

THE ORDER OF THE ESSENES

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DEPARTMENT OF INSTRUCTION

Dear Friends:

Blessings and greetings to all of you from all of us who have the privilege of knowing you through the written word, for your letters are an inspiration and encouragement to us. Let us again mention your gifts, which are most welcome and gratefully received because we are convinced this is one way of lifting the consciousness of a great number of people. There is one spirit, but many avenues of expression.

The number of this lesson brings to mind that it is told in the Bible that there are to be 144,000 saved, and the literal interpretation of this is a doctrine in a Church. Since we agree with Paul that the Gospel must be spiritually interpreted, we know that forty is a number used to denote a time of fulfillment. There are references to forty days in the wilderness, forty days of feasting and many others, which you can read for yourself. Even if one does believe it literally, it is well to remember that it represents a time of waiting for more understanding, and that the zero denotes unlimited possibilities. Therefore in this, our one hundred and forty-fourth lesson, may we be among those who have received an awakening as to the nature of the fourfold man and his unlimited possibilities.

With the foregoing in mind, we quote from Paul's letter to the Ephesians 3:17; "That Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; to the end that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, may be strong to apprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which passeth knowledge, that ye may be filled with all the fulness of God." You will notice that he gives the four dimensions, and the way to know them and become God-like. We leave this for your consideration.

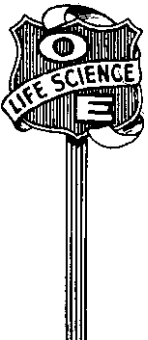
Faithfully,

THE ORDER OF THE ESSENES

By

J. Hamner Davis

Enc. 144



THE Essenes

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INSTRUCTION #144

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

TRUTH IS WITHIN OURSELVES;
IT TAKES NO RISE FROM OUTWARD THINGS
WHAT'ERE YOU MAY BELIEVE.

THERE IS AN INMOST CENTER IN US ALL,
WHERE TRUTH ABIDES IN FULNESS;
AND AROUND, WALL UPON WALL,
THE GROSS FLESH HEMS IT IN -
THIS PERFECT CLEAR PERCEPTION
WHICH IS TRUTH.

A BAFFLING AND PERVERTING CARNAL MESH BINDS IT,
AND MAKES ALL ERROR: AND TO KNOW
RATHER CONSISTS IN OPENING OUT A WAY
WHENCE THE IMPRISONED SPLENDOR MAY ESCAPE,
THANK IN EFFECTING ENTRY FOR A LIGHT
SUPPOSED TO BE WITHOUT.

ROBERT BROWNING

IMPRISONED SPLENDOR

THE WORD OF FAITH

A deeper knowledge of any subject requires a certain amount of adjustment to new ways of thinking and living, and ordering our lives to the more perfect pattern. In the very beginning of the Bible we find creation laid on an orderly pattern, for it says to let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, which is interpreted to mean, let there be a firm place in mind, or in consciousness. This firm place is faith to the Christian. One notices all around that there are correct processes, in the following of which we bring out a finished article. While we still may get cloth from wool and cotton and silk, we also can get it from stardust, gas, coal, oil, salt and air, and we call them synthetic materials. We use and accept these materials without a thought to the fact that we believe a thing can be done before we can see it. We have the same confidence in our life conditions when our affirmations are working.

Paul was keen to notice the action of Christian ideas, that sometime they were exulting and at other times depressed, and he called it a great fight of affliction. Turn to Hebrews the tenth chapter, begin with the thirty-second verse and read on into the eleventh chapter about faith, and you will feel a new kinship to all those early men who struggled to live by faith. The same thing is given us today in poetry and song. The one who shows firmness in the midst of surging miseries, solidifies a firm character, or makes a substance of the mind. Faith in the success of Good where evil seems to be, will act as a ship that will carry you over troubled waters. Students memorize many promises from the Bible and then forget to use them. We can certainly rely on them, as they are the eternal unchangeable Truth through out all generations, and our forefathers were not ignorant. Timothy says: "Great is the mystery of Godliness". (1 Timothy 3:16)

Many of us have noticed that some people seem to have all things work out right for them. If we are certain that no matter what happens, it has no power to hurt, soon nothing will happen that is not entirely harmonious. Nothing else can come into your life because there is nothing in you that recognizes evil. Now this means much more than just bearing things cheerfully, it means a deep knowing that you are not disturbed. Two Bible stories illustrate this. Daniel in the lion's den and the three Hebrew children in the fiery furnace; ancient fables that are always true to the meaning.

What is one to have faith in? In God, said Jesus. Then we are to have faith in whatever God means to us. God is

life, therefore we have faith in life, even though death seems to be present. If we have faith enough, life will win. The Good concerning the truth will act any way, but we must be sure of it. We speak boldly that the patient will live. You may go out of the sick room and tell the Truth, the Truth about God is God. God is Omnipotent, and where God is, there cannot be sickness. This will strike the life key of the patient and he will live, for everyone has a life key.

Tell the Truth about the goodness of anyone who annoys you even if it is a member of your own family, and no matter what they may do, it will have no power to hurt. It is not really profitable to be able to tell what causes trouble, for God is all, and sickness is nothing. Be firm and have no other idea but that which is true. Why should anything interest us but the Truth? Christ is Truth, and the Truth about God is Christ, therefore it is truly in His name and thru' His power that we are healed.

We have already had two lessons on Faith and the substance of faith, so it is not necessary to repeat them here, but we especially want to remember that Jesus Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, an easy yoke and a light burden. He did not praise hardship or suffering, but He praised faith and freedom. Let us not say we are willing to "do without our good," for we are not called on to do that. Spirit never asks us to do without our good but is always ready to give us more good than we are ready to receive. We are not honoring God by having just a little bit of His abundant substance at our disposal. Jesus said, "I came not to do my own will, but the will of Him who sent me". Our own will says "believe with the world," but God's will says, "believe in Me."

Let us study what is meant by the word of faith, for "the word of God is living and active" (Hebrew 4:12). Jesus only had to speak the word and many were healed. The discipline that enables us to use the truths that we study consists first, in deeply thinking over them; second, speaking them; third, writing them; and in this way they are established unto us that we may live by them. Writing helps very much to clear your thoughts to your own satisfaction. Healing is the work of Truth wrought by faith. That which we have faith in radiates from us in all that we do. To speak the Truth helps the speaker at the same time it helps the one spoken to. There is always one cord in every mind that is capable of responding promptly in the cure of the one ill. It is when this cord is not struck that people continue in the old sickness.

Certain religious beliefs make sickness, astonishing as it seems, but you only have to read on the subject of early religions to see the many terrible things done in the name of religion, such as throwing the babies in the mouth of the God Moloch to be burned alive. That is what they believed their God required of them.

Belief in Satan, or fire or brimstone, punishments, inheritance, can be the whole mental cause of illness. Thoughts that move in the mind make the body, just as the waters moving upon the land change and form the land. The first statement in the Bible concerning creation shows this. "Let the waters be gathered together in one place and let the dry land appear." The body is the shadow on the screen of visibility, cast by the mind as to what it sees itself to be. "According to thy faith be it done unto thee". This is a law, for everything acts under the same Divine law. All the outer world is a symbol of Divine Mind at work.

The great minds of the world that study matter, do it mainly to find out what lies behind it, as the inner significance is the important thing. The symbols themselves have no value apart from their divine meanings. We do not overthrow, but fulfill all things. The fifth step in mental action, or our fifth step in Life Science, is a question of believing that power operates thru' all things, and that it can be understood by us. Then if we do believe this we are on the "spot". Do we believe it is worth our while to give all our mind and all our strength, and all our life to finding out how to deal with it?

What is the doctrine of Jesus Christ but to take no anxious thought, be not anxious, or be not too interested? He would have us know all things and have all things without struggle. It lies within our choice how far we will undertake to follow Christ. The choice sets our mind to the key note, and this is the note we strike when we meet people, for they feel our mental tone or note. If they have thought along the same line they respond to us, but if differently, they feel opposed to us. But the Christ will break down the opposition quietly and kindly if we let it, and this is healing. Our conviction that evil is not real, causes evil to falter in their feelings. Words along the nature of our faith, make our faith a working principle, for they are the channel that enables the waters of consciousness to flow forth. This is an outlet to faith, however, silent words are as potent as the spoken, so must be left to your feeling at the time of choice.

A small faith can be built to a large one by persistent practice in using ideas absolutely true. Jesus said: "By thy word thou art justified, and by thy word thou art condemned. If a man keep my sayings he shall never see death." Even our light words if used habitually will take effect. So we guard our hearts thoughts and watch our tongues. Fear brings a thing to us, for there is a subtle connection between the thoughts and affairs. Therefore, we handle the least bit of fear at the time it comes to mind, by putting in the new belief. We do not believe we have to suffer because of the old belief. The changing of events by thoughts is called works. If the faith is good, one does not have to handle many conditions especially as they take care of themselves. All we need to do is to keep the eye single, and God will bring it to pass, in other words. Others will feel better from just being in our presence, because we know that right where we are is the presence of God.

The fifth statement is like the fourth, showing how we make or unmake our happiness in the world of phenomena. The real world is not changed by our words, for it is changeless, so all our faith and reasoning is to open our eyes to the real world. This will release us from the phenomenal world of chance and change and unhappiness. The fifth statement is:

AS DIVINE MIND, WHICH I AM, I PREACH THE GOSPEL, HEAL THE SICK, CAST OUT EVIL AND RAISE THE DEAD. I WORK THE WORKS OF GOD, WHO WORKS THRU' ME TO WILL AND TO DO THAT WHICH OUGHT TO BE DONE BY ME, ACCORDING TO THE DOCTRINE OF JESUS CHRIST. THE WORDS THAT I SPEAK UNTO YOU, IT IS NOT I THAT SPEAK, BUT THE FATHER THAT DWELLETH IN ME, HE DOETH THE WORKS.

Such a statement shows us that we do not have anything to do, but we have to be in touch with the real world. The highest working power is the power to see that we have nothing to do. Herein is the mystery for not everyone understands such a statement. This demonstrates in many unexpected ways. If the real self can remain undisturbed, and say so, in the midst of hard straits, something will show forth for peace, though it may show in a way we did not outline or expect. As we come to know that all is spirit, and that spirit does the work, our environment will be right. We cannot fail if we remain true to the lofty principle. We will see thru' the veil and the veil is the flesh according to Paul.

Man was not made to fail or be burdened. The fifth step seems to take away our management of things, making it a great lesson in meekness, as it touches more nearly that word of Jesus

Christ: "Not my will, but thine be done". We are willing to submit to the law of our words. We are willing to give up old words to let the word of God be spoken in us and thru' us. Does the Holy Spirit know everything? Is it in us? Then we know it can be trusted to bring about more than we have yet been conscious of. John let it think and speak thru' him on the Isle of Patmos. Time, people and events are passing before us as we move toward the Holy City.

What does preaching the Gospel mean? Does it mean a psychology lecture? No, it means telling the world of the spiritual kingdom, speaking from the Absolute standpoint. If we tell of healing the sick it does not mean that people are ever really sick, but that we have been able to see them more nearly as they are in reality. We see the Holy Spirit in them, rather than tempers and passions. When we say that as Divine Mind we heal the sick, it is the same as saying that we see health all the time.

There is only one Mind, the source of all thoughts, and we think the first thoughts of that Mind when we think according to Jesus Christ. The name is all inclusive for it is the perfect idea, therefore we try to keep some of the words of Truth running in the mind continuously, as they will lead the mind out into events. Praise God that good is everywhere. If we are involved in thinking on problems, we are not carrying a healing presence, but the first note of the doctrine of Jesus Christ carries healing.

There comes a time when we appreciate how closely related our thoughts are to our world, and that matter is not real and enduring. If we speak of riches as being the possession of material things, and then reason why we should have riches, we are talking of nothing. Riches are the presence of the Holy Spirit in us, which is solid reasoning and will demonstrate in good symbols. The saints whose faces shine have not been thinking of shining faces but of God as Light. Early saints asked to be married to God, and they healed us as a result, which is the action of the Divine will. If we think God's will is that we be perfected thru' suffering, we will have suffering, which accounts for the miserable conditions of some religious people. It is strange that so many have ignored the Jesus Christ idea of God in their own minds, but have accepted the teaching of other men about God, and have believed the most startling things. An unstable mind suffers, but it is still no part of God's plan, it is our own state. God is the life principle and if we go contrary to it, we get off the track. Fearless confidence is the easiest way,

and this was written long ago. If we are married to God, all things we ask for are ours, but Jesus would not have us ask for death or anything that is not of Him, for His words are life.

This is a point where we leave some of the religious ideas. We do not believe in evil. Only prosperity, safety, health and joy can come to us. Faith is the point of contact between God and man.

***** GEM THOUGHTS *****

"Mind is able to demonstrate, embody substantiate as much as it has boldness to command. Mind is soul, spirit or neither; mortal or immortal, heaven or hell, according to its own decree, or "Let it be done."

"Mind senses and experiences all that it names. Mind lives by and on its own faith. Mind as the ruling principle has as good judgement as its will and meekness do agree."

"Mind is self increasing, self strengthening, self-informing. Its understanding is its divine Self, or Divine Being, which needeth not that any man should teach it."

EMMA CURTIS HOPKINS

"A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in a network of silver."

PROVERBS 24:11