

# The School of Life



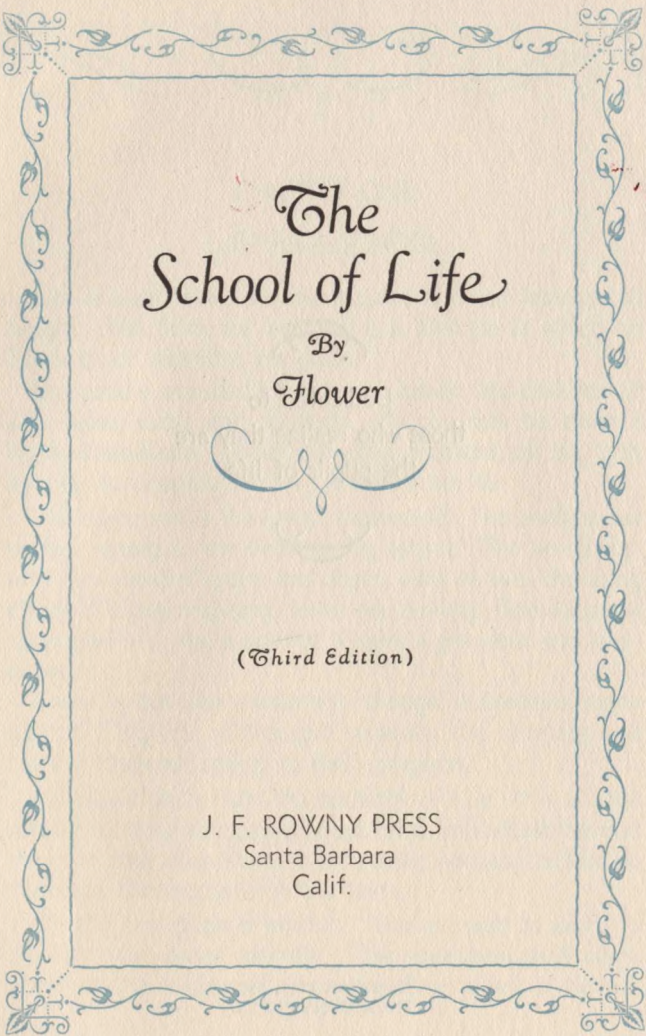
✦ FLOWER ✦

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by

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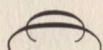
# The School of Life

By  
Flower

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Dedicated to  
those who realize they are  
the pupils of life.



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## CHAPTER ONE

### LIFE AS A SCHOOL

Life is a school where strange and difficult lessons are taught. The term for learning is a lifetime in which no holidays nor vacations are given.

Everyone is enrolled here; men, women and children of all classes, races and opinions. No one may be exempt from attendance, since from the moment of his first breath, man begins learning lessons from life.

The classroom is the great, wide world. The earth's vast surface serves as the floor in this school. The sky above, with its unlimited space and depth, with its ever changing effect of cloud and color forms the ceiling. The walls are decorated with the scenes of Nature's grandeur and loveliness.

There is but one classroom, though it contains many grades. Degrees of thought separate the scholars and classify them according to their progress.

All pupils learn from the textbook of life. It is a large volume for it takes a person from birth until death to read the contents. Man turns many pages, perhaps, before he discovers the message in the texts.

On the first page is written, "You are sent to earth to discover your divine identity. This revelation shall come when you have traveled from the dark valley of sorrow,

anxiety and perplexity to the serene mountain height of joy, understanding and confidence."

With interest and close attention, one must read each word. The writing holds little meaning until it is thoroughly assimilated. The education which follows the reading of life is an arduous and stern process.

The book is explained by the wonderful teacher, Experience. She repeats her lessons until the pupil is certain to fully understand.

Experience is loving and kind to those who follow her wisely, but to those who shirk the responsibilities of their lessons, she appears to be a cold, austere taskmaker. She becomes whatever the pupils make her; a beautiful influence or an unwelcome guide.

Experience does not control the actions of her followers, she merely directs the way. She allows each mortal to struggle, climb and attain, alone.

The immortal teacher is ever at the side of every pupil. She sees the webs they weave around themselves and the heavy burdens which they try to assume. It is her joyous work to instruct man HOW to free himself from his own meshes, and she inspires him to lift his load light-heartedly.

Sometimes Experience falters before some stupendous problem one of her pupils is striving to translate. While pausing, she prays for her Superior to direct the case.

The Principal of the school is also the author of the Book of Life. He is God. He is responsible for the growth and progress of every person. A silent witness, He stands, watching every class and every scholar.

Seldom does the Principal speak. When He does, it is expedient for the listener to pay heed.

## CHAPTER TWO

### YOUR PLACE IN THE SCHOOL

You are a pupil in the school of life. Long have you labored under the process of education. The strain, the stress and the struggle which you endure shall tend to bring you to the ultimate goal of wisdom, power and spiritual perfection.

You do not sit at a desk to study, you are accompanied by your teacher wherever you go; and that place becomes your classroom. You may receive most of your lessons in a home, in an office, behind a counter or over a work bench. But whatever you do is part of your education.

Around you are many other pupils eager to solve the same problems. Some of these persons are in your class and you feel a kinship towards them.

Perchance there is one with whom you are studying. You are both trying to understand the factors of friendship and love. Together you will study many hours. If you both understand the lesson, you make good associates, worthwhile friends, or true lovers.

Should one fail to grasp the meaning of these problems, then he will be detained until he can develop an understanding, while learning with someone else.

You are already acquainted with the teacher, Experience. She has opened the Book of Life for you as often as you needed its revelations. There is vast information

which is not given you to read, but you are taught the necessary principles.

Experience takes you through a series of subjects very much like arithmetic, geography, reading, writing, language and deportment.

The arithmetic you learn informs you how to add the virtues of some situation and how to make deductions regarding errors. By this method of addition and subtraction you can instantly surmise the qualities of a friend, a work or a problem. You can readily grasp the good features and the weak ones of any person and situation and you act according to your decisions.

Sometimes you must borrow from the powers of courage, hope and firmness to replace the fear, distrust and weakness that is in the makeup of everyone.

Geography is not given to everyone, and you may have had little or much of it. Experience takes you from one part of the earth to another. The education derived from travel broadens your viewpoints, acquaints you further with the manners of people, quickens your appreciation of earth's wondrous beauty, thus adding greatly to your knowledge of this world.

Reading is a more difficult ability to develop. Experience desires you to see the cause and effect, the beginning and the end of everything.

By being observant, attentive and concentrated, you may read the answer to every question of life.

Discretion, poise and a deep understanding of God and man must be yours before you are taught the proper way to write. When you decide to do something and into this undertaking you put every ounce of energy that you

possess, you write upon the scroll of mind and heart to leave an indelible image there. Your ways may be full of mistakes caused by your own inner weakness. When you decide to be strong, clean, fine and splendid, you will "write" the impression of this desire upon your whole character.

Oh! may it be yours to "write" of loving service, for then the whole world may "read" the message of your life, wishing to follow your example.

The languages taught in this earthly school are Love and Happiness. These are universal languages for they are known in every country. Into whatever land you go, among whatever people, you will be understood when you speak in the tongue of Love.

The joy which you will learn to carry in your heart perpetually shall be as a brilliant flame, igniting cheer in the souls of others. They will feel an answering spark lighting within their bosom. Joyous love is long in cultivation. When once it is gained it remains in one, a sacred and a holy shrine.

Deportment is the last subject you take. Experience tells you that your life should be regarded as something holy. Knowing you are of Divine origin, you must act at all times as one who is filled with the consciousness of a great mission. This knowledge will help you to live sincerely and highly.

Experience points the way to honesty, loyalty and justice. When you have killed every unlovely thought and in its stead placed right conduct, you will be obeying the lesson of discipline.

There are subjects you may take in addition to the other studies. These are science, music and art. You do

not need to be a scientist, a musician or an artist to pursue this enlightenment. The only requirement for study is appreciation.

If a person is of a scientific trend of mind, anything which appeals to fact and logic will seem interesting. A pupil who is anxious to discover, to analyze and to understand God is usually of an observant and receptive disposition.

Experience will be a wonderful guide upon the path of exploration. She will reveal truth in such a convincing way that you can never forget a single lesson. Again, whatever is revealed as truth must be followed, unwaveringly and implicitly.

The result of this scientific development of mind gives to our world its pioneers of thought and discovery. Philosophers, teachers and inventors are led to wisdom by being devoted to and interested in the teacher of life.

There are music lovers the world over, for man is not the only being who enjoys songs and melodies. The birds and the buzzing insects sing in ecstasy of pure joy. The song of the wind, the trickling of a brook and the rustling of leafy branches prove nature to be a conductor of many instrumental sounds.

A scholar of life, at some time, craves music, for it is the bridge over which his mind travels to another world. Here is felt a touch of pathos, and exaltation of happiness, the despair of defeat, the triumph of victory, the hopelessness of hate and the height of love. When the soul is merged within the heart of harmony, the past, the present and the future seem one. The effect of music is inspiring, yet it also calms one, soothingly.

The most unlearned person is rich when he enjoys

music, for it will lift him mentally and spiritually. If you love music you will find it contains this lesson. It inspires you to carry a melody within your heart, one that is soft and lovely, for at any moment you desire, its notes will steal into your work, your home and your life, to leave harmony there.

God has given much thought to the care of this great classroom. He has painted it in beautiful colors and given it hills, lakes and meadows to brighten the landscape. There He breathed a prayer for man and flowers of fragrance and color arose. There He wished man to feel peace and infinite protection, so within a mountainous country He established a nestling, green valley. He created the mountains to be rugged and steep so man might seek the heights to see some beauty in the wildest growth.

Since He has expressed Himself so lovingly before man, is it surprising that some are filled with a great longing to paint and mould the beautiful in life?

The love of art exhibits itself in the smallest as well as the greatest; in the most untrained as well as the most highly developed minds.

The beginners of life use color vividly, having no thought as to its value, for they only see the effect of its decorativeness. As pupils advance, they cease adorning themselves and their property, for the sense of color appreciation reforms their crude manners.

If you are a true lover of beauty, you will see symmetry, color and loveliness everywhere. Just as God tints the rainbow, He will add life and luster to your soul and it will become as beautiful as the rarest flower, as strong as the straightest pine and as wonderful as the earth that holds God's hand within her bosom.

## CHAPTER THREE

### CONCLUDING THE GRADES

The purpose of life is to develop and perfect each creation which it expresses. Man is one expression. He gropes about trying to find a foothold upon life that he may live progressively and happily. He always comes to the realization that life is an education whose teacher is Experience and whose Master, the directing God.

There are three chapters that one must read thoroughly because spiritual unfoldment is based upon each of them.

The first law is "Know yourself."

You wish to be strong, splendid, true and great. Your desire will manifest in your character by continued effort. When you feel yourself becoming the ideal, you will be given severe tests under which you must strive to remain the self you desire to be.

Experience uses "contrasts" in all her lessons. She will guide you from sorrow to joy, from discord to peace, from error to understanding, to give you the desire for the real, the lasting and the beautiful side of life. Many times you feel near the development of your powers, but because of some simple test you find yourself undisciplined and unprepared.

As you strive daily towards spiritual attainment, you

find the traits of infidelity and inconstancy overcome by the growth of a broadening nature.

Petty faults and serious errors drop from you as you learn being true to your highest self.

Every pupil on earth will one time find his life closely linked to the Divine. Wisdom leads to the unfoldment and awareness of man's glorious eternity.

When most of your problems are understandable you begin craving for a fulfillment of infinite knowledge. This greater learning is given only when the earthly grades are almost completed.

You are taught to unite your physical, mental and spiritual selves. Thought must be given to the care of the body and mind in order that these two may work harmoniously under the guidance of the soul. Little is known about the Divine self because each pupil is taught secretly and very slowly.

The highest wisdom is usually reserved within the hearts of those who find it. Men explain their discoveries by giving to the world added light and greater conviction.

After you are acquainted with yourself, being equipped with assurance that God dwells deeply within, you can look upon the world with eyes that hold clear depth and sweet compassion.

The second law is, "Become all you have learned." Wisdom is given to every soul that he may know how to live rightly. You learn nothing in the school of life that is impossible to become. In each subject you will find a virtue that must be realized in you.

To become all you have learned means that every experience, every discovery of truth should live with you always in your mind and heart.

"Observe the Principle in **all things**," is the third law.

There is a directing Principle in everything created. The heavens and the earth with the creatures that dwell upon them are moved by a purpose which seeks expression, completion and perfection in life.

The hissing wind which appears to furiously lash a young oak, almost breaking the lithe limbs, is doing its work of strengthening the tree. When in maturity it shall be strong enough to weather any storm. A tree turns its leafy face to the sun that other things that live may seek its shade for rest and protection.

Thus it is with man. He, too, is bent by the winds of adversity. He, too, in becoming great is like the sacrificing tree, being a refuge for many while he braves the elements that glare and burn.

A lovely flower, a glimmering star and a bright rainbow have a sublime task, that of glorifying the world. A dark night, a gray cloud, a thundering storm reawakens the earth to the appreciation of the peaceful. Both calm and turmoil are moved by the guidance of the Principle. The lowest form has its work to accomplish as well as the noblest. All things are inspired by the movement of a Divine Will and you must be very observing if you would know the plan.

The farther you go in your earthly grades, the more observant you become watching the vision, the purpose and work of every man and thing.

The law of justice pervades the universe. One scholar is never more favored than another. There is no answer given, no gift received nor attainment reached that is not gained through the power of self-development.

All that has been expressed in the preceding paragraphs is preparatory to the study of reincarnation.

We come to this earth, life after life, progressing from one grade to another. Vacations are given to us between each school session, but we return to our task of development after the rest of each death.

Many persons are unwilling to accept the above statement, because they are not aware of past incarnations on this planet. Our "memory" has never been a reliable channel. We are not able to recall the days of our infancy, nor other events which have happened to us. Yet we admit that we experienced these conditions of growth. The reason we do not remember the past is because in every life, we use a new brain. This instrument could not endure the detailed impressions of other lives, as they are too full of struggle, and sometimes, unpleasantness.

However, the overshadowing Soul, enveloping every body, stores each important aspiration, decision and mistake. We are the sum and total of all we have endured, desired and learned. We cannot be more than we have unfolded; and the process of life is to enable us to know gradual unfoldment. Our failures retard us, while conquered deficits advance us. We cannot enter higher schools of education until we have passed the examinations of each grade in the earth school.

Those who believe that souls come to the earth but once, are relying upon the authority of creeds, but not upon the justice of reason. When we accept the "one life" teaching, we cause the Divine Source of our beings to be the creator of unequal divisions of intelligence, talent, position, opportunity and health.

Were this true of the Source, then It would be gov-

erned by injustice and partiality. When we reason, we understand that above all other virtues, our Source is a Power of Justice and Love. Upon It cannot be placed the blame of our inequalities and separations. Should we live but once, then the Source would send us equipped alike, materially, mentally, and spiritually to this planet.

Our Infinite Parent is not the cause of our miseries and separations. It gave us an equal start in the first grade of our experience, but we, through procrastination, greed, failure, or enthusiasm and mastery, have placed ourselves where we merit being.

The poor, crippled, unhealthy, and the unbalanced souls are not being punished by their Divine Source, nor are they mere victims of outer hereditary influences. They are what they are as a result of what they formerly made of themselves. Such a statement sounds cruel and harsh until we investigate further to gain a wider vision of the Plan.

The law of cause and effect is the force which regulates our lives. The Infinite Parent breathed Its essence into us alike, but that innate divinity remains a subconscious part of ourselves until we, through effort, consciously arouse it. The Source does not reward or punish. The law of compensation brings to each what he has attracted by a constructive or destructive existence.

It has been wondered why babies suffer, then die. Theirs is usually a history of a former incarnation in which they committed suicide. The Immortal Soul enveloping the child's body learned the significance of the lesson. When suicides desire life, it is oftentimes denied them.

"As we sow, so shall we reap," is an expression of mathematical effects. If at any time we have affected any by our deceit, cruelty, selfishness or intolerance, then we will attract persons who will cause us to suffer to the extent we made others miserable. Only thus do we cancel our indebtedness to others, and learn also the lesson of compassion.

There are numerous students who become indignant at the thought of reincarnation. In searching their motives, it is evident their rejection was based upon this foundation: They did not wish to feel or admit that they caused their own limitations. They had no desire to reincarnate again into the earth world. However, whether or not we approve of Truths, they will continue to affect us. We cannot wisely reject any fact simply on account of its severity. Reincarnation is able to explain the inequalities and differences of our development. The genius is the result of lives spent in specialization. Thus we realize that no one is more blessed in the school of life than another; some have been wise enough to make the best of their opportunities. For all is there hope and the certainty of eventual happiness, wisdom and mastery.

You come to the lowly earth to begin life as an unlearned child, you must mount to immortal heights as a learned God. The various steps you pass leave their impression upon your soul. At any time you may pause to help some needy pupil who is struggling towards progress.

You are still on the threshold of the first school. All it teaches you is necessary and good. Ahead, lies a larger field of deeper study. When you have truly found yourself, when you have become the ideal you desire to remain,

then you have found the Principle breathing within the heart of life.

Towards perfection and the gaining of wisdom you are traveling. You, alone, cause your delays and make your promotions. After much travail, you shall finally come to that place where you see the Book of Earthly Life closing and you can feel yourself about to enter the portals of the Greater School within the Land of God.

(The end)

