

THE ORDER OF THE ESSENES

212 SOUTH MANHATTAN BLVD.
OR P. O. BOX 10427
TAMPA 9, FLORIDA

DEPARTMENT OF INSTRUCTION

KNOW YE THE PATHS TO GLORY!

"It is true that we can never actually define God, since we humans are strictly limited and our language is always inexact, and we shall always have to use metaphor and analogy in order to interpret Divine reality. What many people do not understand is that our scientific description of the universe is just as metaphorical as the religious description."

Men thought that they were being very exact and scientific when they called the world a great machine. Is that not an analogy, a metaphor?

Whenever we speak of reality as a machine or purely material we are reading something into the world. Why should we continue to interpret the universe in terms of the lowest that we know rather than in terms of the highest that we experience?

Intelligence, purpose, and personality, the will to live, the need to love, the yearning to be related - these are just as important clues to reality as atoms and electrons.

It sometimes seems to me that our habit of looking at the universe in terms of matter rather than in terms of purpose and of conscience is a reflection of our inferiority complex - as though we humans were not worthy to be regarded as mirrors of the Divine.

Perhaps this is part of that spiritual self-depreciation which is always fashionable in certain theological circles. There is no logical reason, however, why we should explain reality always by reducing the complex to the simple. Why exalt the atom as the clue to truth and ignore the mind of man?

Why should we not believe that that which is highest in ourselves is a reflection of that which is deepest in the universe - that we are children of a power who makes possible the growing achievement of relatedness, fulfillment, goodness? - - - "God," as Hocking insists, "is not the healing fiction but the Healing Fact, and we come upon Him at work in the majesty of nature and the fruitfulness of mind, in the laws of atoms and the goals of men." This by Joshua Loth Liebman in "Peace of Mind."

This is but one of many voices being raised calling for the achievement of psychological maturity in relation to God. Dr. Harry Emerson Fosdick, who preaches under the Baptist banner, recently in a magazine of worldwide circulation said, in effect, "Do not teach children of a God in a far off heaven. They will soon study astronomy and brand such teachings as a deception."

Instruction 114 sent you herewith has been a source of inspiration to many. May it be so to you. Follow through on the suggestions and you must come to know that the highest in man is the deepest in the universe, and this is the path to Glory.

Very sincerely yours,

S. Hamur Davis

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INSTRUCTION 114

Assuring to the Acceptable and Accepted
HEALTH, HAPPINESS AND SUCCESS.

IF YOU WOULD ARRIVE AT TRUTH, YOUR THINKING MUST
RISE INTO THE SPHERE WHERE FEAR, WORRY, HOSTILITY AND
PESSIMISM DO NOT REIGN.

BE NOT TOO CONCERNED WITH WORLD PROBLEMS. OTHERS
HAVE SOUGHT THE JOB OF HANDLING THEM - LEAVE THE TASK
TO THEM. THEY MAY FAIL, BUT EACH FAILURE CONTAINS
WITHIN IT A CLUE TO THE RIGHT SOLUTION, AND THE
WORLD'S HISTORY IS A HISTORY OF PROGRESS.

THE WORLD AND EVERY ATOM OF IT

IS SET TO CONFORM

TO THE IMPULSES OF THOUGHT

Straighten out your thinking and you will straighten out your life. Strange though it may seem, you tell that to someone in difficulty and there is a flare of resentment. Quote the Bible, "As a man thinketh, so is he" - and you get acceptance, but it is generally passive. -- The reason! People resent being told that their thinking is not "straight."

This should not be. Thinking isn't a natural function; it is acquired. And strange though it may sound, it is a habit which is rare and difficult. In thinking there is a weighing and balancing of ideas - the use of logic - drawing correct conclusions from a given set of facts - the elimination of emotions and desires - and a fine sense of fairness.

You may say: "If I am not thinking every day, what am I doing? I think I think."

You do react to your environment and early training. You are extremely susceptible to suggestion. You read the papers, you hear addresses, you have preferences born of prejudice. You react to your emotions. You have feelings, based upon your acceptance of conclusions reached by others. Perhaps it is a carry over from childhood. No one contends that a baby engages in thinking, yet it quickly learns fear - it has its likes and dislikes - it quickly learns certain desires, easily acquires the spirit of jealousy.

That is feeling -- not thinking. In the matter of religion we early learn that we must not question "The word of God" - and those without education can mount a platform called a pulpit and preach sermons which are abhorrent to all reason and say it is "the word of God."

Countless ministers say that anything in the Bible is the "word of God" - without knowing the authorship of the Book or passage - and passive people accept their interpretation and think of God in terms of personality. Personality always has limitations. But Universal Intelligence acting in accordance with law and principle has no limitation; otherwise it could not be universal.

We often hear of omnipotence - meaning unlimited power or all powerful. We know that all power as we commonly accept the term "power" is but a conversion of power that already exists. In other words, we concede a universal power which is understandable - and we have gone a long way to make it available in a material way. Power from falling water - power from coal or fuel oils - electrical power - atomic power.

If God is omnipotent, omniscient and omnipresent -- all powerful -- all knowing - and universal, that existence is co-existent with the universal power as we know it. It must be within us. There must be a unity or a one in all and an all in oneness - and the one must effect the all and the all must effect the one.

What therefore is so strange about the individual claiming divinity? -- Thus thinking - real thinking establishes man's divine source and what is more his continuous connection therewith. The great art is to claim it, utilize it - and demonstrate the truth thereof.

People in the religious world very often have a secret sense of shame at their disbelief or non-belief of much that is taught as Gospel. With Carlyle we would proclaim: "The great unbelief is unbelief in one's own self."

Engines, motors and humans alike require power to make them go. To realize that there is but one source of power is fundamental. Then comes the question: "What sets off or starts the power flow?"

In humans we know that action follows and can only follow thought. This thought may come from an outside stimulus - or suggestion, or it may stem from an incentive or an idea or ideal or an objective - (Note - vision is always outcropping as an element in good human engineering).

Thinking or mind action is an impulse or power. It effects changes in the human system and in human relationships. It is the basis of accomplishment in all the arts, trades, professions, and sciences. In industry, commerce, economics, religion and human engineering, it is the light that guides.

How can it do these things unless it has a medium in which to flow? It must have its instruments of expression. All power manifests through some medium. The medium determines how it shall express.

The atom is the one thing common to all - and of which all things are composed; the molecules and elements are built therefrom. They became what they are by combination in certain form or ordered arrangement --- we repeat --- ordered arrangement. And that implies and must imply mental action.

The power - all power - is so great that immediate destruction or disintegration of the whole to its original atoms would take place were not the action harmonious and integrated. - In other words, guided according to laws and principles. Again we note - laws and principles are rules of action determining how things work -- and note again, this must imply a "guiding hand" or mental action. And thus we reason - there is and must be a universal mind or omniscience.

Some there are in the field of metaphysics, not thinking too deeply, or given to stretching symbolism to its limit, who speak of laws "doing this or doing that" - "God laws" - doing things.

Laws human and divine of themselves do nothing. They are but rules of action. To be a law abiding citizen one must obey the laws. To be a law abiding citizen of the Universe, one must observe the Universal laws.

Straighten out your thinking and you will straighten out your life is not meant to antagonize. It is meant to impress you with the all importance of thinking - for you are concerned with your interests and rightly so.

Much - possibly too much - has been written and spoken of "Inferiority Complex" until its very mention causes people to believe their sanity is questioned.

But let us stop for a moment. - The ruling power of the Universe is thought. It effects you - and we must ever know that the whole is acting in accordance with laws - and we must test our thinking to determine it is not in violation of the Known laws.

Our thinking must therefore be of a superior type. Inferior thinking cannot get you anywhere and is very likely to be a barrier to accomplishment. Let us once and for all have an understanding of "inferiority complex" and bring it down from generalities to understandable and recognizable human behavior - and to that end let us take it apart and examine the parts.

"Complex" in just plain every day English means a group of ideas associated with excessive and unreasonable emotion. Excessive emotion, pretty generally, stems from reacting badly to a situation, such as engaging in self pity, resentment, or self protection in an anti-social way.

In a matter of sixty-five years experience in meeting and dealing with people we know of no exception to the rule that the really great and the truly successful have been simple and natural and sincere - and of these individuals there was not one who was not more or less inferior in certain ways. But not one of them was upset by the freely admitted fact - but rather they gloried in the superiority of those they knew who excelled in the ways in which they themselves were lacking.

Perhaps the best way to view the inferiority complexes is to note what people do, which gives the indication - and if perchance you find yourself reacting to a situation in that way, then a little self examination will reveal to you the reason of your inferiority complex - and this once discovered and rationalized and examined - and you are cured! It is just that simple.

Pretending to be what you are not suggests a little shame in being what you are. This shame is the heart of complexes.

"Fool not thyself" is a rather sound commandment and a fit companion to it is: - "When thou departest from the way of truth and sincerity, be thou not too certain that thou hast fooled others."

Happiness is but a by-product of successful living. The aim therefore should be successful living - and man has ever and will ever live in accord with his thinking.

If you feel that you are inferior or a failure - just say to yourself: "That is the past - the record book is closed. I cannot change it. Every person who ever lived failed in many things. I have added to my store of experience. Today and the future are all important. I can and will be and do better. I admit this failure and that removes it from the category of a repression. - It cannot haunt and overshadow my future."

The opposite of this reaction is to give excuses - put the blame upon others, to feel shame and humiliation - hide it and build up the belief that you have been mistreated, misunderstood, unfairly dealt with and that the social organization is at fault.

This is the build-up of a complex and the reactions are self-pity, resentment, hostility and poor relationship with others. It removes one from ever having the team spirit - and his concern centers about himself - and thus is smothered an interest in others - the very soul of successful living.

A commandment worth while may be here appropriately inserted: "In the solution of thy problems, student of Life, choose the sane way, face and endure them and seek ye real solutions and not escapes."

A few "Bewares" may give a hint of bad reactions to feelings of inferiority. -- Beware of thinking of others in terms of rivals. Beware of the feeling of envy of those who may be more fortunate and avoid the feeling that they are better or superior to you, thus lowering your estimate of yourself. Be self reliant; this is the very foundation of character building.

Beware of being snobbish or high-hat toward others. It may be that this is a compensation (a poor one) to help your feeling of superiority. That is just putting emphasis upon the wrong note in a life symphony. Beware of trying to impress people. If you pretend superiority you are about to enter a vicious circle. A fear of being found out will smolder in the subconscious - and the fear of inferiority lingers on. Beware of criticizing others. Fault-finding and being over critical is not the true road to superiority - and it is a poor excuse for a feeling of superiority.

At the heart of every complex is an idea - a thought. It has to do with inferiority and superiority and the thinker is in the middle of it. Thinking in terms of "Big shot" - with distinct tinges of selfishness - and tainted with jealousy - reveals a complex.

It is definite and certain that Inferiority complex is a curable malady. The heart of the cure lies in an improved attitude toward life and toward others.

Find the idea at the heart of the complex. -- It started in most cases with criticism or some ill considered suggestion. -- It was an idea accepted without real thinking and censorship, an idea that influenced without the exercise of the critical faculties -- and very likely was made by some person more interested in superiority and inferiority than in doing a good job. And the very source of it is likely to have been one with a complex. In this sense it was "catching."

It may be that there are those studying with us who are cursed with an inferiority complex - but we give you the assurance that there is not one who has advanced this far in this course who is inferior.

The really inferior persons of this earth never strive for self-improvement.

Therefore Know Ye that ye are a superior person. This we know -- This is sincere and not meant to flatter. Accept it! Think not in terms of inferiority or superiority. You have talents or abilities or qualities possessed by no other person on earth. In that you are superior. Think ye in terms of doing a good job -- in terms of meeting difficulties face to face - being a good sport - a good loser and a gracious winner; in terms of being a friendly person - being yourself - simple - sincere - earnest - trustworthy. Making mistakes - Yes. - The successful only have to be 51% right to win life's battles. The 49% errors are the experiences that make the 51% possible.

Do not be thinking about what others think about you. Self approval is the all important thing.

And what has this to do with - Health - Happiness and Success?

As to health, Medical Science is of record that regardless of what your illness turns out to be, the chances are 4 to 1 it started as a result of emotional upset! Take things less personally and in a more detached and objective way and you avoid emotional upsets.

"He makes me sick" - "He makes me tired" - "He is a pain in the neck to me" ---- No! No other can "make you sick" or "make you tired" or "give you a pain" -- You do that to yourself. It is how you react emotionally. Your mental reaction - your suggestibility - your acceptance does the trick.

We complete a circuit - and still it stands as true. -- "Straighten out your thinking and you will straighten out your life."

It's scientific. It's exact. It's certain your thinking effects you, others, and the course of events. Think in terms of contributing to the whole. Do today's job as a master craftsman - thinking not in terms of reward but in terms of self satisfaction, and rewards will be a consequence.

Think not evil of a fellowman. Remember that he is a result of his environment and of his thought processes, influenced by all he has met -- and he travels toward his own rewards. If his ways are evil - the sequences will be in just proportion - and we should feel a sympathy and a sorrow for one who knows not the paths to Glory.

As to success - It is compounded of many things. - Health - the result of right living and right thinking. - Happiness - accords with the flavor of your mental acceptance of all that transpires - and with the direction in which you point your mental antennae. Material well being -- This too is in accord with your contribution to the well being of all. No effort is ever lost. You are a part of the Universal - and the universal takes care of its own. Persistence has its rewards, and faith performs seeming miracles.

Expect and anticipate the good. That is faith - and a manner of thinking - and the world and every atom of it is set to conform to the impulses of Thought!

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