Mystic Messenger

MARCH 1943 VOL. 10 NO. 3



For these weeks just preceding and during Lent let us base our work on the formal prayers of this spiritual season and for our meditation examine the purpose of the week's discipline.

Week of March 1st through March 6th

- <u>Meditation</u>.....on realization of God's P resence and P rotection. "Our individual lives are a part of the One Life. Let us not struggle for a separate existence of our own but rather strive for more complete and harmonious unity with the One Life.""
- Prayer....."O Lord God, direct, sanctify and govern both our hearts and minds in the ways of Thy laws, that thru Thy power we may know Thee and Thy protection, through Jesus, Christ, our Lord, Amen."

Week of March 7th through March 13th (Ash Wednesday-Mar.10) Meditation.....on expression of Love.

"Love is the link between souls on all stages of the Path. We,who tread the P ath reach upward with one hand to the Master, and with the other we reach out to our fellowmen, for we know that the Loving Master comes to us in proportion to our love of our fellows." Prayer......"O Holy Spirit, Who hast taught us that all our doings without love are nothing worth, pour into our heafts that most excellent gift of love, the very bond of peace, and of all virtues, without which whospever liveth is counted dead before Thee, Who livest and reignest with the Father and the Son, one God for evermore. Amen."

Week of March 14th through March 20th

- Meditation.....on discipline of self-examination. "All of the weaknesses, the negative traits that are undesirable and should be overcome are to be brought into the light of selfexamination. This in a calm, poise, positive way that is accompanied by a determination to correct and transcend.""
- Prayer....."O Lord, grant us so justly to examine ourselves that, discerning clearly our faults, we may truly amend them and thus prepare ourselves fitly to celebrate Thy Holy Feast of Easter, O Risen Lord, unto whom be praise and adoration forevermore. Amen."

Week of March 21st through March 27th,

Meditation.....on control of speech. "Angry, critical words are to be eliminated; expressions of selfpity or discouragement avoided. Not only must negative speech be controlled, but cheerful, uplifting, positive speech cultivated. Prayer......"O God, who unto man alone hast given the power of speech wherewith to praise Thee, grant that our hearts may be so filled with love and wisdom that we may speak evil of no man, but evermore glorify Thy Holy Name, through Christ our Lord. Amen."

Week of March 28th through April 3rd

<u>Meditation</u>.....on developing understanding. "Try to put yourself in the place of those whom you contact thru sympathetic mental rapport. You can only understand the things that they say and do when you understand the causes behind those things."

<u>Prayer.....</u>"O God, all forgiving, grant us grace so to look upon the hearts of our brethren that we may never fail in understanding and compassion, through Christ the Lord of Love, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee, throughout all ages of ages. Amen." ** THE MYSTIC MESSENGER ** ** ** ** ** The Mystic Messenger is a monthly periodical ** ** authorized by the Mystic Brotherhood as a ** ** channel for information of general interest ** ** to the students of the organization and articles of importance to followers of the ** ** ** ** Pathway of Western Occultism ** **

> "Ye shall know the Truth and the Truth shall make ye free."

The search for Truth has carried man over many and devious paths, for always it has been difficult for him to realize that it is imminently near, engulfing him as an ocean, enfolding him as an atmosphere. That is why the Master found it necessary to point out.. "The Kingdom is within"and admonish..."Seek ye the kingdom." Thus He gave us the key for unlocking the deepest recesses of the soul and bringing to the surface the innate, the divine, the eternal significance of human nature.

Man holds within himself creative forces, embryonic capacities, latent endowments and inspirational impulses that originate from and link him with the ultimate essence of God. The Self is but a personalized fragment of universal life. Is it not simple logic therefore, to allow the Infinite and the Eternal, as far as possible, to flow freely through our lives? We should so yield ourselves to spiritual forces, individualized in self, that they become the dynamic of our physical, psychic and mental beings.

Oneness with God is the soul's prerogative, and this oneness is sustained and increasingly realized by communion with the Life of

God. Everything that exists, exists within God, there is nothing outside. Development therefore, depends upon inner forces rather than external conditions. The inmost depths of the soul are reached and stirred through communion with Spiritual verities. Prayer, meditation, "practice of the Presence", enable man to penetrate deeply into the abysses of his own being and from them ascend the Mount of Enlightenment. Freed from materiality the soul instinctively moves toward the ultimate spiritual center and finding itself there is infused with the power to express the noblest activities, the most exalted visions and the sublimest ideals.

The employment of intellect through correct knowledge of law is necessary for effective manifestation of spiritual Truth.But ecually we must remember that the soul is the receiver and exponent of Truth and through the spiritual force within him man rises to clear vision and pure knowledge. In the higher regions of spiritual awareness man perceives Truth and this perception is soul emancipation.

.....Sri Veritus.

GLEANINGS FROM STUDENT'S LETTERS.

When God looks thru my eye how kind it is.

When He speaks thru my voice, how sweet the sound.

When He feels thru my touch, tis gentleness.

When He dwells in my heart, sweet peace is found.

When He works thru my hands, how kind the deed.

When He walks with my feet, they swiftly go.

When He lives in my thoughts, they rise and soar

Unto His heart, where I may dwell and Know.

.....Rev. Alice Meyer.

The Occult student is primarily interested in the study of Life, in the laws governing it, their practical application, and in perfecting the self. Experience is our greatest teacher, but souls approaching adulthood are willing to learn thru observation and the reading of the inspired works of those who have trodden the Path before us. Longfellow's poem: "The Psalm of Life" has served me well in times when progress seemed slow and the goal so far away. Many students become discouraged when results are not perceived after months of earnest effort; it is to them I would dedicate this message.

The last stanza of this poem is especially helpful in such times of discouragement.....

"Let us then be up and doing, With a heart for any fate; Still achieving, still pursuing Learn to labor and to wait."

To wait patiently is not an easy task when within there is an almost irresistible force sweep-

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ing us onward. Small objectives are achieved in a short time in the material world, but the goals of the Occultist are greater, requiring time, patience, faith and perseverance. The soul must grow and many lives will yet be required to perfect us.

"Let us be up and doing," let us be active, in earnest, willing to pay the price of achievement. Let us make our goal the "central theme of living," dedicating ourselves whole-heartedly to our work, leaving the rewards to God who sees and knows our hopes and aspirations, rewarding every worthy endeavor. We shall overcome and correct our faults, dominate circumstances and gain understanding, all rewards in themselves. They will indicate progress and be as rounds on the ladder of achievement. Let us not weary in well doing, but continue our efforts winning greater victories over self, exploring more fields, serving as we may, giving our best in all our labors. "Still achieving, still pursuing, learn to labor and to wait."

Let us concentrate on our work rather than on the goal; for it is our work which makes the attainment of our objectives possible. Let us continue our efforts in faith and courage, confident that the goal ahead is not only worth working for, but waiting for.

.....Myrtle Wooster, D.M.B.

T R Y A definition:

"a magnificent bridge over which a man may travel from bad to better, from better to best."

.....Edris Bartlett, F.M.B.

There is a little story told concerning Confucius that gives us not only a

clear insight into one of

the reasons for his greatness, but also a very vital thought to apply to ourselves.

It goes that a disciple of Confucius was stopping for the night at the Stone Gate and the gate-keeper asked him "Where are you from?" .. "I'm from Confucius", roplied the disciple. "Oh, is he the fellow who knows that a thing can't be done and still wants to do it?"

"The fellow who knows it con't be done and still wants to do it" in rolling back the pages of man's book of progress, we find on each one the story of just such men. They were told by someone that something couldn't be donea challenge! Immediately interest in the "doing" is stimulated....here is opportunity here is adventure uncharted seas ... unknown lands ... untried fields ... unattained goals!.....the "can't be done's"!....."But they can!" these men who have made the history of man's evolution have answered ... and they have proven they were right!

Perhaps we can't all inscribe our name on the records of achievement that are held up for the world and posterity to read, but surely there is no single person lacking the daily challenge of "doing" what "can't be done."

Un a busy suburban street for several years a house of sturdy and most attractive architecture was being built. Slowly but without interruptions, the heavy sills were laid upon the brick foundation, the beams raised, the walls nailed in place, board by board ..

Andre

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"CAN'T BE DONE'S" then it was completed a house for anyone to be proud of. But why so long

> to build a house, you wonder: A small sign placed on one corner of the lot gives the answer"It can be done! even by a blind man." The builder of that house was totally blind.

> You want to break a habit "it can't be done", that Self which would hold you back in the easy way, the path of least resistance, says, Oh, can't it?" You, the Real You, reply. Take up the challenge, prove again to yourself, as your personal experience, what Confucius so strongly believed that it is still related as a characteristic of the Chinese Sage.

> You have for a long time been wanting to accomplish something that someone has discouraged "why keep on trying it can't be done".....Oh, yes it can. If a blind man can build a house alone over a period of several years, you can finish what you have been trying to do, too!

> Not in a long time have we, as a people, been given such an urgent call and important opportunity to surpass our standard of "best" and prove that we do have the capacity to rise to still greater achievement, the ability to do "what can't be done". Upon the "doing" epochal happenings depend, events that will influence the progress of the world. We can each make our mark on today's page of achievement, individually and collectively, we can and we will experience the thrilling satisfaction which comes from breaking through the illusion of the "can't be done's" and finding there the actuality "IT CAN"!

THE JESTER'S SWORD.....

Long after the good monk had supped and gone, Aldebaran sat in silence. Then crossing to the tiny casement that gave upon the street, he stood and gazed up at the stars. Long, long he mused, fitting the monk's lesson to his own soul's need, and when he turned away, the old astrologer's prophecy had taken on new meaning.

"As Aldebaran the star shines in the heavens" (no light within itself, but borrowing from the Central Sun), "so Aldebaran the man might shine among his fellows. (Beggared of joy himself, yet flashing its reflection athwart the lives of others.)

When next he went into the town he no longer shunned the sights that formerly he'd passed with face averted, for well he knew that if he would shed joy and hope on others he must go to places where they most abound. What matter that the thought of Vesta stabbed him when he looked on hearth-fires that could never blaze for him? With courage he learned to put that thought from him as if it were another sword he'd learned to sheathe.

When he met one distraught from many losses, he did not say in bitterness as he once would have done, that 'twas the common lot of mortals; nay, rather did he speak so bravely of what might still be wrung from life, that hope sprang up within his hearer.

The weeks slipped into months, months into years. And then it came to pass, whenever he went by, men felt a strange, strength-giving influence radiating from his presence - one could not say exactly what it was, it was so fleeting, so intangible, like warmth that circles from a brazier, or perfume that is wafted from an unseen rose.

Thus he came down to death

concluded.

at last, and there was dole in all the Province, so that pilgrims, journeying through that way, asked when they heard his passingbell, "What king is dead, that all thus do him reverence?"

"'Tis but our Jester," one replied. "A poor maimed creature in his outward seeming, and yet so blithely did he bear his lot, it seemed a kingly spirit dwelt among us, and earth is poorer for his going."

All in his motley, since he'd willed it so, they laid him on his bier to bear him back again unto his father's house. And when they found the Sword of Conquest hidden underneath his mantle, they marvelled he had carried such a treasure with him through the years, all unbeknown even to those who walked the closest at his side.

When, after many days, the funeral train drew through the castle gate, the king came down to meet it. There was no need of blazoned scroll to tell Aldebaran's story. All written in his face it was, and on his scarred and twisted frame; and by the bloodstone on his finger the old king knew his son had failed not in the keeping of his oath. More regal than the royal ermine seemed his motley now. More eloquent the sheathed sword that told of years of inward struggle than if it bore the blood of dragons, for on his face there shone the peace that comes alone of mighty triumph.

The king looked round upon his nobles and his stalwart sons, then back again upon Aldebaran, lying in silent majesty.

"Bring royal purple for the pall," he faltered, "and leave the Sword of Conquest with him! No other hands will ever be found worthier to claim it!"

The governor was admin- AS A MAN THINKETH istering justice in the

great hall of the pal-...Alan ace. A beggar, ragged

and humble, came forward with a cringing, half-fearful step. "Do justice unto me, O Governor," he cried, "for I have been used most shamefully."

"Against whom do you complain?" the governor asked.

"It is against you and all those of your class. You have wealth beyond the dreams of such as I. You are fed on dainties and clothed in silks and jewels. I am your fellow man, yet I dress in rags that are not fit for a scarecrow. I go day after day without enough food to satisfy one of your dogs. Is this justice O Governor:"

For a time the governor sat with wrinkled brow.

"It would seem that it is not just," he said at last, "yet per-haps there is a reason that lies below the surface of things. I once was as poor and ill clad as you. I swept gutters and carried bricks to workmen, and I have tended cattle and cleaned stables for a most cruel master. Yet I rose in the world, while you have remained as you are. Is the fault with me and my kind, or is it with Jou?"

The beggar did not attempt to answer, but continued to bemoan the ill fortune that had used him thus harshly.

The governor, being a reasonable man, listened patiently. "Perhaps it is fate that has done this thing," he said, but I believe there is more to it than that. The case interests me strangely. Let us go together to the hermit who lives in the poplar groves, and see if his wisdom can solve the problem you have propounded to me."

"Not so, O Governor," the beggar objected."for

it would be unfair for Emley ... you to go in your finery as governor and me in these poor

rags.

"Very well, I will exchange with you," answered the governor. "I will go as beggar and you as one in authority, which will make the case more difficult to solve."

Together they went to the hut of the hermit. The governor was clothed in rags, and the beggar in fine raiment with a gold band about his hair. The staff of office was in his hand, and jeweled sandals were on his feet.

To the hermit they propounded their cuestion: "One of us is governor, the other is beggar, yet each of us had a lowly beginning. Why should this be?"

The hermit looked down at the earth and spoke without raising his eyes: "You are a distinguished looking man."

"The governor, in his rags, stood erect with head high. The beggar glanced at his companion out of the corners of his eyes.

For a time the hermit remainsilent, then spoke without ed looking up: "What a mean looking creature you are."

The beggar, in his finery, looked down at the dust. It seemed to him that the hermit had penetrated his disguise, and that in all the world there was no creature as poor as he.

Then the hermit turned to the governor.

"Why did you seem so proud and confident when I spoke of one of you being a distinguished looking man?"

"I don't know," the governor answered. "It was because I could not help it."

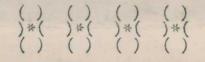
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The hermit looked at the beggar. "Why did you look down and seen so mean and lowly when I suggested that one of you is a mean looking creature?"

"I cannot explain," the other enswered. "It is just because I feel that way."

"You came to me with a problem," the hermit said. "You asked why one of you is governor and the other is beggar. Each of you has answered his own question."



There is a life that is worth living now as it was worth living in the former days, and that is the honest life, the useful life, the unselfish life, cleansed by devotion to an ideal. There is battle that is worth fighting a now as it was worth fighting then and that is the battle for justice and equality ... to break the rings that strangle real liberty and to keep them broken..nor shall their labor be for naught, nor the reward of their sacrifice fail them. for high in the firmament of human destiny are set the stars of faith in mankind and unselfish courage and loyalty to an ideal.

......Henry Van Dyke.

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DELAYS

While all lectures and chats are mailed out here on regular schedule, they may be delayed in arrival due to the increased mail and limited workers for handling it, that our Post Office Department must contend with. The Brotherhood knows you will all cheerfully accept this unavoidable condition and patiently await your lesson when it does not arrive on time.

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PRINTING Your indulgence is appreciated in connection with the regrettable cuality of our paper and printing. We shall continue to hold workmanship to the Brotherhood's standard while cooperating fully and gladly with the present restrictions which make some defects unavoidable.

BIRTHDAY CARDS The pleasure of sending the customary birthday greeting card will have to be foregone, we are very sorry to announce. Those who miss their card this year, will understand they have not been forgotten, our good wishes will continue to go out in thought.

M. M. To assure your receiving the Messenger in MAILED plenty of time to use your weekly meditations EARLIER and prayers, we are arranging to send it out some few days earlier than before.

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