

The True Light

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THE LAW OF GOD

NEW YEAR COUNSEL

RESOLUTIONS

MEDIUMSHIP

SUMMERLAND

TESTIMONIALS

SPIRITUGRAMS

EDITORIALS

COSMIC VOICES

THE FLOWERS

OBSERVATIONS

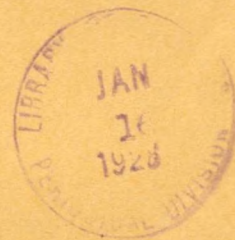
WHO KNOWS

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

PSYCHIC DEVELOPMENT

ABSTRACT REASONING

THE AGE OF DOUBT



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THE LAW OF GOD

THOU SHALT HAVE NO OTHER GODS BEFORE ME.

II.

THOU SHALT NOT MAKE UNTO THEE ANY GRAVEN IMAGE, OR ANY LIKENESS OF ANYTHING THAT IS IN HEAVEN ABOVE, OR THAT IS IN THE EARTH BENEATH, OR THAT IS IN THE WATER UNDER THE EARTH. THOU SHALT NOT BOW DOWN THYSELF TO THEM NOR SERVE THEM: FOR I THE LORD THY GOD AM A JEALOUS GOD VISITING THE INIQUITY OF THE FATHERS UPON THE CHILDREN UNTO THE THIRD AND FOURTH GENERATION OF THEM THAT HATE ME AND SHOWING MERCY UNTO THOUSANDS OF THEM THAT LOVE ME AND KEEP MY COMMANDMENTS.

III.

THOU SHALT NOT TAKE THE NAME OF THE LORD THY GOD IN VAIN FOR THE LORD WILL NOT HOLD HIM GUILTLESS THAT TAKETH HIS NAME IN VAIN.

IV.

REMEMBER THE SABBATH DAY TO KEEP IT HOLY. SIX DAYS SHALT THOU LABOR AND DO ALL THY WORK: BUT THE SEVENTH DAY IS THE SABBATH OF THE LORD THY GOD: IN IT THOU SHALT NOT DO ANY WORK, THOU, NOR THY SON, NOR THY DAUGHTER, THY MAN-SERVANT, NOR THY MAID-SERVANT, NOR THY CATTLE, NOR THY STRANGER THAT IS WITHIN THY GATES: FOR IN SIX DAYS THE LORD MADE HEAVEN AND EARTH, THE SEA AND ALL THAT IN THEM IS, AND RESTED THE SEVENTH DAY: WHEREFORE THE LORD BLESSED THE SABBATH DAY AND HALLOWED IT.

V.

HONOR THY FATHER AND THY MOTHER, THAT THY DAYS MAY BE LONG UPON THE LAND WHICH THE LORD THY GOD GIVETH THEE.

VI.

THOU SHALT NOT KILL.

VII.

THOU SHALT NOT COMMIT ADULTERY.

VIII.

THOU SHALT NOT STEAL.

IX.

THOU SHALT NOT BEAR FALSE WITNESS AGAINST THY NEIGHBOR.

X.

THOU SHALT NOT COVET THY NEIGHBOR'S HOUSE, THOU SHALT NOT COVET THY NEIGHBOR'S WIFE, NOR HIS MAN-SERVANT, NOR HIS MAID-SERVANT, NOR HIS OX, NOR HIS ASS, NOR ANYTHING THAT IS THY NEIGHBOR'S.



PLEASE, GOD, GIVE ME LIGHT; HAVE MERCY ON MY SOUL

These things I bring you in simple manner, that you might spread them and give them to your fellowmen, your brothers and sisters, who are less fortunate in having opportunity of reaching out and gathering in those words of comfort. Be kind to one another and help one another. Those were the Elder Brother's motives. He started everything right. Let us start in and by the time we enter into another new time we will find how much more we had accomplished in bringing humanity on the upper pathway than we had in time before.

May God speed each one on their way, that they might be able to reach in a more righteous, better and uplifting way, and not in that selfish, narrow, I would say, unGodly way.

We want to be with God, threading that pathway, that in the end we, too, will stand there in wisdom and brightness, just as many of those that went over in like manner. We, too, then can return and bring forth comfort and cheer to those that are downcast in spirit. AMEN.

APPOLIOS OF TREON.

Brother Appolios was a Greek who traveled this earth plane at the same time as did the Nazarene nearly two thousand years ago. He was an inspirational speaker and brought forth the spiritual truths same as did the Nazarene, yet they never saw each other in body. On hearing of the passing out of Jesus, he, like Paul, was a most willing worker for greater good, and still works for righteousness' sake and for the upliftment of mankind.

RESOLUTIONS

Brought Forth by Rev. M. E. Claas

(An Abstract)



SO, TOO, am I going to bring to each one the right point to-night. There are so many in this material plane that make so many resolutions, as you call it, especially in the new time. Five or six days or weeks and they forget about those resolutions. They think of just what they can gather in, whether they take it from some one or not. No matter in what way, they are going to get it.

It was just that way with one the other day. He was going to be the finest brother in the sight of the other brothers and sisters. He was going to make things pleasant for those in his surroundings—they who were doing his work. What do you think he was doing? He was only thinking about it, he did not have his full mind on it. He was just saying it to satisfy someone else. When we make resolutions, we want to see that we carry them through to the finish.

So it should be with our spiritual doings. We should see that we are walking closer and closer to the Supreme Power God, and try to follow the Elder Brother's teachings. Be obedient to God's commands. If we try to do these things we can make everything beautiful about us, not only for ourselves, but others. I want to tell you how you can do that.

When you awaken in the morning, say, "To-day is going to be the day I want it to be. I am going to be kind to everyone I see and smile at everyone, no matter if it is an old grandmother or grandfather. I am going to be pleasant and have a kind word to say."

You will see what a great response it will bring. You will be most happy, and they will say, "What happened to this one? Something great must have happened to him, or he must have had a grand dream." Be kind to those about you in business, have a kind word for all. You will see how they will do much for your interest. Just try once.

I have been watching this past year in places where the one gives out the work, and those that speak in a kind manner get the finest results. In this manner you get kindness back in return. You will have less to be frowning about and get upset over. It is a happy day, and each day will be more beautiful if you will try it. Then, too, we will be getting on the right pathway, we will be reaching out.

The Elder Brother always said, "Be righteous." We want to be righteous in all our doings, then everything will have to come right. Let us go back to when I was talking about the one who gives out the work. When your superior gives you your work to do you want to do it right, as if it were your own work, and when the day ends you can say, "To-day I have not wasted any time. I have looked for the interest of my employer." If you do right you will be kept on the work.

Begin the new year right and when we are right we become righteous, and more righteous each moment, and after awhile we cannot do anything but what is right. When you are right in heart everything has to be right.

Then it is good to get on the truthful pathway. No matter what you say, be truthful, even to your "boss." Tell the truth. If he would order you to tell an untruth, do it not. "No, you would not want me to tell you an untruth." Be smart and speak truthful, "Then you are not making me tell an untruth. I can trust you and you can trust me." Conditions will come out beautifully.

You may ask, "Suppose I do not want to meet the one whom I have a large bill to pay. How am I going to get out of it?" Just face that brother and say, "You will just have to be patient with me, I cannot pay it up now," and with a nice smile on your face you will see how better each one will feel. The one to whom the bill is owing says, "That is a truthful person. I like to deal with such a person, even if he cannot pay now." You will say, "I am glad I told that fellow the way it was, now I do not have to be afraid of him and running away from him."

You get so truthful you cannot do any differently. You will set a fine example for those about you. They will know you can be trusted, even in the smallest of things, if you are righteous and truthful.

After all that, it is very nice to get in brotherhood then. Everyone will love you. They will say you are trustworthy and right in all dealings. Every place you go you will receive that smile—like when you meet people in the morning. Even if things do not go right, do not make things unpleasant for others. Try it, for what I am bringing you will come right.

It does not mean anything if you are going to bring upset conditions about. It will be said, "That fellow is always growling, always has something to sigh about." It might better be, "Here comes a fellow who always has a fine smile, a fine good-day and a fine lovely day for you." That is the way, always throw out happy thoughts to all.

Here is really a school where you learn these things. Do not let that school-time go by. Study up and by the time you graduate you will find yourself on a high point. Try to reach it, especially on this new time. Reach out and be kind to everyone, no matter who it is. You do not have to have gold and silver. A kind word, a kind thought, will uplift many that are in sadness and sorrow. You will help them forget their sadness and sorrow, because you give them a lovely smile.

We should start with ourselves first. Start right and in the end everyone will do the same as you. You will have peaceful surroundings where you are, and where you enter will be in grand happiness. AMEN.

CHARLES.

PLEASE, GOD, GIVE ME LIGHT; HAVE MERCY ON MY SOUL

MEDIUMSHIP

Two Expressions on This Subject

By Geraldine Wood



ETHER or not there are more women mediums than men I do not know. Certain it is that there are more women mediums at work in the field of spiritualism than men. There are many causes which contribute to such a condition.

The first is money. Spiritualism is dependent upon the exercise of mediumship for the proofs of its philosophy. Yet the exercise of mediumship seldom pays the average worker enough so that he can support a family. Moreover, the development of mediumship often requires years of effort before it is of value for public service, and the wage earner, or the one who contemplates becoming a wage earner, many times rejects this field of effort, even though he may be gifted, because he feels that he cannot afford to sacrifice himself and perhaps others dependent upon him for support.

And just here, I wish to say that if we want more workers in the field, men of distinction and education, we must pay them a living wage. Such men and workers fill our ranks with adherents. The Master said, "The laborer is worthy of his hire."

Because of this condition there are too many untrained workers in the field, uneducated men and women, who cannot carry an appeal to the more intelligent class who are to-day, as never before, seeking answers to the questions, "Who and what am I?" and "Where do we go from here?"

Let us educate our mediums and, if they cannot afford an education, offer them one gratis. This training of public workers is the most important effort which spiritualism can put forth.

Every medium should be brought up to a certain standard before being permitted to use the platform for public appearance, otherwise such an appearance is derogatory to the cause which we represent, and attracts only an unthinking public eager for phenomena of any sort which may come through to them personally. We need more men on our lecture platforms.

Many women have come into public effort as mediums because their home environment was conducive to psychic development. Here they were quiet, often alone through the day, and with minds more or less unoccupied. No supervisor required them to be on the job every minute, neither was their livelihood dependent on their wits. Free and unoccupied minds are often used and developed by spirit powers.

Women, too, often turn to mediumship for cultural advancement, little realizing what mediumship really is. A medium is a channel merely, and the quality of the product coming from the medium depends largely upon their fitness for the work, their ability to express themselves, and the height of power they may attain. Mediumship and its exercise should never be looked upon as a pastime. It becomes dangerous when so used.

Women have sensitive natures, a first requirement for psychic development. They respond easily and readily to suggestion. Granting sensitiveness, the medium must set self aside and voice only the sentiments of another. If they cannot comply, they cannot do message work, nor any other mediumistic work, for all such efforts must, of necessity, come from the other side.

Psychic development in a medium is quite another thing. Development produces the seer, a state of being where the soul is conscious and in active use of its powers. A seer may himself reach a plane of spiritual knowledge and understanding, and be capable of imparting the knowledge thus acquired to others.

Such are spiritual teachers in their own right. Such an one was Andrew Jackson Davis, Hudson Tuttle, W. Colville, Emanuel Swedenborg, and a score of others, who penetrated the other side as free spirits and came back to tell us of their adventures.

Let those of us who are mediums see to it that we are such in character, in judgment, in self-discipline, that we may attract and hold those spirit advisers, who can use us for the benefit and enlightenment of others. Such an attitude means our own growth, for we will then be considered as worthy to become pupils in that great school of higher understanding and spiritual enlightenment, which is ever open to the few who can qualify.

By Rev. Louis C. Bennett



ERHAPS in answering the question so often asked, why more female mediums than males? it would give an illustration if I referred to one of my developing classes held not so many years ago. In this class of a dozen there were but two males, one of which developed any phase of mediumship. Of the ten women, five gave signs of some form of mediumship, provided they would keep on with their development. Sad to relate, in the very beginning of good results, the two most promising ones stopped coming. They decided they were finished mediums.

The young man kept on until he developed to be a fair message bearer, receiving about fifty per cent of his messages correctly. However, he was naturally lazy, and, finding mediumship a way to earn a living, went in business for himself, as the saying goes. Now he is giving any kind of a reading asked for and receives a fee of twenty-five cents. It is such persons that hold back progress of TRUE SPIRITUALISM.

The females in the class all had husbands, and time to spare, none being business women. In the beginning they used the class as a sort of pastime. Seldom does a person who is actively engaged in business feel like giving up an evening or two a week for development and sit for seven years before doing public work (as my wife and I have done).

I have found that when a man does want mediumship and is willing to hold firm until he attracts the higher guides, his work is superior to the woman's work. It is very unfortunate that we have to depend on the elementals for our first demonstrations, the higher guides never coming until afterwards. So many stop at this point, content, saying why go further, I only want what I can get out of it in the way of money, and the public is satisfied. If they only realized that at this stage without good strong guides they are open to any earth bound spirit, and are often made to do and say things that are disagreeable to Spiritualism.

Looking back at some of these half-developed mediums (and it is the fault of the public, for they seem to be satisfied with anything instead of demanding the best), I see that every one of them has been the tool of some earth bound spirit at one time or another.

They knew the risk that they were running, but in their arrogance they thought themselves exceptions to the rule, and, without high guides and lacking will power to say "NO" to what their conscience told them was wrong, they soon became tools of earth bound spirits.

I have about come to the conclusion that it is a grave mistake to hold developing classes and turn out low-grade mediums, for there is no way of making them continue until efficient. Until the public actively demands and supports only the best, I suppose that we will continue to have less experienced mediums on our platforms and also doing private work.

PLEASE, GOD, GIVE ME LIGHT; HAVE MERCY ON MY SOUL

SUMMERLAND

A Page of Instruction for the Young Truthseekers. It is suggested that instructors extend every point made and to regularly review and emphasize them. Supplemental points should follow in due time. The lectures shown in the beginning of each issue are the guides.

LESSON XXII—FOLLOW MY TEACHING AND YOU SHALL NOT WANDER IN DARKNESS. The Nazarene taught righteousness, truthfulness and brotherly love. It is well to look to what He did if we would learn and do likewise, and follow in that manner He advised. His teachings apply unto all times, locations and peoples. He specifically directs us to do as He did, and we too would be in light and KNOW in what way to make our return to the Father who first sent us forth.

To wander in darkness, to aimlessly go about unthinkingly and unknowingly, dependant on another's progress without doing our full duty, is against the wise counsel He gives. He did not say He was God, neither did He say He was the only begotten son, still His message to His brothers and sisters, us, is that we call to God the Father and to be obedient to the Will of that Father.

Not for name nor for gain did He, our Elder Brother, bring forth the true light and wisdom with which he came. He taught those closest to Him and He with them taught multitudes, all for righteousness sake. He wanted to help all humanity regardless of what teachings had been given them by others. He knew they were not for the highest upliftment and so stood for what He knew to be the TRUTH and opposed false teachers.

He did not say we are to accept Him, but asked us and still asks that we accept God and His Laws. He placed Himself not above that Father and advises that of Himself He could do nothing were it not for that ever loving Father. He further advised that if we do as He DID, greater works would we do. Not alone for light here, but for light hereafter did he show the way we too must go if we would want that same light.

LESSON XXIII—LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE BEFORE MEN THAT THEY WILL SEE YOUR GOOD WORKS AND GLORIFY YOUR FATHER WHO IS IN HEAVEN. It is for us to do for the Father same as He did. The burden is upon us and none other. Through no one except by our own spiritual actions can we cleanse ourselves and attain that purity, light, so necessary for our travels through this earth-plane and through the realms.

Having light, wisdom and understanding, one should proclaim it before his fellow men, not that they are the judges, but that they might come to more fully understand just from what source all good cometh. Thinking, speaking and doing the right before man and God is our mission and duty. It is our own light then that will shine forth and combine with the light of the Father, assures us our safe journey homeward.

Vain words, money, influence or education and station cannot bring light and reveal the Kingdom of God that is within. No one makes us do these things except self. It is not the fleshly that shines forth. Idol worship does not help. It is obedience to the commands of God and a willingness to stand before men even though they may ridicule and mock and scoff you. Do as the Nazarene did. None other has shown the light as did He show the light He had. It was not His faith but His works that we are to be guided by.

By following a righteous pathway and showing it does not mean we are to give up our worldly blessings. It is, however, that we must not overdo them and not forget God.

LESSON XXIV—IN MY FATHER'S HOUSE ARE MANY MANSIONS. These mansions are for the living, not the dead. They are for the spirit, not the body. All is spiritual and according to the way we built our own mansions while traveling here. He saw what was in the heavens. It was by the light He had that He penetrated the walls of darkness and saw what lies before one.

We can make our return journey from whence we came through these mansions, and which are as resting points in the spheres for our repose. The journey, however, has its beginning on this earth plane. The higher we reach the more beautiful will be our abode in the realms. We progress spiritually as we overcome the earthly and material conditions.

It is in the lower spheres where the lamenting and gnashing takes place because of ones shortcomings and evil doings. As we make right our wrongs, as we call to God direct, spirit to spirit, for help, we do rise to higher destination. Progress in the Father's House, therefore, is of our own doings.

Our paths are such that we must be spiritually alert and not stumble and meet reverses. The wondrous works of God are for all His children, and if we remain firm and maintain strict confidence in that Father, not only can we continue onward and upward, but we can return to those who are still in body, and help them to better understand how to prepare for these mansions.

As we reach higher in the Father's house we find the conditions of Peace, Happiness and Contentment. Here, too, do the spirit loved ones give thanks and sing the praises—not of self or of another like self, but of the Father. The Zion is the goal, and all such as have cleansed themselves then enter and again combine with the Father. This is what the Nazarene is striving for and wants us to do.

LESSON XXV—WHAT PROFIT IT A MAN IF HE GAIN THE WHOLE WORLD AND NEARLY LOSE HIS SPIRIT IN THE END. It is most important not to neglect the spirit for the sake of the material. Our earthly journey requires that, if we are on the right pathway, we shall not be as lost so long as the spirit masters the fleshly. Our earthly accumulations we must leave when our journey on this plane is ended.

We are not eternally lost nor are we forsaken by the Father, for we are part of that Force, and our spiritual tie is never severed, although it is by our own actions we might widen the gap between. In this gap may be such things to hold us wide apart as our material ways and things requiring of us more thought than we give to God. This is sad. It must be cast from us ere it will draw us down.

Spirit may journey to high points and can reach to many parts of the Universe of God's creation in quick and instantaneous manner, and so, too, does it share all the wonders spiritually, which is permanent and far greater than the material. To reach materially we have only that, but to reach spiritually we have both.

Our Elder Brother told the rich man's sons to sell all he possessed and come and follow Him. The test was too severe, and so it may be for us. The tenth commandment reminds us to avoid material desires. We need certain material things, but we should not abuse or misuse, most certainly should we not deny the spirit.

PLEASE, GOD, GIVE ME LIGHT; HAVE MERCY ON MY SOUL

TESTIMONIALS



LENDALE, L. I.—I would like to offer my testimony of some observations which I gathered at two funerals during the month of October. The first funeral which I witnessed was of an elderly sister, seventy-five years old, who was the mother of a good friend of mine. Often I had tried to convince the family that after the so-called death, life or spirit lives on, and if conditions are harmonious we can communicate with our departed loved ones. The reply was practically the same each time I discussed the subject, "That it cannot be," and they refused to investigate. The earthly body of this sister was laid out beautifully, surrounded with flowers running into hundreds of dollars. The clothing worn by the family was black, expressing their gloom and fear. The sermon was of the standard type, the preacher consigning the departed spirit to no less a station than Heaven. With all the eloquence of this service and although the mourners were given to believe the sister was in Zion, yet there was no hope, no light, or understanding, as sorrow rent the air.

The other funeral service was of a brother, also a good friend of mine. This service was simple, there was no black clothing, the body was cremated, after the preacher had discussed a few spiritual truths. The loved one remaining had poise and understanding, being able almost immediately after the funeral to communicate with the departed. The preacher (naturally, a medium) did not consign the spirit to Heaven. In a few days the departed spirit gave its destination, one which many others should aspire to reach.

I cannot help offering my testimony, for the difference between these funerals was pronounced. It was evident that the spirit of the sister and her family did not have the light possessed by the brother and his family, and this is sad, for light is for all of God's children.

DR. L. C. L.

JAMAICA, N. Y.—One evening several years ago one of my dear ones and myself attended a Spiritual Meeting to investigate if we could communicate with our loved ones that have passed out of body. The meeting was held in the private home of a Medium in New York City. The dear one that was with me or myself had never seen the Medium before. The lights were extinguished; we sang the hymn, "Nearer My God to Thee," and in a few moments after we finished singing, I heard a voice calling my name, which I recognized as that of a loved one who had passed out of body only about two years previously. He said, "Mother is here and wants to talk with you."

This beloved mother also mentioned my name and said, "I misjudged you while I was in body. I see things differently now and I hope you will forgive me." This dear sister while in body did things I could not understand, which caused me to be very unhappy. When she passed over the border she saw the wrong done while traveling this earthly plane, then she was sorry and wanted to right the wrong.

The above was my first experience with Spirit communication. It was all the proof I needed to convince me of the truth, that those we call dead are living on. The body is dead; they have left their material cloak here in the earth plane, which goes back to Mother Earth. The spirit or God-part must go back to God who first sent it forth.

I now have had many experiences in talking with the spirit loved ones, that only return for our good. They guide and help us in our daily travel.

MRS. A. R. N.

SPIRITUGRAMS—No. 7

Each sentence is taken from one of the inspired Songs of David. Do you know which ones? See answer in next issue.

1. O give thanks unto the Lord; call upon His name: make known His deeds among the people.
2. We will not hide them from their children, showing to the generation to come the praises of the Lord, and his strength, and his wonderful works that He hath done.
3. My defence is of God, which saveth the upright in heart.
4. For who is God save the Lord? or who is rock save our God?
5. The glory of the Lord shall endure forever: the Lord shall rejoice in His works.
6. 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?
7. The Lord will give strength unto His people; the Lord will bless His people with peace.
8. Offer sacrifices of righteousness, and put your trust in the Lord.
9. Ye that stand in the house of the Lord, in the courts of the house of our God.
10. O give thanks unto the Lord; for He is good; because His mercy endureth forever.

The answer to SPIRITUGRAM No. 6 follows: Psalms 145:17, 104:19, 103:7, 100:3, 113:5, 47:3, 97:11, 2:10, 29:2 and 32:11 respectively.

SCARY THINGS

SOME people think up boggy men to scare us girls and boys, And there are times we quite believe the tales of these kill-joys; Until we talk to mother when she quickly sets us right, As daddy laughingly agrees if he were we he'd fight.

Good gypsies wouldn't even steal and bad ones go to jail, While folks our parents warn against have p'licemen on their trail; So when it comes to goblins, and a lot of scary things, They make me think of Nemo and his dreams that all have wings.

When playing burglar good and hard, or even "cops and bums," I go to sleep all tired out and dream about the guns; It sometimes wakes me with a start, and then I laugh out loud, The things that I have dreamt about have passed just like a cloud.

I know that once upon a time the Indians roamed our land, And that they used to fight and kill most anyone at hand; There also have been cannibals, in far-off distant climes, But all of them belong to what I call the olden times.

My daddy has been far out West, where lots of Indians grow; He says they're mostly good and kind, and daddy ought to know. So now, when Indian chief I play and scalp a playmate's head, I tell him not to be afraid, the bad ones are all dead.

By UNCLE AMOS.

GOOD WILL AND PEACE

Good will to all
Is what I bring to-day;
Peace be on earth
As in the heavens above.
Glory to God in the highest
Is what the spirit loved ones sing.

Let us make it new year every day,
And let sunshine and rain
Find us all alike;
Thankful for all that comes to us,
For such is the Goodness of God.
—W. E.

PLEASE, GOD, GIVE ME LIGHT; HAVE MERCY ON MY SOUL

THE TRUE LIGHT

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EDITORIALS

SPIRIT WRITING

WITH the permission of our contributor we are withdrawing the series of Spirit Writings, of which two installments have already appeared. The remaining copy is full of interesting points regarding life beyond the border, and what our earthly preparation for that everlasting life should be.

The space which was assigned is to be given over to other matter in hand and in the process of collection and assembly. We regret it is necessary to take this step, but feel it will work out for the best advantage of our plans. Any who found this series directly helpful in their understanding of spiritual truths can be comforted that we may decide later on to re-assign our space. Similar points as would have been discussed in these future installments are being given special consideration by different contributors, and so it is we yielded in their favor.

While speaking of the work of our contributors, let us include our thanks for their good efforts. It is appreciated, and although we are unable to accommodate each submission, we sincerely hope that our judgment in selections meets with your approval.

SABBATH DAY

REMEMBER the Sabbath Day, to keep it holy. It is sad that the Sabbath has been commercialized. The holy day set aside by our forefathers on which to contemplate the better things of life is now spent for gain and pleasure. It is customary to do on our Sabbath what we would ordinarily accomplish any other day. Our lives have been trained accordingly and practice makes perfect. Our ancestors were rash in many things, yet they did keep the Sabbath Day holy.

To claim that our complicated lives do not permit giving one day exclusively to our God is another way of violating the Law. The younger generation, encouraged and assisted by the older, speed through life, from sabbath to sabbath, seeking but fleeting pleasure. Humanity with God endowed powers has reached the material heights of achievement at the expense of the spirit. As man has risen materially, providing for himself comforts of life unknown to his grandparents, he has set the spiritual standards on the lowest levels, until at the present point of development he feels no need of strength outside himself and wonders if there is a God. The worldly conditions attracted to temples of worship have found warm welcome and preachers on the Sabbath have brought material themes to the attention of their listeners.

God has been crowded from our sanctuaries, our homes and lives. There is a day of reckoning when the all-seeing eye of God will read the pages of our life-work, and in utter agony of spirit we will call for the mountains to cover us. In that day there will be no opportunity to argue over creed and fancy, nor can we plead ignorance of the Law. Just as there was a period of rest when Divine Mind completed the beauties of Creation, so there should be on the part of humanity a day of absolute rest from toil and struggle, to view our personal creations and commune with the Creator of All. There no longer exists generally the ardent desire to learn of Heaven, hence we do not hear much about Heaven either from preacher or layman. In the days gone by men and women were known to sing about Heaven until they became hoarse, a familiar hymn of praise being, "Meet Me There." It is true that our good brothers and sisters often endeavored to sing their way to Heaven rather than work their way, nevertheless they were interested in the abodes of the blessed.

It is reasonable to conclude that Heaven must be a place, or condition, where

the inhabitants thereof hold Sabbath for eternity. If the inhabitants of the earth plane lack spiritual strength to give one full day to God, they cannot enter Heaven. By the same reasoning, since humanity has been materialistic in all ages, Heaven, the highest point of spiritual accomplishment is not crowded, there is room for all. Let it be added that returning high spirit forces have confirmed this line of reasoning and have advised that the perfected state of existence we call Heaven, or Zion, is quite empty. Reason it out yourselves. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

It makes no difference what day one selects as his Sabbath, but let it be a real holy day of twenty-four full hours. Cast aside all material conditions that could be attended to some other day. Use the holy day to relax from life's routine, to contemplate and to commune with the Father. It is a splendid time to enjoy the wonderful works of God. If we want to meet them there, our loved ones of blood ties and human associations, make a Sabbath what it should be, a holy day to God. We will understand that our Heaven is not limited to those distant shores, but can enjoy while in body the beauties of holiness as our purified thoughts contact the Heavenly spheres. Finally, men and women of earth, you and I, part God encloaked in flesh, as you and I pray to the Supreme Force, "Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven," help bring forth that Heavenly condition to earth, and one positive way is to keep a Heavenly Sabbath. Every day will then take on some of the lustre of our Sabbath.

From Our Contributors TO MY MOTHER

MOTHER, dear, although you have gone
To that beautiful shore on high,
There are loved ones here
Who have memories dear
Of the days that have long passed by;
Days when our joys and our sorrows
Were always confided in you;
Days that were peaceful and happy,
And clouds were silver lined, too.

This world would be a very sad place
If it wasn't for Mothers like you,
Mothers whose splendid courage
Our trials and heartaches shared, too.
From our first tiny, faltering footsteps
Until later, as older we grew,
It was Mother who gave us the comfort
And solace we always knew.
And so as the years glide onward,
And life's trials and hardships we face,
It's the memory of you, dear Mother,
That will help us to win the race.

By IRENE M. KOHLER.

PLEASE, GOD, GIVE ME LIGHT; HAVE MERCY ON MY SOUL

THE DAILY GRIND

DAY BY DAY we go along with our daily labors and our daily pleasures, and when the night comes upon us we are ready to partake of the needful rest and slumber. To some the daily grind is a terrific struggle, but not so for those who will review their thoughts, words and actions with the objective of making the following day's grind less burdening.

Whether we play, or go to school, to business, or remain at home, let us ask ourselves if we pleased those with whom we may have had contact and association. Perhaps we may find that we have not been pleased by the words and actions of others toward us. Whatever it is we should try to analyze impartially and such disappointments that may have come before us and now are understood, then will soon vanish.

Lamenting over that which we fell short of or to find flimsy excuses for our narrow doings will not strengthen us for the next day's grind. Stop fretting over it, for our best welfare is at stake. It would be far better for us to look to those things that will make us more harmonious one with another. Very easily can one cause an injury to body or spirit that will leave its scar.

The daily grind amounts to just what the grinder wills it to be, so decide beforehand and decide well. A simple suggestion follows. Greet all with a pleasant "Good Morning," accompanied by a genuine smile, and the day is off to a good start. Smile throughout the day as if you meant it and not as if it hurt. The one with a sincere smile wins, and let it be for everyone, and when the day is done there should be no regrets for self or for another.

The smile and the greeting multiplies, and its wonderful influence for peace and good will carries into every direction. If you have no objections to the enforcement of peace and good will as the preventative of distressful conditions, we repeat the words of the railroad conductor, "All Aboard." Be bound for "Happyland" every day, and gather as many fellow travelers to get going with you as will make the daily grind just a little bit sweeter than the grinds gone by.

Ask another to do only what you would yourself do, and be sure it is of noble purpose.

COMPLIMENTARY

FROM several different sources we have been told that this publication deserves much credit for the general arrangement and appearance of its illuminating contents. We gratefully acknowledge the compliments.

It is not our endeavor to crowd the pages. We have a simple message to transmit and want that our readers receive every benefit that careful and intelligent reading of all contributions will provide. Each issue and every article must be linked together if the greatest good is to be had.

We urge those who are subscribers to maintain the volume in full for future reference. It is only in the beginning and all possible will be done to make it even more interesting and attractive.

As one will read through the pages, the thought that impresses is that only the best spiritual intentions predominate. It is that TRUTH shall conquer, that RIGHTEOUSNESS shall prevail, and that BROTHERHOOD shall endure. We are not given to criticize any one, but are ready and most willing to debate in brotherly fashion with any one desiring to seek spiritual enlightenment.

To every race, color and creed we give greetings. May you be comforted in reading THE TRUE LIGHT. Encourage the young children in your household to become especially acquainted with THE LAW OF GOD. If you have acquaintances who, like you, are interested in LIGHT, pass on to them the advice as to how they too can obtain our periodical. At any rate, LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE, and stand with us for the good that can be done.

LISTENING AND LOOKING

HAVE you ever stopped to listen
To the knocker at your door?
Do not think it always Jesus,
But your own loved ones,
For they, too, are there.

Do you ever think of a listener
Standing close beside?
Have you ever thought
You had a watcher?
Would you then do what you did?

Do you ever think of tomorrow,
Whether you'll be here or not?
Or are you planning what to do,
Never thinking that
Thy will be done?

Let us hope that you will think
And help to make God's will be done,
On earth as it is in Heaven.

W. E.

IN THE CITY

ON THRU the streets I roamed: I saw the
wrecks
Of life in mirth and joy; I saw, too, dim
Eyed slaves of vice setting their hearts to vex
And woman's taste of man—enriching him.

Thru gloom and sunshine on I strove: I
heard
The cries of mingled voices in the mists;
And in the golden light, as strange, a herd
Moving with noise not going as it lists.

Onward I passed: I felt the lure of cities;
The spur of gain and sin; great sentiments;
Requited service; and the hand that pities;
And love and labor—gleaming monuments.

And on I go: I feel my soul is aching,
But on this path I know the Truth is waking.
By GENE HOMER.

NO EMPTY HONOR, THIS!

THE worldly honor that I crave
No greater can
Be portioned man.
Then may be lettered o'er my grave:
"This Christian soul
Attained his goal."

I want to live in manner so
That folks will see
The good in me;
And, going home, leave death to show
The pathway trod
Led up to God.

AMOS.

OUR GOD ABOVE THE BEST BELIEF

IT IS better to believe in our God above,
Whose will is to help us with His love,
And not of one of beautiful mein
Who'd create, but to destroy again,
Or would cast temptations across our path,
Which, if we partook, would cause His wrath.
As cruelty and injustice we all do abhor,
Why then attribute them to the God we adore?

Why shouldn't we more on Heaven dwell
Than the pessimistic idea of a man-made hell?
For man to cower mankind will adroitly lie,
Of hell and damnation—make them fear to die,
Thereby holding o'er them their unjust sway,
Telling them to obtain Heaven, their price must pay
And fill their coffers from their labors' gain,
On the penalty of eternal suffering and pain.

Then let us believe in a God so good, sublime,
Whom what He creates lets live for all time;
And with kindly love our hearts to fill
Of him, knowing our weakness, loves us still.
And not for a moment must we forget,
He is our Father, God, Creator, yet
Who knows our trials, our sufferings and pain,
Who has helped us before and will help us again.
No matter how deep we are steeped in sin,
He will cleanse us if we appeal to Him,
Just as the father did the prodigal son greet,
Anoint our wounds, clothe us in garments sweet.

By SAMUEL WOODWORTH BRADLEY.

PLEASE, GOD, GIVE ME LIGHT; HAVE MERCY ON MY SOUL

COSMIC VOICES

By Rev. Milicent Hubbard



ALL the gifts God gave to man, there is none that satisfies so many needs as the gift of speech. Hearing is necessary also, but there must be speech for hearing to serve its purpose so far as the transmission of thought by vibration is concerned; for hearing and voice form a juncture or node by which understanding is made possible, and without which the human family never would have reached the present state of commercial, literary, artistic, social, or domestic relations. For everything depends upon transmission of thought, and the most satisfactory method is speech, or vibration of the vocal organs according to an adopted rule, else confusion of individually constructed sounds would result.

And if individuals forming themselves into groups require a set formula of tonal vibrations, is it not rational to believe that node or juncture between Cosmic states of Being is just as necessary to growth and knowledge as it is for the various races that inhabit the earth plane? What chaos would result were there no inlet and no outlet for thought waves. And, again, from whence could we draw inspiration if not from higher intelligences? Is it not required that the teacher be more advanced in knowledge than the pupil? How, then, shall people of one school of many classes, such as the peoples of the earth represent, gain greater knowledge, once the present supply is exhausted?

Perhaps you will answer that science will supply the required knowledge for progress, by experiments, as in times past. But, again I ask you: how and from where does science get the inspiration to follow a certain course of experiment? Do not scientists acknowledge that they are inspired to act along certain lines, and to apply certain methods after the mind is directed to a given need, and when they respond to these mental suggestions they arrive at favorable results. Sometimes a scientist will exclaim, "It was as though a voice spoke to me!" and truly it was the voice of the Cosmos, that great reservoir of Wisdom, which spoke to the consciousness, by vibration, or thought waves, in exactly the same manner as voice vibrations (or voice symbols) are transferred by individual voice vibrations, and when acted upon bring about the same result as the spoken word of the human voice.

And it is this COSMIC VOICE which produces thought vibrations that are heard by persons sensitive enough to receive them, and that sense (by psychic persons) is called clairaudience. All people may hear it, most people do hear it, but it remains for the few to recognize it for what it is. The Cosmic voice is the result of all thought vibrations and vibrations created by spoken words; it consists of every degree of knowledge, and of every quality of reasoning. No, it is not all good, or constructive, any more than all forms of vegetable life may be consumed by the human family as food without disastrous results, nor with greater safety than a child can swallow strong medicine intended for use by the adult, whose system is capable of dispensing it with safety. For have I not said that COSMIC VOICE results from ALL VIBRATIONS OF THOUGHT OR SPOKEN WORDS! Then it must be composed of every degree and quality of thought broadcast by every plane, and all CONSCIOUSNESS.

So, it is all things to all men in reality, and the only safe way to derive benefit from the Universe is to raise our own vibrations to a high standard by right thinking and clean living,

until we respond to the higher and safer vibrations of the COSMOS, when with safety we may listen to the voices of those who broadcast WISDOM in the planes of spirit, where God's teachers, who are post-graduates of the material planes, are permitted, out of the abundance of their knowledge and goodness, to relay to the great Cosmic Family many of the lessons they learned during their progress through the lower material regions, and to direct their energies toward higher and more spiritual thinking, cleaner living, and Godly actions, so that they may grow in grace and loveliness while residents of the earth plane and escape many of the trials of adjustment for the soul in the spirit planes.

In order to rise above the sordid Cosmic influences, one must curb human desires and passions, and learn to turn one's face to the great SUN of SUNS, the controlling and creative force of the Universe—God.

Thus it is that the criminal, who has cultivated his baser passions, is led by that same degree of Cosmic influence to commit sordid crimes against society, if not against individual members of society. It is because alcohol stirs up the passions, creating physical desires beyond the power of mind to counteract, that alcohol is such a menace to the human family. Now, it is well known that alcohol unseats reason, so why do men and women, knowing it to be a fact, fight to reinstate so dangerous a foe to society, and especially persons who themselves do not use it? Why, the answer is very simple; they allow their minds to be impregnated by the lower Cosmic thought vibrations, and reason accordingly, believing that they fight for personal and domestic liberty. Never was such a travesty of TRUTH foisted upon society as the usual interpretation by the ordinary writer or teacher, as that man's liberty depends upon prostitution of humanity and encouragement of baseness.

Humanity's rescue lies in a study of the Life Principle taught by Jesus, who exemplified it daily, and brief though the record of his activities is, yet there is enough to establish a basis of BEING what God meant us to be, instead of hysterically crying for the fires which burn us and the falsehoods that deceive us, as the child who awakens from the belief in Santa Claus refuses to enjoy the Christmas gifts thereafter, believing itself to have been cheated by the fairytales of Santa, and the knowledge that they were deceived by the parents robs all future Christmas gifts of the glamor of illusion and debases them to a mere commercial value. We should learn that in self-government alone lies the road to liberty, and travel the highway made safe by pure thoughts and clean living.

Then, and only then, may we with safety tune in on the Cosmic Radio, and listen to the voice of Wisdom which speaks from afar.

COME, LIGHT

COME Light and clear my dark and weary pains;
Come, for the dangers grow for me before;
The sins of man withhold; I feel the chains
Of evil, but the Light I must restore.

Come Light and touch the mountains and the plains;
Come, for this earth of beauty, love and more
Creates through Light (yet darkness not disdains),
And see how nature and the world implore.

Come Light and flow on sweetest, loyal gains;
Come, for the wise need ripeness to the core.
The bowels of life-blood whereby man complains
Take strength through Light, through Its infinite store.

Come Light and lead me on, distressed and sore;
Come, for I feel You growing in my veins.

By GENE HOMER.

PLEASE, GOD, GIVE ME LIGHT; HAVE MERCY ON MY SOUL

THE FLOWERS

The glory of the Lord shall endure forever: The Lord shall rejoice in His works. Psalm 104:31.

Plants are classified according to their duration and character into herbs, shrubs and trees. The annual herbs grow from the seed, blossom and die all in the same season. In this climate they generally spring from the seed in spring and die in the autumn or sooner if they have done blossoming and have ripened their seeds. The mustard and the common morning glory are familiar annuals. Plants of this kind have fibrous roots intended only for absorbing.

There are many individuals traveling this earth-plane who become desirous of reaching out. They put forth their best efforts for a while to tread the upward and onward path that would lead to a high destination in the realms beyond. They flourish for a season with good works, but after a while, becoming weary of the struggle, the steadfast purpose wavers and dies, and the guiding light of the goal ahead becomes dimmed by the glittering allurements of the material attractions that soon batter down the weak defenses of the flesh. The spirit is neglected and in sadness cries out against the conditions that arrested its growth and advancement. Then the individual in his ignorance oftentimes blames the Creator for the evil consequences of the conditions he has attracted and courted and caused to fall upon himself.

Biennial herbs do not blossom at all the first season, but live over the winter, flower the second year, and then die when they have ripened their seeds. The celandine, turnip, carrot, parsnip, beet and radish are familiar examples. It is interesting to note the mode of life in biennials. The first season they prepare and store up nourishment which they expend the next season in flowering and fruiting. So for the first year biennials are nearly all roots and leaves. Being a storehouse of nourishing matter, the root becomes large and heavy and serves to feed the plant so that it is enabled to bear flowers and seeds. Having accomplished its purpose, the root becomes light, empty and dead, as does the whole plant by the time the seeds are ripe.

During the brief season of our journey here it behooves us to exercise as much wisdom and foresight concerning spiritual things as we are wont to display in adjusting material conditions. As we zealously labor to promote our material advancement by hoarding up possessions, which, however attractive, must remain here when the spirit departs, so let us as diligently make preparation for our spiritual welfare in the realms. To this end we must expend our energy toward growing in righteousness, truthfulness and brotherly love so that we will store up for ourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through and steal. Then the fruitage of our life's labor will await our passing over, and our spirits will reach out in happiness to continue our onward journey in Spirit Land.

Perennials, like shrubs and trees, live on year after year. Of the many herbs that are perennial only a portion generally survives. Parts of the stem containing buds are always kept alive to renew the growth for the next season, and a stock of nourishment is also provided for new growth. Sometimes this stock of nourishment is laid up in the roots, as in the peony and dahlia, other times in particular portions of branches of the stem itself, as in the potato. The accumulation may also be in whole stems or branches under ground, while in some plants the leaves, or the lower end of the leaves, as the lily, hold the food.

All these plants teach us a lesson that persistent effort and labor must be expended to secure results, small and great. Provident preparation and attention to the little things brings the development of the bigger and grander conditions. If we are concerned only in keeping man's law to the neglected observance of the Laws of God, our lack of effort in this direction will show in the impoverished development of the spirit, which on reaching the far-off shore would fain cover up its uncomeliness and hide itself from view. While on earth it may have been enclined in a beautiful temple of clay that it was pleased and proud to look upon, until death resigned it to mother earth. A beautiful spirit instead of a starved out, uncomely one might have emerged from this temple. The spirit fully disrobed of its earthly garb and all the falsity enveloping it, cries out and laments, as it understands that it is reaping what it had sown.

A. M. W.

OBSERVATIONS

By Members of the Staff

HIGH SHOES

STROLLING along the byways one can hardly find any of the fair sex with high top shoes. When we do see any, most generally we find that they are worn by ones who can very properly be considered from every appearance and indication as having good, common sense.

Now the Observer appreciates style, but it is difficult to reconcile a fur-clad body and a nearly naked ankle as consistent when it comes to proper clothing or covering.

It is our humble suggestion to the shoe designers that they create an upper fur in the absence of upper calf—not so much that it would mean a new source of income, but that it would be much more comfortable for milady.

THE WEATHER

MOST people are still talking about the unusual and unseasonal weather. Some comments are that it is so in every land all over the world. Others comment that since everything seems to be topsy-turvy, why not the weather also. Again, there are those who have said it is merely the signs in the heavens spoken of by the prophets, and not to be surprised at what might come overnight.

When we read about tidal waves, hurricanes, floods, heavy rains, extreme heat and cold days, and many disasters that are laid to the elements, it makes us think. Time apparently has come when actually we do just that—THINK.

These are troublesome times throughout this good world upon which we exist. Here today and gone tomorrow seems to be the rule over which man can have no dictation. What a blessing to them that know how to enjoy the sunshine of a loving conscience.

THE LAW

IT WAS observed that a Methodist preacher on Long Island, having received a copy of The True Light, cut out the Law from the inside front cover and pinned it on the wall of the Sunday School room. There is no excuse for Christian churches that profess to follow one who loved the Law to be so indifferent to it as to make it secondary to less important things. It is hoped that clergymen of all faiths will give the Law, which is divine love, its proper place, the universal seat of authority, as spiritual forces of wisdom do in spirit land.

PLEASE, GOD, GIVE ME LIGHT; HAVE MERCY ON MY SOUL

WHO KNOWS?

By John L. McCullough

DO THE welcoming friends, who have passed on, gather around the death-bed of dying people?

Hard headed, cold hearted persons claim they don't. On the other hand—dying people, clairvoyants, spiritualists, claim they often do.

Two great churches, Roman Catholic and Protestant, agree that Spiritualism leads to madness and loss of real faith. Fortunately, nowadays neither one of them has power to stay the scientist and independent seeker of the truth.

There have been many fraudulent mediums exposed in the past; many more will be exposed in the future. Many preachers and priests have fallen from grace; many more will be shown up in the future. We do not admit their religions are a failure. Why knock the Spiritualist? Spiritualism emphasizes the fact of human survival. Deep down in everyone's heart is the desire for human survival.

If you had been told a few years ago that machines weighing thousands of pounds would some day sail through the air, or you would be able to hear an orchestra playing in New York while you were in London, what would you have said? You would have said, "Impossible!" Today they are realities. Why, then, deny that spirit communication is impossible? For all we know; it may be just around the corner!

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

An opportunity is offered to all our readers to send any question of spiritual nature they desire answered. Question should be written on one side of paper and in ink, and must be signed by the enquirer with address.

REPORT, N. Y.—Do you recommend praying for the "dead"?—MRS. K. F. G.

No. They should pray for themselves same as we should pray for our own very selves. Who can say what another's prayers mean, more especially if the one for whom prayer is offered neither knows what it is about or perhaps even cares? Much rather we urge that kind thoughts be sent out to the one who has gone on before. Remember, there are no dead, and these very ones who are over the border may be far better able to give us help than that we can help them.

HASBROUCK HEIGHTS, N. J.—I notice you invariably use the word God in preference to the word Lord. The Psalmist used the word Lord, and I understand the danger of misconstruing Lord to mean Jesus. This is important, in my estimation, and would like to have your comments.—MR. A. H.

In mind there is absolutely no distinction between Lord and God, both being one and the same, even as with David. The danger is in how the reader or listener may construe it. Avoid all doubt and say God if you mean God and say Jesus if you mean Jesus. The writer has very often listened to one of our most noted clergymen say "Our Lord," and is just as often perplexed as to whom he really does mean.

NEW YORK CITY, N. Y.—We have been invited to comment for a brother regarding a lengthy dissertation on Saints or Spirits. Our attention was directed particularly to the use in the Christian churches of Saints.

Respectfully we confess we know not what a saint is or how and why so created, nor even by what authority here or hereafter. To speak of a saint is to connect with an earthly travel whereas in speaking of a spirit is to disconnect from earthly conditions and connect with spiritual environs. There

is considerably more reference to spirits and things spiritual than to saints and saintly doings. The angels have even less reference.

The Christian churches do not forbid their members from calling on the saints. There are none without fault, whether sinned in one way or another, and calling to the saints or to Jesus (who is not called a saint) is breaking a Command. We are not attempting to qualify what earthly hands have made or earthly sense brought, but we do urge all to call to the Supreme Spirit, God, mightier than subordinate spirits or man. If our enquirer will ask specific questions we will with the aid of our contacts give less general answers. We appreciate your interest.

PSYCHIC DEVELOPMENT

By Rev. Milicent Hubbard

PREFACE TO LESSONS

TO FULLY understand the purpose of the lessons in PSYCHIC DEVELOPMENT, a limited explanation is necessary. No one should attempt to develop unacknowledged consciousness until they are prepared to make whatever sacrifice is necessary for a full and complete unfoldment of the latent possibilities within themselves. And never should a person attempt to investigate the psychic realms, trusting to chance, for the dangers are very real and may retard spiritual growth instead of advancing one who seeks TRUTH.

THOSE who would investigate psychic phenomenon as a pastime would do much better to leave it alone rather than invite the elemental force, which is glad to manifest their presence and power. But if the student seeks to contact the intelligent spiritual entities, then he can follow these instructions with safety.

LESSON 1.

Choose a room where you will be insured against interruption, and arrange to have a dark blue light in one corner of the room. Place the light so that three-fourths of the room is in darkness. Be seated in a chair, not too tall nor too short, with a straight back. Sit erect, feet squarely upon the floor and hands resting comfortably in lap, palms turned so they may be made a point of contact. Empty the mind of all material things. Repeat this short prayer:

"Father of LIGHT and TRUTH and LOVE, I surrender myself for instructions to your representatives; those teachers from the spirit planes whom you have appointed to teach humanity the lessons of life. May I be receptive to their instructions, intuitively, clairvoyantly, and clairaudiently; thus becoming what you would have me, a psychic."

If possible, sing a verse or two of some hymn, for the rhythm of hymns is better than secular songs and provides a better mental attitude for the sitter. Arrange for about thirty to forty minutes for the sitting. Be sure to register each sensation, vision, or thought, as each registration encourages the spirit teachers. Close by repeating:

"I thank you, friends and teachers, for your patient, loving help, and I will do my best to be worthy of your attentions. Good night, and may God bless you and your mission."

Set aside a certain hour once or twice each week, and let nothing interfere with the regularity of the time, and be sure to be prompt to the minute for the beginning of each evening's lesson.

Face away from the light and toward the dark side of the room. Open and close as directed for the entire series of lessons.

PLEASE, GOD, GIVE ME LIGHT; HAVE MERCY ON MY SOUL

tered the doorway of the mind and man overestimated the material values of earthly life, including his earthly body, the temporary home of the soul. Fear manifested itself in story, song and praise, as superstitious periods produced superstitious beliefs. In the feeble light of the times, humanity drawn to the depths of its own choosing, built its edifice, or what we call civilization, in the mire of despair. Where men had previously developed to lofty standards of spirituality, drawing unto themselves wisdom that brought confidence, they now became the slaves of fear. Humanity no longer claimed and exercised its divinity and the previous age of knowledge which should have been a blessing to posterity proved to be a handicap. As men did not understand life and the physical termination called death, it was taken for granted that physical death ended all knowledge, and the portals of eternity were believed to be closed to mortals. It was at this period that dogma had its birth. Later on we find the period when dogma reigned supreme, each passing year producing followers of established beliefs. It was considered profane to reason beyond the narrow limits of established dogma and faith, rather than knowledge, became the foundation stone of spiritual building. Embarrassing questions of life that could not be answered in the light of faith were dismissed without answer, or at best were answered by warped minds in fear and trembling. The few crumbs of spiritual knowledge that were reluctantly fed to the hungry sheep of the fold did not satisfy, and slowly, but surely, the hungry sheep sought new pastures for spiritual food. It is true that many became indifferent to spiritual things, and the age of doubt was born. We are living in the age of doubt, as any well-informed clergyman will attest.

It is now impossible to compel man to be pious through his fears, for, having found his divinity, the tenets of dogma no longer bind him to mere beliefs. Hence there is doubt and will be doubt, until truth, that each child of God is entitled to know, has become the spiritual possession of all. To many this appears as the greatest calamity of life, and strong effort is being made to induce men to look back to the customs of the past. It is obvious that this is impossible, for one having tasted the sweet joy of religious freedom holds no desire to return to the cramped quarters of dogmatic beliefs; no more than the full grown bird has a desire to surrender the freedom of the air to return to the nest of its parents. The age of doubt with all its serious consequences will in the end prove a blessing in disguise, for out of it will come order, which always follows disorder. The confused mind of today will become the poised mind of tomorrow, just as truly as the darkness of night will be followed by the brightness of day.

As dogma looks to the setting sun and watches the creeping shadows herald its dying age, it gathers its brood of varied sects beneath its trembling wing and doubts. Having sown fear it now reaps fear, and, having brought forth children of doubt, it finds doubt has taken hold with a strong grip. The slimy hand of doubt is feeling its way into sacred places and traditions, and who can stay its hand? The sanctity of the home is at stake as men doubt the value of life's richest blessings. The doubtful attitude of our youth, upon whom rests the progress of our civilization, shows a picture of the times. The thought may register in some minds that the picture is too gloomy, but the majority who will analyze will also agree.

If doubt is cast upon our present mythology as well as the mythology of the men of old, it behooves the children of men to reach out for evidence that will satisfy and thus remove doubt. A saving way was shown humanity some nineteen hundred and twenty-seven years ago, when the Master Teacher

trod our earth plane, showing no doubt or the fear of men's opinions, and who did not value the physical body as highly as countless so-called followers of His do today. No one questions that the Nazarene possessed wisdom, but many question that the wisdom he displayed is accessible to any other child of God; yet the Nazarene said it could be, and few today believe it. Here briefly is the balm for saddened hearts, disappointed lives and minds filled with doubt. The Elder Brother reached the heights of wisdom and in love pointed out the way of life, that straight and narrow path of spiritual rectitude. Follow it.

As the shades of doubt cover our earth plane and confusion of thought prevails, let us take courage in the knowledge that we are divine; as part God mould our characters in the light of truth. To the skeptic and luke-warm without poise and power (perhaps not altogether the fault of yourselves), do not feel that humanity has been lost, about to be engulfed. To the seeker of truth, looking up and beyond the opinions of men, you positively know that the Great Light is shining in all of its glory and will penetrate the gloom. The truth-seeker is like unto a wet blanket to the pessimistic doubter, and the doubter feels uncomfortable in his presence. The seeker taps the higher sources for his inspirations that bring knowledge, while the fundamentalist ripening into the doubter claims there is no further knowledge beyond what he at present believes.

As the purifying fires of life will have burned out the doubts of human hearts, men will progress, because they will seek. Our present age is but the door to knowledge. Humanity is demanding to know and raises doubt because it does not know. In the deep recesses of his better self, man is yearning for truth. He is no longer the infant in swaddling clothes, but has been growing for centuries. In his present adult age he does not want to be considered a child, and it would be foolish to expect him to try it. Let us look at the facts and not deceive ourselves, especially those who are trying to teach men how to live. As man has risen to material heights due to the spark of God within, why should that same spark remain fixed and immovable, fettered to tradition and unable to rise spiritually as the Supreme Force, God, had intended? Why should the more important side of life, the spiritual, take a back seat, so to speak, to further the interest of the material? There is no good reason for it, but due to the teachings of our ancestors, who, with all respect for them, were unable to provide the comforts such as we enjoy, did not hesitate to provide complicated dogmatic systems that did not permit of spiritual growth. However, the full grown man is reaching out as the God-part within asserts its growing strength. This condition is to be rejoiced over rather than regretted, for the spirit in man, that immortal part that never, never dies, is climbing the steep hills of spiritual progress to trace the lost image of the Father on high.

The developing spirit presses on, knowing the way to go. It has found that sweet communion with the Father brings peace that the world does not understand. It is trying to regain some of its lost estate, that Heavenly home of abundance for the pure in heart and the joys of the blessed it now longs for after feeding on the spiritual husks of men. The contrite spirit sees its mistakes, acknowledges them to the Father and is willing to make restitution for them. The Father hears the cry from afar off, and sends forth the illuminating light to guide the wayward home. If there is joy in Heaven over one sinner that repenteth, there is more joy in Heaven as that sinner remains firm in his repentance and offers to make good his shortcomings. Otherwise, where is the genuineness of the sinner's repentance?

T. R. W.

PLEASE, GOD, GIVE ME LIGHT; HAVE MERCY ON MY SOUL

While many of us making our journey do place varying constructions upon the truth about life or spirit, and upon the meaning of man, let us proceed from the point beginning with God and not beginning with man. God created life and it is everlasting and indestructible. When first sent forth, it was with purity, wisdom and power, and these conditions are ever present despite the outer or surrounding conditions.

Every spark of life that was first sent forth in Love was alike, and the Supreme Force, God, sent not one that was an iota different.

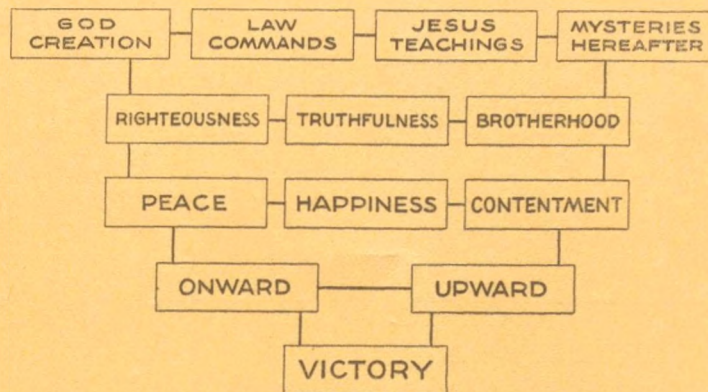


CHART OF SPIRITUALITY FOR TRUTHSEEKERS

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He can depend on none save God and that which is within. Taking comfort from the teachings of the Nazarene, He who was an example for all mankind to emulate, man of himself is as nothing —It is the God-part within.

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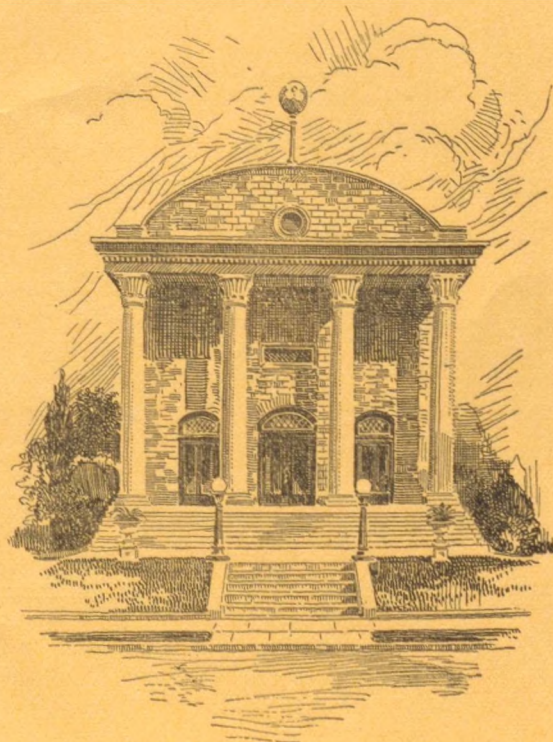
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PLEASE, GOD, GIVE ME LIGHT; HAVE MERCY ON MY SOUL

The True Light

A MAGAZINE FOR SPIRITUAL UPLIFTMENT



HIS PUBLICATION is devoted to truth and stands in defense of God and His laws. We welcome all truth-seekers and want the army of truth-finders to grow into a real brotherhood of man.

The organization that comes forth with this periodical does so not for name nor for material gain. The great struggle to overcome doubt and fear requires the generous support of all who will join hands with us.

We quote below some of the statements which have appeared in our previous editorial department:

"We do not believe in capital punishment. The law of God commands us not to take another's life."

"The Board of Editors stands for TRUTH and RIGHTEOUSNESS and in BROTHERHOOD. They pledge themselves individually to try and give of their very best efforts."

"Communication with those spirit loved ones who have given up their earthly bodies is an established fact."

"You cannot destroy life. It lives on forever. Life or spirit is eternal."

"The high and the lowly, the strong and the weak, white or colored, believer and non-believer, all need the service and gospel of Him who sent us forth."

"God is love, and most certainly is not to be feared."

"There is always good within us, and it is good our loved ones inspire us to bring out that goodness."

As we continue with each succeeding issue, our every endeavor will be to come openly with those convictions that will make for more happier and harmonious relationships between race, religion and revelation. We are in sympathy with those organizations and individuals whose aims are for a higher life hereafter. Their co-operation and correspondence is invited.

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