

THE ORDER OF THE ESSENES

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

DEPARTMENT OF INSTRUCTION

Dear Friends:

Greetings and blessings to you all! May this lesson satisfy that inner longing and open the way to the very opulence of God, as you think it over and practise the suggestions it contains.

I am reminded of the line in the Song - "America the Beautiful" which says "God shed his grace on thee", and hope you will join with us in blessing our country, that wisdom may be made known to all leaders and to those who represent us at various conferences.

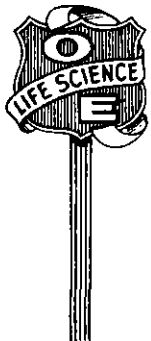
Democracy itself, for which we stand, is a product of religious ethics, having its beginnings in our ancient ancestry of spiritual Israel. Democracy has its reverence for the individual conscience, so in practising our lessons let us be sure we are establishing something permanent for all of us and include the whole world in our realization. In turn we receive that which we give, "I am free and I give freedom to all alike." The last gem in this lesson reminds us that "he who works for eternity, counts not time."

Sincerely,

THE ORDER OF THE ESSENES

J. Hammer Daus

Ins. 127



THE Essenes

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INSTRUCTION 127

Assuring to the acceptable and accepted
HEALTH, HAPPINESS AND SUCCESS.

"THE TIME THAT MY JOURNEY TAKES IS LONG
AND THE WAY OF IT LONG.

I CAME OUT ON THE CHARIOT OF THE FIRST GLEAM
OF LIGHT, AND PURSUED BY VOYAGE THRU' THE WILDER-
NESSES OF WORLDS LEAVING MY TRACK ON MANY A STAR
AND PLANET. IT IS THE MOST DISTANT COURSE THAT
COMES NEAREST TO THYSELF, AND THAT TRAINING IS THE
MOST INTRICATE WHICH LEADS TO THE UTTER SIMPLICITY
OF A TUNE.

THE TRAVELLER HAS TO KNOCK AT EVERY ALIEN DOOR
TO COME TO HIS OWN, AND ONE HAS TO WANDER THROUGH
ALL THE OUTER WORLDS TO REACH THE INNERMOST SHRINE
AT THE END. MY EYES STRAYED FAR AND WIDE BEFORE I
SHUT THEM AND SAID, "HERE ART THOU!" THE QUESTION
AND THE CRY "OH WHERE?" MELT INTO TEARS OF A THOU-
SAND STREAMS AND DELUGE THE WORLD WITH THE FLOOD OF
THE ASSURANCE "I AM"!

Rabindranath Tagore

THE LIFE OF GRACE AND TRUTH

As students of the Way of Life Science, we have talked, read and studied what we call Truth. The Truth sets us free, but it frees us through a quality known as grace. The word grace comes from the Latin, gratia, meaning kindness, mercy, an essential part or quality of Truth.

Relative Truth deals with the connection of two or more things, but the Absolute Truth is that which is perfect in itself. Relative Truth keeps one in bondage, but discrimination is a distinctive quality of humanity which enables man, through the balancing of pairs of opposites, to become established in the consciousness of his oneness with God.

"And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us full of grace and truth. And of His fullness have all we received and grace for grace. For the law was given by Moses, but grace and Truth came by Jesus Christ." Jno 1: 14-16

The quality of grace enables Truth to work in man without effort, to the end that Truth is individually experienced. Grace brings direct inspiration and we find that the Bible is full of references to the Grace of God. For instance, in Prov. 3 we find: "Wisdom is life to the soul and grace to thy neck." Could this mean we are not to be stiff-necked, self willed and unbending to the infusion of the living spirit of wisdom?

Grace then is an extra special quality given to us by the Holy Spirit from Christ's own love. It is an unmerited kindness and love of God towards man in Christ, to be accepted freely by man. In reality man does not have to deserve it, it flows to all, but one in relative Truth talks of deserving because he is busy judging his fellow man and believing in the old concept of a God who withholds his love. God loves the sinner as well as the saint, so his grace is free. It is a Divine, sanctifying, regenerating and preserving influence, a spiritual excellence. It is God come to dwell in our Souls, that we may be led by the Spirit into all Truth. Grace is the spirit of Truth, the moving force of Truth in man rather than for man.

If one studies merely for the sake of the body, the intellect, or business, his words are only shells filled with self and desire. But we empty ourselves of self and study for the expression of the soul. God's presence in us is something, which through Grace, takes on a high and intimate nature of communion between God and the soul. By nature God gives us natural endowments, but by Grace he gives us much more - He gives Himself to us and we are no longer servants, but heirs, "For the Spirit himself giveth testimony to our Spirit that we are the Sons of God." (Rom. 8: 15, 16). We are partakers of the Divine Nature and always act graciously and kindly. This constitutes a new life, presupposing a new birth, a regeneration, for unless a man be born again of water and the Holy Spirit, he cannot see the Kingdom of God. Let us keep in mind that the Kingdom of God is within man and grace is able to melt the tough self-will of the human race that the spiritual race may step through. God abides in us, and teaches us all things and gives us all a sweet friendship, that enables us to speak heart to heart.

In Isaiah 7: 14, 15, the prophet gave the name of Jesus Christ as Immanuel. "The Lord Himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. Butter and honey shall He eat, that he may know to refuse the evil and choose the good." Truly we know this

prophecy has been fulfilled, but we also know the eternal meaning of the sign or symbol which is that only in a purified virgin, or immaculate state of consciousness can God dwell in man. And such a man has been born and lived among us, so our Christmas takes on its true meaning as an eternal process not subject to time or season. Immanuel means God with us and signifies the union of the human and divine natures.

So we see it is not something "yet to come" but has already come and Jesus finished his work. Do not think we are finishing His work, but because of Him, God has entered the heart of man, as Paul says in Hebrews 10: 20, "By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh."

The poet has said, "Grace, descending as a dove deposits her peace, Grace flowering in the heart dispenseth its fragrance. Grace blooming in the soul colareth the garment body." So the quality of grace is feminine and truth is masculine, representing the feeling and the intellect, the head and the heart. When these two are in balance, man creates.

If man needs light to perceive the truths of faith, the Father of lights will give it to him. Faith is the light that illuminates the intellect and differentiates the Christian from the philosopher, just as reason distinguishes a human being from an animal. God gives man strength to will and to do that which He would have man do. In a state of grace, man is never alone, he is sustained and secure. Paul says, "Yet not I, but the grace of God in me." Thus God lives in man as man, and man is truly the temple of the living God. God living in us cannot help but consecrate us and make us holy (whole) which awakens in us a feeling of adoration, of glorifying God continually. This awakens a grateful love that gives Him our hearts, making us realize the necessity of being Holy in both body and soul. Do you recall the tender prayer of Jesus, "That they all may be one as Thou Father in me, and I in them, that they also be one in us?" Jno 17:21. If the student will meditate on this prayer you will see and feel that we are all one, enwrapped in love.

Shall we say then that grace plays the part of vital supernatural principle which infuses us with the gifts of the Holy Spirit? These gifts perfect our faculties and endow us with power, it penetrates the whole life, transforming it, and making it Divine. An established state of Grace is a mode of being, it is a Godlike life here and now, in which we bring to view the image and likeness in which we are made. To incarnate means to become embodied, the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, substantially present in full enjoyment. This is the spiritual body, for our union with God contains the element which raises the body, "Not by might, nor by power, but by spirit saith the Lord."

Man is under grace now, which is the practice of the presence of God in our lives. This practice raises all the faculties of the natural man to the God-like counterpart here and now. This is the revealed life that has been hidden. A raised faith unites us to God, and in pure love, we delight in the perfection of God. Divine understanding enables us to penetrate into the truths of faith to discover hidden treasures, and discern the mysterious harmony therein. This is the treasure in the field; we sell all we have to gain it.

Knowledge makes us look upon everything from the point of view of their maker. Wisdom makes us relish Divine things and strength urges us forward. When man sees as God sees, he does not see in terms of separation but in oneness.

Spiritual understanding is not dependent upon human learning but only on the teaching of the indwelling Spirit. We have the Biblical testimony so that misunderstanding at this point is without excuse. Jno 16: 13-15 - "How be it when he, the Spirit of Truth is come, he will guide you into all truth, for he shall not speak of himself, but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak; and he will show you things to come. He shall glorify me; for he shall receive of mine, and shall show it unto you. All things that the Father hath are mine; therefore, said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall show it unto you."

The so-called human mind is the unfounded chaos or void which is crammed with complexity and confusion. In fact it is nothingness. The Holy mind of God is the only real mind there is. When we accept this truth and follow it our thinking becomes simple in its clear reflection of the harmonious activity of the One Mind from which all true thinking proceeds. The terms upon which man may receive the Holy Spirit are clearly defined.

"Salvation is by grace through faith." Does that sound like an old doctrine to you? Salvation, according to the Dictionary is the deliverance of the soul from sin and death. Man has held on to the belief that death is unavoidable, while all the time the Divine Voice is calling - "Awake thou that sleepeth and arise from the dead." "Now is the acceptable time." "Now is the day of Salvation." Why does man put his good off until tomorrow, why does he insist that the Kingdom of God shall remain a distant dream of future days? Let us wake up and claim that the Kingdom of God is a wonderful present experience.

The deliverance of the soul is the result of the transforming work of God for man and not the result of the work of man for God. For in a sense man has already worked his way out. If we believe it we can now accept the gifts of the Holy Spirit through Christ Jesus, for he has taken away the sin of the world. He met every indictment and proved the nothingness of it. Those in Christ receive the particular body of Truth which the spirit teaches. This is not a secondhand religion, we are not like the seven sons of Sceva in Acts 19: 14, who tried to cast out evil spirits in this manner, "I adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preacheth." No, we have the way to know Jesus Christ individually. When we meet the body of our false beliefs, let us not hang on to them and, like the young man, go away sorrowing because of false Gods. But let us be willing to accept a better way.

Christians are ambassadors for Christ to preach the God spell. This is the proclamation of the mighty, redeeming, transforming grace of God which offers life to all who will believe. We change our old beliefs to the Christ standard of oneness. Everything in this way of life is an overflowing spirit filled life, and there is no provision for any other. The carnal Christian is not urged to try to live a spiritual life, but urged to yield himself to God, apart from which there can be no spirit filling, with its realization of power. Grace is a perfect system of life and it is practical. If it is the Divine program for the life of the children of God how important is the body of Truth! Under this relationship all human responsibility centers in that adjustment of heart by which alone the Divine Power may be realized. Even the body is not alive of itself, but is given its livingness from the spirit of life which is God.

Christ created an entirely new relationship between God and man and everyone is now either accepting or rejecting Christ, for there is no middle ground. Neither the conservative nor the broadminded are in Christ. The limitation that a human sin might impose on the action of a righteous God has, through

Christ, been dismissed forever, regardless of the degree of sin. Growing in grace we build no altars as stopping places, but joyously sing a new song. Dwelling in the past brings old age. Not even in the old realizations of truth can we live because that would prevent us from receiving new and greater vision. All realizations are incarnated in the soul, so we do not even try to relive old experiences. They were the moving pictures of the mind at that time, but the mind has moved in continuous eternal life and abides in the now.

"Now we have received the spirit which is of God, that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God."

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THOUGHT GEMS

For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men. Titus 2: 11

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He who believes in God is not careful for the morrow, but labors joyfully with a great heart. --Martin Luther

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Every right action and true thought sets the seal of its beauty on person and face. --John Ruskin

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He who works for eternity, counts not time. --Confucius

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The woes of the heart come and can only come from a perverted viewpoint. It is purely mental -- the way we look at circumstances. Circumstances like all else are ever in a process of change. The remedy is simple -- change the course of thinking. Can there be conceived "woes of the heart" that are not rooted in thoughts of self -- It naturally follows that the change called for is thinking of others.

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