceive the thoughts, mental states, and even the physical sensations of all persons who are in any way, even tho remotely, connected to them. In the more complete state of human development, when society will be in or-

der and the people harmonized, there will be of this class of persons those who can know all about what is going on in the outer world thru the "telegraph wires" of their own nervous system.

It is difficult for these persons to continue in any spiritual or religious work unless it is in connection with others who serve them as a head, guide and center to hold and sustain their interest, for the currents of the world as it is to-day affects them so directly and intensely.

These persons should study language, science and philosophy; also mechanics; and they should keep the mind busier than the physical body, and ever have a well defined object before them for which to labor.—*The Esoteric*.

"The sign Aquarius and its symbol, the water-man, have a peculiar significance to our own time and age, in that our sun, and its system of worlds, in making its great cycle thru the Grand Zodiac of the Heavens, is now in the sign Aquarius, having passed out of Pisces into Aquarius now nearly 200 years ago.

"And the out-pouring upon the earth by the Waterman of the contents of his Urn, would seem to signify the out-pouring of the mental and the spiritual currents of knowledge and inspiration from the higher spheres, which have been coming to earth with their quickening influence, during this period of time, or especially in the last 150, or more, years."

It should be borne in mind here, that Solar Biology is a commentary on the Bible, thru which it is possible to determine the nature of all persons born in any of the twelve signs of the zodiac. However, it must not be supposed that all persons born in a given sign or period of the year will be alike in all respects. They will be characterized by the general nature of their sign, but may differ widely in polarity (as derived by the position of the moon), and also in mental characteristics, due to different planetary positions. But while they will appear and act different, it will, nevertheless, be found that there

is an underlying kindred nature, determined by the sign in which they were born. For fuller details and modifying causes of character it will be necessary to consult Butler's *Solar Biology*. But it will be found both interesting and instructive to follow this present series, as it will give a large measure of insight regarding the nature of the persons with whom we are brought into contact.

Below we give the general characteristic, peculiar to the Aquarius nature, the name of the tribe to which these people belong, and the name of the apostle of Jesus who was a representative of this sign. Likewise, we give the stone, belonging peculiarly to Aquarius.

GENERAL CHARACTERISTIC: Perception of special service.

TRIBE: Dan.

APOSTLE: James.

STONE: Jacinth, Zircon or Hyacinth; and some authors ally the garnet to this sign.



THE BREATH.—The life in the physical body is like the life which fills all space, [for life is everywhere], and that which we recognize as life is so because it is in motion. The act of breathing keeps the life in the body in motion, and secondly, breathing is the act of gathering life, and causing it to serve in the motions of the body.”

—H. E. B.



LET us not be ashamed to be friendly, or to show any friendly feeling we may have;

Let us be the first to give a friendly sign, to nod first, smile first, speak first, give first;

And, if such a thing is necessary,
Forgive first and forget first.—*Anon.*

THE GREATEST POWER IN THE WORLD

NOTE: The following extract is taken from "Editor's Notes," in the *Science of Thought Review*, Chichester, England. We regret that lack of space prevents our giving our readers the entire article.—Editor.

"It is when our mind becomes attuned to the Mind of God that harmony manifests, for in God's mind is no disorder, it exists only in the mind of man.

"Now we see why it is that the use of the Psalms is able to deliver us from our fears and protect us from all evil.

"At this point I want to break off in order to say that what we are trying to teach is something that works. What we keep talking about is not a theory, or a sentimental fancy, but *the greatest power in the world*.

"If we really find God's peace and maintain it in the face of overwhelming difficulty, trouble, danger, or threatening calamity, then no evil can affect us. Recently, I passed on to you a story which illustrates this. It was about a man, a passenger in a ship, which was on the point of foundering. He told the Captain that he was abiding in God's peace, and that so long as his realization of it remained unbroken, the ship could not sink. The ship did not sink, and the Captain became converted through the incident.

"This man was simply living according to the life and teaching of Jesus Christ. The same laws apply to-day—they do not change.

"I want to emphasize this point, that what we are trying to teach is something practical—that it is something that will work. It is God's own appointed way by which we can bring the power of God into our life and affairs.

"There is one sovereign remedy for all our ills, and this is simply to overcome our fears and to find God's peace.

"When we are faced by a great crisis, a great calamity, or any terrifying experience, it is only natural that we should be thrown into a state of fear, if not panic.

This is what everyone has to resist and overcome. Even a brave explorer has to do this. There are no braver men than explorers, yet, if they lose their way in a desolate, unknown land, or on ice, the first thing which they have to overcome is fear. They know that if they give way to fear or panic, they will never find their way out of their trouble. They know also, that if they overcome their fear and panic, and remain calm, cool, collected and cheerful, that they stand the best possible chance of finding their way out.

"Therefore, it is not strange that when people are confronted by a great crisis, they should be tempted to give way to fear and even panic.

"What the Truth-seeker has to do is to prevent the trouble from exercising his mind, and instead to concentrate upon God's truth. This may be difficult enough in one's own personal or family troubles, but it is far worse in the case of a great national or world trouble or crisis; for then there is an atmosphere of fear, anxiety and tension which can be felt.

"But, although difficult, it can be done. The whole trouble can be resolved by steady, continuous work in the Unseen.

"But we must have something upon which to focus our attention. The most helpful texts for most people are those taken from the Psalms. The Psalms have been the sheet anchor for God's people for thousands of years.

"For instance, when we are surrounded by happenings which suggest fear, there is Psalm 27:

"The Lord is my light and my
salvation; whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the strength of
my life; of whom shall I be
afraid?"

TABLE OF CUSP TRANSITS

Monthly Ephemeris (Time of Cusp Transits).
Washington, D. C., (Civil Time) Feb., 1939.

moon	sign	day	hour	minute
☽	⊕	1	4	13 a. m.
"	☽	3	3	58 a. m.
"	☿	5	2	56 a. m.
"	♄	7	3	23 a. m.
"	♏	9	7	14 a. m.
"	♐	11	3	16 p. m.
"	♑	14	2	34 a. m.
"	♒	16	3	15 p. m.
"	♓	19	3	44 a. m.
"	♉	21	3	15 p. m.
"	♌	24	1	10 a. m.
"	♊	26	8	38 a. m.
"	⊕	28	0	57 p. m.

Heliocentric Cusp Transits of Planets

⊕	♓	19	8	2 a. m.
♂	♉	8	9	16 a. m.
♀	♊	3	7	47 p. m.
"	♌	22	10	6 a. m.
☿	☽	10	10	3 a. m.
"	☿	18	11	31 p. m.
"	♄	25	10	9 p. m.

On the 1st of the Month

♀	in	♓	25°	4'	49"
♂	"	♊	26	24	11
☿	"	☿	12	0	20
♃	"	♄	18	35	17
⊕	"	♏	16	44	22

For every added degree of longitude east the sun time is 4 minutes later in the same day,
and for every added degree of longitude west it is 4 minutes earlier.

These tables are in each number of this magazine in order that those who desire to regenerate their bodies may have the data that will help them in their efforts.

Sales Tax Notice

"Sales Tax will be added to retail price on all taxable items, in accordance with Ruling No. 73, issued pursuant to the California Retail Sales Tax Act."

To Our Customers Living in California

There is a 3 Per Cent Sales Tax on all Retail Sales made within the State.

The Prices in our price lists do not include this tax, so it will be necessary for our Customers living in California to add 3 Per Cent (to cover the tax) to the price of the total amount of your Order.

Use this table to find how much to add to your order.

Size of order	Add for Sales Tax	Size of Order	Add for Sales Tax
1c to 14c	None	\$5.17 to \$5.49	16c
15c to 49c	1c	5.50 to 5.83	17c
50c to 83c.....	2c	5.84 to 6.16	18c
84c to \$1.16.....	3c	6.17 to 6.49	19c
\$1.17 to \$1.49.....	4c	6.50 to 6.83	20c
1.50 to 1.83.....	5c	6.84 to 7.16	21c
1.84 to 2.16.....	6c	7.17 to 7.49	22c
2.17 to 2.49	7c	7.50 to 7.83	23c
2.50 to 2.83.....	8c	7.84 to 8.16	24c
2.84 to 3.16.....	9c	8.17 to 8.49	25c
3.17 to 3.49.....	10c	8.50 to 8.83	26c
3.50 to 3.83.....	11c	8.84 to 9.16	27c
3.84 to 4.16.....	12c	9.17 to 9.49	28c
4.17 to 4.49.....	13c	9.50 to 9.83	29c
4.50 to 4.83.....	14c	9.84 to 1.00	30c
4.84 to 5.16.....	15c		

The tax on each \$10 of your order is 30c. For smaller amounts use the table above. For example, if the order is \$22.85 the tax on \$20 is 60c and on the remaining \$2.85 it is 9c, as shown by the table. The total amount for tax therefore is 69c.

SWEETS

This dainty booklet of poems will make a very pleasing gift to hand to your friends.

15 cents a copy.

To California Customers: State Sales Tax 1 cent.

Haven't you an acquaintance who would be interested in reading this copy of "The Christian Esoteric?" Why not pass it on, and suggest that he subscribe for six months? or, send us a post card with his name and address, and we will send him a sample copy.

Planetary Influences

Notes on the Science of SOLAR BIOLOGY
(Heliocentric System)

BY ENOCH PENN

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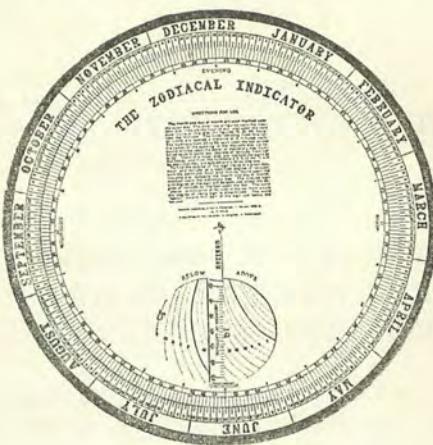
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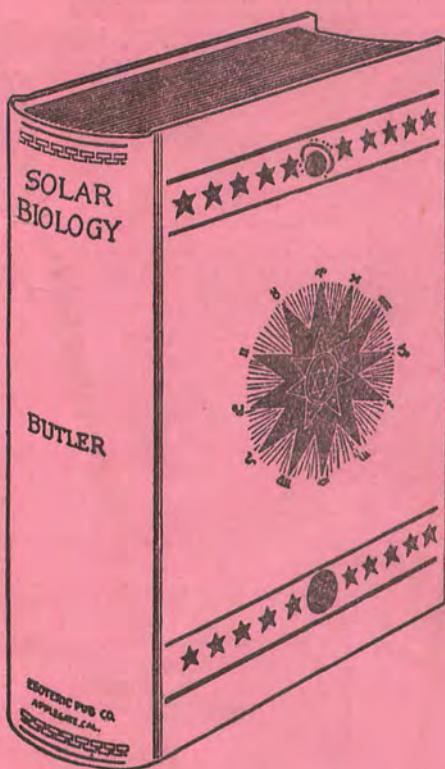
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