

The Denver Spiritual Community

COMPENDIUM OF OCCULT LAWS © 1966

Home Wisdom of the Ages

The selection, arrangement and application of the most important of Occult and Arcane Laws taught by the Masters of the August Fraternities of Initiation, and the practice of the Laws in the development of the fourfold nature of man in attaining Success and Mastership on all planes of activity.

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Compendium of Occult Laws

Preface

The field of Occult(1) literature is indeed rich and voluminous. To systematically and painstakingly wade through all of it, would require practically all the days of a lifetime.

(1) Throughout the text, authentic Occult terms will be used, "Occult" meaning that which is generally hidden - unknown to all but the few, who have given long and sincere study to the subject.

Nothing in the text has any reference to that vast charlatanism which is so universally employed, so bewildering to the public, and misleading great numbers to their undoing. Only that which is certain to benefit man in his fourfold nature shall find any part in the text.

Sincere students in this field of research and practice are fully conversant with the fact that there are now about ten thousand volumes dealing with the subjects of Occultism, Initiation, Mysticism, Alchemy, Hermeticism, Rosicrucianism and Alchemical Processes. In every one of these volumes, beginning with the eighth century, there are to be found either plainly stated or more or less hidden in Alchemists' "jargon," many important Occult Laws; important because they should be known to the Neophyte - the man or woman who is seeking to attain that Initiation which ends in complete, fourfold development - a balanced growth of the body, mind, spirit and Soul which assures Mastership, success on the four planes of being.

The very fact is in many instances entire books, seemingly uninteresting in themselves, must be carefully read, aye, keenly studied, in order that the important Law or Laws therein expounded, may be revealed. In all too numerous instances such books have been long out of print, therefore are rare and expensive. This has discouraged the vast majority of students from even attempting to procure these books, to study them and unravel their hidden inculcations, tabulate and arrange these important Laws in order that they might apply them in their efforts toward personal attainment.

All this was clearly impressed upon me some sixty years ago when I first assumed the Supreme Office in the August Fraternity, and I then decided that a part of my life should be devoted to the collection of these books and the many private manuscripts held in the archives of the Ancient Secret Schools in Initiation; to study them one by one and carefully separate the wheat from the chaff, the actual Laws from the merely interesting reading matter; to arrange these Laws systematically; to interpret those written in Occult jargon; and to carefully point out in readily understandable and modern terms, their application in the process of Initiation, the development of the higher self of the Neophyte which leads the Soul to Illumination in the first instance, and has Mastership or Adeptship as the goal.

Many long years have been devoted to this subject. It has been a fascinating task; nevertheless, a tedious one, and I am happy the present edition is ready to be placed in the hands of all sincere students for their daily, aye hourly guidance.

Continuity of thought on the subject matter has in no instance been attempted. This is not a literary product. Laws taught have been noted, interpreted and their application to both everyday and special interests indicated so that all who are ready may easily understand and apply them. Thus, one Law after another is given and explained to the end of the volume.

There is no claim to originality. There is little new in the entire work except the applications and interpretations. All, or almost all, found herein are either from a printed book or a private manuscript prepared by some Initiate, Master or Adept, although in almost all instances the phraseology and application have been modernized and made applicable to present-day conditions.

With the intent that the contents of this volume may be the more readily applicable to the various classes or types of students, it has been arranged in six parts, beginning with the Laws teaching what we generally term material or worldly success on all planes of activity; finally, ending with those Laws which inculcate the highest and most lasting success of all - the Spiritualization of the Infinite Being in man leading to Godhood, i.e., becoming the son of God.

The first section, "The Hermetic Concept of Success", is in greater part based on the inner teachings

of Hargrave Jennings, the Rosicrucian Initiate; Warren Richardson,(2) greatest of all modern Occult Masters; the teachings of the Phelons of the Hermetic Brotherhood; the texts, "The Philosophy of Fire" and "The Rosy Cross: Its Teachings".

The second section, "The Philosophy of Occult Initiation", is based almost exclusively upon the secret writings of those versed in Hermetic Science and Alchemical Processes, notably Dr. P.B. Randolph, Freeman B. Dowd, General Ethan Allen Hitchcock, Warren Richardson(2) and Hargrave Jennings.

(2) It is of utmost importance that Warren Richardson, author of "Dr. Zell" and "The Princess Charlotte", should not be confused with later writers of the same baptismal name.

The third section, "The Hermetic Teachings", is a digest of the published works and private writings of the Phelons and manuscripts in the possession of the Fraternity, and in part the works of General Ethan Allen Hitchcock in his exhaustive text, "Alchemy and the Alchemists.

The fourth section, "Hermetic Science and the Alchemical Processes", is based in part on the private books and manuscripts in the archives of the August Fraternity, and the works of Dr. P.B. Randolph, Freeman B. Dowd, General Ethan Allen Hitchcock, Warren Richardson and Hargrave Jennings.

The fifth section, "The Occult Concept", is a digest of both the inner and outer teachings of the Hermetic and Rosicrucian concepts, from manuscripts used in private class work by the Phelons, Tyner and others, and also from the text, "Mastership: The Divine Law".

Lastly, the sixth section, "Occult Initiation", is a digest of the most important writings of Warren Richardson, Hargrave Jennings and other Initiates who are little known to the Western World; the manuscripts are now in possession of the Confederation of Initiates. We trust our duty has been fairly well accomplished and that the present text will be of great help in the guidance of all those seeking to become masters of their destiny, and free from every form of servitude, whether of self or of the dictatorial edict of this modern age.

Sincerely given, R.Swinburne Clymer

A COMPENDIUM OF OCCULT LAWS

Chapter I

THE HERMETIC CONCEPT OF SUCCESS

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The Hermetic Concept of Success

Introduction

For more centuries than man is willing to admit, it has been a wholly erroneous belief that the businessman could not be successful and at the same time advance Spiritually, that to attain worldly honors was to risk heavenly blessings. Those seeking Spiritual gifts, such as Consciousness of the Soul, had to forego riches and honors and the good things the earth had to offer.

Furthermore, although the fiat was cast in the beginning of time that men must "live by the sweat of their brow," it has been the misleading, stultifying and degrading dream of most men to be able to evade physical effort and attain a position that would permit them to live in luxury and idleness.

Lastly, it has been a universally accepted belief that all things of a Spiritual nature would have to be accepted in faith and, however great the faith, could not be demonstrated.

Every one of those conceptions is fundamentally wrong. For man can achieve success and honors honestly and without the exploitation of his fellow men. He can attain the highest Spiritual development, complete Soul Consciousness of his own Divine Origin, and at the same time achieve worldly success. Riches and fame may go hand in hand with honor and sterling manhood.

Those who have reached Spiritual enlightenment now know that labor is not debasing. It is essential to mental and physical well-being. The fewer the hours of labor, the greater the opportunity for the animal or carnal nature in man to assert itself and bring mental and physical destruction to himself and others. Labor is honorable; it is essential. It is destructive ONLY when enforced beyond reason - beyond the Divinely apportioned eight hours a day - except in extreme emergencies.

Spiritual enlightenment and Soul Consciousness are not alone a matter of faith. They can be demonstrated by first accepting the fundamentals with a faith strong enough to apply them to the activities of life and mode of thought, and then by bringing into manifestation those powers which alone belong to the Spiritual self and to the Soul's relation to God (the creative energy) and to all that is governed by the Divine Law which also governs the Universe and all that is therein. Fiat Lux! Find the Light! Man shall know the truth, and the truth acted upon will help him fulfill his destiny.

The Hermetic Key That Unlocks the Door to Success

Material success is the clarion call, sounding the advancement of all men in this the twentieth century of achievement, in the realm of physical science and Spiritual knowledge.

Success in every type of business is a science. As in the professions, he who desires to succeed must be willing to follow the rules - the Law. Success may be accidental, but it cannot result from slipshod methods. PREPARATION IS ESSENTIAL. This demands a self-freedom from all other desires but the one, then a thorough technical and practical study and procedure.

Real success may be said to be the heritage of everyone. This implies that everyone has the capability to succeed in some one sphere of activity if he is willing to prepare himself, and having prepared himself, make the necessary effort. SUCCESS HAS NO FAVORITES. Like every attainment in life, it is under THE ABSOLUTE LAW OF THE LEGEND OF THE SOWER.(1)

(1) Refer to the text, The Great Work - The Council of Three page 41, the chapter on "The Legend of the Sower." -----

Those who plan to succeed must plan well and aim high, even higher than they think possible to achieve. Here, an old command applies: "Hitch your wagon to a star," and in all you do, keep your aim straight. This implies that everything must be done AS IT SHOULD BE DONE. This is a mental attitude. IT IS DESIRE IN ACTION WITHOUT DEVIATION.

The universal storehouse is filled to overflowing with everything man requires to succeed. It demands that he possess the "key" to unlock the door to the storehouse. This "key" is a CLEAR AIM, A KEEN DESIRE, A WILLINGNESS TO PREPARE HIMSELF FULLY. Then he must proceed with an all-out will and make the necessary effort.

"We, who must succeed in the accomplishment of a set purpose, are we who standing firm, fix a certain mark and prepare ourselves for the purpose in mind; from this course the Will never swerves or changes. We assert that irrespective of physical conditions, no matter what opposition is offered, the prototype of the purpose within ourselves claims it as its own. Thus the ego or real self moving forward, step by step, from vantage to vantage, in the end conquers, as it has the right to conquer by reason of superior fitness, preparation and stick-to-itiveness. The human Will, fortified with knowledge and keen, undeviating desire, defies all interference. It derives power or force from the creative energy to which it is inherent of everything that is part of man's inheritance - providing he lays claim to it by proving himself." - Dr. Randolph

From Abram to Abraham

We find in the Book of Genesis a description of the Soul's growth from darkness to the heights of sublimity, illustrated by a type of man called Abram. After a long and useful life, when he had reached the age of ninety and nine years, he was able to talk with God. Before that time and during all those years he was merely a type, a negative type, having all the possibilities of the God-man, but failing in attaining any of those potentialities. But when he was ninety and nine, he fell on his face; that is, he liberated himself from the tentacles of the carnal desires which held him in subjection, and came into conscious touch with the Spiritual - the eternal - the Self within himself, and attained to Soul Consciousness. Previous to this, there was little difference between the generations before him and the mass of the present. By becoming conscious of the possibilities and capabilities inherent within, though now dormant, he awakened to his potentialities; and by adherence in THOUGHT, DESIRE and PRACTICE to the Divine Law, he became a Soul Conscious being; Biblically, a son of God. He was henceforth called Abraham, that is, Father - creator, or exponent in his own right.

(2) There always was, there still is, a grave misunderstanding relative to race as it relates to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. They were of the white race - of pure blood - Hebrews, as were Sarah, Rebecca, Leah and Rachel, descending from Heber, hence, "Hebrews." Historically those who became known as Jews were of later origin.

Nothing on Earth Is Unimportant

In the Divine Logos, or Spiritual orbit, success is symbolized by the "Veiled Lamp," or Absolute Wisdom.

In the intellectual world, success is prudence directed by the organized and developed Will.

In the physical world success is circumspection directing action through knowledge - science overcoming mystery.

Thus we see in the unfolding of life that prudence is the armor of the Sage or Initiate. In physical life circumspection leads man to avoid the rocks and breakers as part of his unfolding destiny, by means of the Wisdom he gains living in harmony with the Divine Law which warns him against the evils that are common to mankind, such as, irreverence and lack of devotion to God, treachery to his country, injustice to his fellow man - lest the reaction of these evils make him repay tenfold for

them and even deprive him of the privileges he has honestly earned.

By choosing the "Veiled Lamp" on the road to Wisdom as his guide in all his acts, perhaps even in the merest trifles, he will never submit to defeat in anything worthy of doing. Nothing on earth is actually unimportant; a pebble may alter the destiny of both man and empire. As a rule it is the smallest incident which sometimes leads to the greatest achievement. An infinitesimal act left undone because of its seeming unimportance is frequently the key to failure and makes ultimate success impossible. The loss of a tiny screw in the largest and most intricate mechanism will cause the machine to be useless, though otherwise perfect and capable of functioning to complete satisfaction.

Know All Things, Remain Thyself Unknown

In search for success, may all remember that if speech be silvery, silence is golden. Therefore, if he who seeks success is capable of keeping silent, the odds are in his favor. More failures can be traced to words idly spoken, secrets revealed or offense given through looseness of tongue than to all other factors combined. "Know all things, but remain thyself unknown," is the command of the Arcanum, Law of the Occult, and should be on the escutcheon of all who seek the ultimate in success.

The law underlying success is that of love, the "love" of that which one seeks to accomplish. Love's messenger is attraction, a magnetic force. Once comprehending how to send forth the message of success, one can draw all things that are lawful unto himself, because that same law of love demonstrates the law of vibration, which is attraction of its like in another form.

This does not, in its true application, encompass drawing to the self anything for a selfish or unworthy reason or purpose. He who loves self alone shrivels and consumes himself under the intensity of his own self-kindled, destroying fire. Success under Spiritual Law must have as its intent and purpose the benefit of the self, to be sure, because all things begin with the self, but it must have another motive as the impelling purpose.

Man is lawfully permitted all things which are for his benefit and enjoyment; but there is the opposite aspect of the Law also - that which will bring benefit to others and will be for their welfare as well.

Success may be considered as a triad, three-sided. Each side is absolutely necessary for the building of a symmetrical structure. These three are: Desire, Preparation and Expectation or Reception. In this, our present age of the recognized power of the unseen, i.e., Occult forces, there is freely opened to many, a method or system of thought higher than any ever before known to the intellectual faculties of man. In fulfilling the promise to those constantly seeking to realize the Presence of the Most High, or operation of the Law now functioning, great things have been revealed and continue to be revealed.

The great and mighty experiences of the past have brought us the conditions for the present realization; the opening up of the funds of Wisdom, the sweeping changes and onward march, unfolding all knowledge of the Divine Law and of God who is the Law which enables us to obey the Law and harmonize ourselves with the operation of the Law. The sublime promise of the future is: All Wisdom will be given those who are willing to master the Law and co-ordinate its application to the works that should be accomplished.

The Fountain of Life Is Within

All substance expresses ideal embodiment. Evil is no more than a misapplication and misuse of natural substances - therefore useful substances - and results in abortions of the ideal. All things are the evolution of that substance, plus its application. Substance is the material out of which all matter is formed. From the substance we must necessarily draw our supply in one manner or another, the method not being particularly important as long as it does not infringe upon the rights of others.

If we Occultly affirm: "God (the Law) is my supply," then, to truly and logically manifest, according to the affirmation, we must look within, as did Abraham, to the fountain of life and the source of all things, of which the outer man is but a reflection; or, as voiced by Hermes: "The inner is like the outer, the lower is like the higher"; thus, drawing the attention from the environment to the inner reality. But, if that inner condition or reality be in chaos, then it is not to be expected that perfection will issue forth. "Like attracts like," and equally true, "like produces like." Such is the Divine Law, each after its own kind. (3)

(3) The Law governs ALL THINGS that concern man. Mixing is dilution - unharmonizing and unbalancing of the Law of Nature - and ends in ultimate destruction for that which attempts to act contrary to the Law. Both profane and sacred history are positive that this Law was for the government of the races beginning with India, then Egypt, Greece, Rome and down through the ages to the present time.

We have a right to expect so-called miracles or wonders which are the result of the unknown or as yet unmanifested operating Occult Law. If we concentrate our eyes steadily upon the one Divine Cause, unselfish Love, God in manifestation - nothing is impossible that can enter the thought of man or be pictured by his imagination.. God imagined, and it was SO. Man being the microcosm, a small replica with all its part of the whole, likewise is the same power in limited form.

This effort toward bringing forth and manifesting our thoughts, desires and expectations is a doctrine promising speedier and more pronounced methods for attainment than any hitherto employed. It is growing more and more frequent under the present conditions to perceive for ourselves the creation or manifestation of our thoughts - a materialization of the inner self in the outer form.

The Spiritual Element in Man Should Always Be in Control

A new heaven or a new earth in another sphere is no longer the ideal concept. Hands are already upon the ploughshare of production and reproduction, clearing away with as little confusion as possible the erstwhile intolerable social and economic conditions, building the paradise of success upon God's promise of abundant supply which may be tapped just as quickly as we recognize the Law of Personal Responsibility and Equal Exchange. This is simply to state that success on all planes, material and Spiritual may be obtained by a superior and scientific understanding and application of mental and Spiritual Laws in their direction of material affairs, conditions and environments.

This is the heritage awaiting those whose hearts are filled with the desire for rightness and fairness: and who are trying to live a rational life, one free from taint and degrading tendencies. Those who

are striving for money, honor or power ALONE - things which are no more than the symbols of reality to satisfy carnal desires - will not succeed and would never be satisfied if they did succeed as they lack the Spiritual concept which is basic for genuine material success associated with Spiritual attainment.

All success, rightfully obtained, results from man's ability to collect and properly group atoms of energy. One must preserve the inherent nobility of the Soul in order that the grouping may be harmonious and the inner forces find expression. The world does not furnish one single example of permanent and constructive success but that based upon the principle that in the conflict of forces, the Spiritual elements in man must overcome the tendencies of carnal desires. There can be no contradiction of the statement when all the facts of Spiritual Law leading up to success are understood.

In as far as WE are concerned, generally considered and classified, worldly success is now a type of a progressive disease. The greater the success, the more intensive the selfishness and the hunger for power. Possessions become an obsession, no longer to be properly directed along avenues of construction, but to be hoarded. As the selfish desires increase and progress, selfishness, often ending in cruelty, becomes so much a part of man's nature that principles are sacrificed in the accumulation of a still greater hoard. This is not real success. It is merely an accumulation which gradually corrodes and destroys man - body, mind and Soul.

The Invitation to the Golden Feast

"Come, all things are now made ready. Behold, I have prepared a feast for you." This is the perpetual invitation out of the invisible silence. The rest, man must do for himself. It is for us the repast is laid out. It is we who must accept and eat, digest and assimilate the "food" upon the "table" before we can come into individual contact with the universal storehouse of supply of all things. The table is set. The work of God now rests. Now we must act. This Law has been made clear to us repeatedly, but we have failed to obey it. We are still the slaves to our inertia. We still innately feel, or Subconsciously believe, that either the world owes us a living or that some other force outside of ourselves should be compelled to feed, clothe and supply us with our needs. We are forgetful that in the sight of the Divine Law no one man is intrinsically greater than another. Each must be responsible for himself. No human creature is so important to man, to the world or to God, as to be made an exception and to be compensated for weakness and idleness.

Why not begin now to improve the opportunity for understanding and knowledge such as will enable us to do our part in the building of that most subtle of mansions - character - the Soul; strengthened by effort and enlightened by inner development, which must crown every ultimate success known. We must willingly, aye, even gladly, cast away our own idols, which we worship and caress; for as long as we cling to them and delude ourselves in thinking them realities, we will continue to be failures, both materially and Spiritually.

So long as we husband the idea that poverty - so-called misfortune or failure - is something beyond our control, just so long are we too inert to burst the fetters which bind us to weakness and slavery in one form or another. Through such misconceptions we deprive ourselves of our inherent opportunity to freedom, and we remain our own gaolers.

To some, it may be a startling assertion when we say that we can actually make our lives just what we choose them to be; nevertheless, it is fundamentally true. We can fulfill our desires as surely and as truly as we learned to walk and talk. It DOES require effort and patience; but effort becomes a

pleasure when we are engaged in doing the things we love to do and see the results begin to manifest. Success is as much a part of man's destiny and as truly an obligation as it is a possibility when his forces are husbanded and properly directed along avenues of construction and accumulation.

Consciousness of one's ability is the center of attraction for all success. It is the Universal LIGHT for our individual guidance. All we can attract by our own mental volition - volantia - by our individualized, vital force, becomes more and more keenly powerful in expression as the atoms of life become more and more Spiritualized. We may with profit watch our desires unfold, from bud to blossom, from blossom to fruitage, as we progress; and judge with a degree of certainty what the ultimate result will be.

Consider The Lily

The lily of the field has been held up to us as a symbol of true Spiritual progression with a perfect reliance of the source of supply. Of it has been said; "It toils not, neither does it spin." Why not? Because its perfection lies in the intangible secret of, "The Father and I are one," or "The Law which gave me existence will, IF OBEYED, vouchsafe my well-being." It knows, symbolically speaking, before bursting its covering of earth, that by adjusting itself to the conditions of darkness and silence for a time this very period of rest will cause it to generate a force with which to pierce a wall of great thickness - the tomb under which it lies buried - and lift its head into the brightness of the sunshine. It knows its petals will be touched with color, the like of which no artist can imitate. Its contour of form cannot be chiseled by mortal hand. And yet the same spirit which permeates the lily also leavens man's Soul into sublime manifestation. The exact proportion of the life-giving ray is not lessened nor added to in either case; it is simply a differentiation of the modes, of the grouping of atoms.

But this is not the whole story of the lily. The lily obeys every Law of Nature without question because it is true to its own nature; it cannot do otherwise - lacking free will. It does neither toil nor spin, it is true, but neither does it ask anything of man other than not to be interfered with by man. On the other hand, it gives everything without recompense: its beauty its encouragement to the weary and sorrowful. It offers itself as a lesson of the generosity of God or the Law which created it. It spins not, nor does it toil, but it gives and will continue to give until its life span is ended.

The lily accepts Nature's Law unconsciously, it is true. Man's faith for a time must take the place of such ready, unquestioned acceptance. Unfortunately, and all too frequently, such faith is lacking in man because he bases all his conclusions on the concepts and actions of other men, unaware that they are NOT in harmony with the LAW, thus, lacking in foresight and refusing guidance.

SOUL CONSCIOUSNESS GIVES A NEW MEANING TO LIFE

Those who have attained to Soul Consciousness are true magicians; they bring forth out of seeming nothingness, miraculous realities. They KNOW the Law, and by obedience to the Law, they manacle fate and circumstances and then transform them to advantages for themselves and their fellow men.

Hitherto the possibilities of the Adam-man (the carnal man) have not been fully recognized or appreciated. Man has been blinded to his capabilities by ignorance. In our present century of

magnificent accomplishments, in this period of revelation of man's power over much that is physical, we are able to claim our God-given inheritance or royal prerogatives if we obey the Law. Thence, we may begin to climb the heights attainable in the mental and Spiritual realm, no longer puppets of fortune to be ground down by the wheel of fate as it rolls pell-mell over us; on the contrary, man may be ruler of his own world kingdom. With thoughts so polarized, the mind activated by constructive desire, life takes on a new meaning and glimpses a view of "that yet to be."

All have success in some degree. It may be only successfulness in being miserable and incompetent, but this proves we could be otherwise if our powers and energies were properly exercised and used. WE are as free to enter the Light as we are to linger in the darkness of the Light's shadow.

What man may accomplish is illustrated by the life of Napoleon. Although a physical weakling to begin with and of the plebian class, he was by nature an Idealist. He was keenly aware of the gross injustice of the time and in his vision formed a plan to change it - the establishment of justice. As long as he held to the Ideal he was successful and conquered most of the Old World. He, then, became aware that though he might be able to establish a unity of nations, there was no one capable and with a vision to follow him. As a result of this awakening, he conceived the idea of a son; but this was not to be. THEN SELFISHNESS, BORN OUT OF NECESSITY, HAD ITS BEGINNING. Out of dire necessity he chose relatives wholly unfitted and incapable of the positions in which he placed them; a new misrule had its beginning. Idealism grew less and less. Failure was the consequence as a result of the defeat of his idealism.

THE DELUSION THAT THE WORLD OWES MAN A LIVING (4)

What, in reality, does success mean? Some answer, accomplishment. This alone does not fully meet the conditions for true success. Behind all accomplishment, in its broadest sense, there lies a subtle something designated by the wise as "the upholding of accomplishment." In common parlance, "nothing succeeds like success."

(4) This delusion is as old as man's capability to think. He plans and arranges, by one means or another and seldom an honorable one, to labor as little as possible; but schemes for others to do the work for him that he should be doing. He lets others support him by the "sweat of their brows," and not only for his actual needs and necessities but for his luxuries. Never before in the history of mankind has this ignoble desire to avoid labor been so prevalent as it is at the present time. The concept of the August Fraternity, the great Schools of Initiates, have always recognized the honorableness and desirability for man to be active in the effort to fully support himself and those for whom he is responsible. The physical work and mental activity enable him to keep healthy, strong and capable of building fit (physical) temples for the Spirit which they recognize as God. So important has this been considered by all Initiatory Schools that it was commanded of those seeking entrance, TO STAND UPRIGHT--ALONE--AS ALL HONEST MEN SHOULD that they might be recognized as MEN, prototypes of their Creator.

The term "work" has almost become verboten in the modern philosophy of life. Honest labor and self-support are considered almost a disgrace and beneath the "dignity" of a gentleman INSTEAD OF THEIR BEING THE MEANS OF MAKING HIM A MAN--A GENTLEMAN.

Success is not merely in attaining a certain status in the affairs of men; to succeed and then to lose one's balance is the height of failure. But to succeed and then to be strong enough to make proper

use of that which we have attained and obtained to the betterment of ourselves and for the benefit of others, is success and attests to our success. To control our success is the ultimate; to be enslaved by it is complete failure.

There are thousands of experimenters in the professions, in the liberal arts, amongst artisans in every type of activity, and amongst traders in all kinds of commerce, who are not more than on a par with the average man and his erroneous concepts. Only here and there is one who cares to labor with patience to make a brilliant success. All the rest of the mass still live under the delusion that God, the World or Society (government) owes them a living. These are the most pitiful failures because they never become conscious of their own handicap as a result of their ignorance of the Operating Law.

Following the almost universal trend of doing as others do without any great incentive or Spiritual desire, accumulating perishable material which may be lost or taken from us tomorrow, is not success. It is no more than a symbol of the REAL which may be ours to retain. The inspiration does not appear in accumulation, as so admirably expressed by the grand old poet Virgil. In singing of a winning crew in a boat race he concisely said: *Possunt quia posse videntur* -They are able because they seem (feel) to be able which we moderns would state as: "They are able because they believe themselves capable of winning and they make the effort imbued with that faith as the incentive." This is success. It is not simply accomplishing a task. It is the inspiration which is the heart's wish that gives the power of adding accomplishment. Each step must bring renewed vigor and courage in preparation for a higher and greater effort to meet the next challenge.

DOUBTS AND INDECISIONS PREVENT MAN FROM ACHIEVING SUCCESS

Our many doubts and lack of faith, a single deep-rooted fear are potent in withholding success from us where otherwise we might readily come into our own. Such doubts and fears may even reverse the favorable vibratory forces already accumulated.

Failure is seldom the result of a lack of ability to achieve success but is due to our weaknesses, to the need of courage to go forward and to the dearth of inner perception. The possession of these qualities--courage and inner perception--is essential for us in the struggle to win.

We are like the lady of tradition who, after an earnest and impassionate prayer to the Lord for rain, immediately afterward nullified all the vibrations she had set in motion by her fatal remark: "But I don't believe it will." The mass of humanity are like that; they live on the borderland of fortune and success; they feel themselves about to be blessed but never are actually blessed because They stop short just when success might be achieved, even in those instances where unbelief does not give birth to a positive and impassable barrier; nevertheless, it is a serious and a devastating drag on their energies and efforts, frequently sapping and neutralizing the life forces and preventing their expression in the accomplishment of a worthy object or noble purpose.

Lack of preparation frequently invalidates every effort made, even destroying the benefit of the success itself. It is much as when the businessman cast forth the fiat: "I am going to put forth all the exoteric means at my command and win success." He does so, and the reaction may be almost immediate. But despite the success, conclusive results demonstrate that there existed doubt in his innermost thoughts and heart. When he made his declaration he failed to make provision for enlargement, for storage capacity to provide for the business he planned and presumably expected. AS a result, the large volume of business he commanded was well within his grasp when he found himself without the facilities to handle it successfully.

John, the Baptist, voiced this Law of Preparedness when he said; Prepare ye the way of the Lord: make his paths straight.' That is merely to say: "Qualify yourself and clear away the physical and mental rubbish so that the inner consciousness can work out the Law you invoke for yourself," When seeking success along any avenue of endeavor, plan, prepare and act as though success HAD ALREADY BEEN ACHIEVED. This is PREPARING for success by EXPECTING success.

SUCCESS DEMANDS AN INTENSIFIED DESIRE

God's promise never fail when we comply with His requirements, or The Law. He says most emphatically: Ask and ye shall receive." Why do we fail? Because we question, we doubt; our faith is not as great as the proverbial grain of mustard seed. It is not great enough to induce us to make the necessary effort.

It was not thus with the Biblical character Noah who had faith, and consistently practiced what he believed, in an age of unbelief, incompetency and degradation. Not only did he preach the things he felt were to happen but he made full preparation for the fulfillment of the prophecy. This was all done under a continual harassment of doubt and utmost discouragement from all sides. The fear of opinions of his fellow men affected him not one iota. The building of the ark went steadily forward until it was completed. According to the sacred records, he and the members of his household alone obeyed the Law; and they were amply rewarded for their faith and works.

It is the underlying motive and not the surface conclusions which determine the ultimate result of all human activity. One constantly sees man toiling as did the fabled criminal in Tartarus who, trying to roll a huge stone to the top of the high hill, always found that as he had but one more effort to make to finish the task, the stone again would be lying at the bottom, necessitating the work to be done all over again.

This is the type of "success" man and women often vouchsafe to themselves. More or less content to drag out their existence in distressful poverty or suffering under the excuse of "what is the use" This acts as a sedative, nullifying the activities of positive action and endeavor. They fail to gain the mountain peaks of accomplishment and success. The moving power of the mighty Will, which is man's Divine heritage from his Creator, is impeded and obstructed.

There is no success in such procedure, nor can there ever be, because all active desire for it has become dormant; even the ability to plan for it is faded into nothingness. Without a single salient point or aim, the means for success become a myth in the chain of such an existence. He who resorts to any stupefying influence, irrespective of its nature on mind or body, encases himself in an adamant envelope from which even the shock of a major misfortune can seldom free him.

SUCCESS OR FAILURE IS THE CHOICE

There is a wide difference between carelessness and contentment. Carelessness is not a manifestation of contentment but of inertia, which holds man in the vilest surroundings such as could readily be changed for the better if the effort were not lacking. The person who is held by environments and circumstances has little right to dream of success because only the worthy, those making the necessary effort, are entitled to the reward of their endeavors to improve both themselves and their surroundings. "Only the laborer is worthy of this hire - compensation."

"He who seeks success in untried fields," says a teacher, "must burn his bridges behind him. He must be prepared for any or all of the deprivations that can possibly beset the Soul as a part of the discipline of attainment."

True, he may never be called upon to endure, but he must be willing, always ready, ever-prepared to pay whatever price success demands. He who seeks success in an untried field or along new avenues, with the thought in mind that "if it fails I can always return to my old position or environment," has the seeds of failure active in his subconscious self. The thought of success is that "I will refuse to even think of retrieving or admitting the possibilities of failure." The choice is either success or failure.

Thus far we have considered only exoteric success - the symbol which the worldly wise as well as the philosophers have discoursed upon through the ages with more or less practical effect. There is another side of vantage, also called success.

A Biblical writer enjoined upon us to "seek" ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things (power, wisdom and possessions) shall be added unto you." But who is there who is seeking religious inculcations and Biblical injunctions in connection with the search for material success? How little the mass appreciates the age-old truth that, whether they be cited as God's Laws, religious inculcations, Divine Laws or the Laws of Success, they are but one and the same Law - the underlying principle of force, or constructive activity; whatever is constructive must return, must bring forth, must yield possessions to the one directing the operation. |Top|

MAN IS A HARP WITH A THOUSAND STRINGS

The sages, teachers or Initiates in communicating knowledge to the pupil and others frequently employ an Occult "jargon:"; perhaps a word or two, often so seemingly inappropriate that the whole thought seems juggled and incomprehensible to the average mind. So it is with many quotations.

What is signified by the phrase, "Kingdom of God"? "Kingdom" is a term frequently used by Initiates and Magi, the wise and the learned to signify power and dominion; the exaltation of the Spiritual, mental and even physical.

The Kingdom of God, then, must be the power of the Divine or unseen, of the unlimited, as distinguished from the purely human and limited. Hence, the Acolyte seeks the power of God, of the Omnipotent, as of first and greatest importance toward accomplishment. It is not consistent to think that we are to sit down in an inane, lifeless manner and simply wish for success, waiting for it to come to us, especially when we remember that God, or the Creative - the Divine - Law, is ever active. We are to seek, to put forth every effort and utilize every force at our command, to attain that which we desire; we are to cultivate and awaken every possible vibration of latent, potential drawing power within us; we are to cultivate every faculty so assiduously that when, Occultly speaking, the Master of Hearts poses his fingers over our "Harp of a Thousand Strings," it may be well tuned and responsive to the slightest vibration of all that is lasting and desirable here and now, as well as in all future time.

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MAN MUST HARMONIZE HIMSELF WITH THE LAW OF SUPPLY

Having sought on all planes, and even "taken some things by violence" as commanded, we are

really and truly prepared with the one means that can render man potent with power, insuring him uninterrupted success. It is rising to the Consciousness of our "oneness with the Father," which is to say with all reality, that all things become possible. It is only after we attain this point that defeat becomes almost impossible, always bearing in mind: "When ye stand take heed lest ye fall."

It is essential that we be thus fully armed and equipped, and living and dwelling in the Consciousness of the certainty of power to make it possible for all things to be added to flow - or be drawn toward us. We must not develop the forces for success to ourselves alone but also will that they be of benefit to others as well.(5) More than this, we must open the Way and show the Path to others who are seeking the road we have taken. Self-help is first, and, having been helped, it is mandatory for us to be of help to others deserving it.

(5)The sun is a nucleus of cosmic rays, and these rays are continually thrown off and attracted to the earth by means of the earth's magnetism. These two, the rays of the sun and the earth's magnetism, give life to all living things. Man must imitate the sun. Having become a reservoir of power and success, he should freely and willingly "cast such influence upon all who come into contact with him.

It is truly said that "man's power is greater than he realizes, and the depths of the forces of the mind have never been fathomed. he can do all things, once he truly believes and is willing to fully enter into his oneness with God,' or which might be differently stated as 'when he is willing to wholly harmonize with the Divine Law,' which encompasses all things."

Let us give consideration to this phase of our subject by placing emphasis on the fact that in the final analysis God is all, in all, and surrounding all. We must either admit this or declare there is no God and that matter is the only reality. This last statement has no basis, in fact, because the merest tyro in physics is fully aware that matter is ever changeable and, therefore, it is but temporary. If, then in seeking success and inner advancement, we accept the final analysis as truth and with full faith that His (God's) power is within us, discernible to the degree of our Consciousness, and that if this power be sought first, the "upholding of accomplishment" may be expected and the ultimate may be realized.

"I AND THE FATHER ARE ONE"

Success, implying and embracing constructive accomplishment, is of itself and attractive center toward which all allied forces and powers are drawn, again impressing upon us that "nothing succeeds like success." The movement toward such success commences as soon as the thought of such possibilities is established in the mind and impress upon the Subconscious - and then to an absolute certainty. The Initiates of the Secret Schools taught their Neophytes that the Nazarene, because of his attainment of Spiritual Consciousness, preformed his miracles by the application of his knowledge of Laws that were unknown to the mass of mankind.

His work was in no sense supernatural, since he used natural means, but was entirely in accordance with the Laws of the Hermetic and Alchemic Schools based on the changing or transmutation of the gross into finer elements. The law best understood by him and of which he spoke most frequently and emphasized the most, was that of the oneness of the Creator with the created.

This he enunciated fully when he said, "I and the Father are one." In other words, he sought for and had found the Kingdom of God within himself; this opportunity is offered to all men who are

willing to accept the Law and attain, as a result of obedience and the practice of the precepts taught.

Appearance may be misleading. That which frequently appears to be a failure may, under proper direction, prove to be a magnificent success. Nor is it always true that the things which appear to be successes count most in the age of fulfillment, but rather it is the inspiration and the aspiration which is the incentive, and offers the inducement to others. As the great Temple of Atlantis was once buttressed by the surrounding mountains, so now it rests at the bottom of the ocean, still fulfilling its mission, though not apparent to mortal eyes.

NATURE PERFECTS HERSELF ONLY AFTER HER OWN MANNER AND SPECIES

It is well known to all searchers of Occult truth and the greater life that in all ages there were those called the "wise ones" - the Magi - searching for success, The Philosopher's Stone, and called it the "Great Art." When questioned concerning their aims, they answered: "We seek to change or transmute all base metal into gold, incidentally, to find the recipe for the Elixir of Life, which transforms all who quaff thereof into a continuous life of Immortality." It is these, the founders of the Secret Schools of Initiation, who evolved the plan of life, and have been the guides of all who truly seek.

In the confessions of capable and tireless pioneers, who have labored for centuries to blaze through the wilderness of the material world a new Path to success, we oftentimes find statements like this:

"Wherefore, I conclude, leave sophistication and all those who believe in them; flee from their sublimations, conjunctions, separations, congelations, preparations, disjunctions, connectors and other deceptions. Let those keep silent who affirm a tincture other than ours, which is not true and brings no profit. Let those keep silent who speak of sulphur which is different from ours, and is concealed in philosophical magnesia; and who wish to derive quicksilver, except from the red servant, and other waters than ours which is permanent, and unites to its proper nature; it moistens nothing save that which is one with its own nature - nature perfecting herself only after her own kind and species."

Much of this is truth hidden in the Alchemists' jargon to conceal their work and protect themselves.

From these carefully veiled instructions we interpret in plain, simple words that we cannot manipulate matters simply to produce results in any condition or position of living; it is the influence they yield over all other things which is the ultimate consideration.

It must be conceded and accepted that all the effective, vibrating and vitalizing forces are the result of the continually exerted individual Will enforcing effort ceaselessly. The Will is our portion of the Universal Spirit - the mainspring of the golden coil (power); it is the Kingdom of God which is to be found within ourselves.

DESIRE IS THE FOUNDATION OF ALL SUCCESS

We repeat for emphasis what is said to be an old Persian saying: "If one sees a falling star and can formulate a wish before it ceases its fall, that wish will be granted." The foundation of success, which must be consistently reiterated, is the complete permeation of the mind by the thought and desire, and which permits its instant utterance under any condition.

Desiring success in business, success fortified by aspiration and inspiration, we must possess the courage to be perfectly honest with the inner self and keep within the limits of the Golden Rule, which might be paraphrased as: "Do not unto others that which you would not have them do unto you." Otherwise fear and weakness will breed dishonesty; through these failure will follow. Faith in and of one's power, once acquired, is half of the victory of every achievement in any chosen direction.

To attract whatever is necessary to make life vital and commendatory, the Spiritual (Universal) power within must be continually given recognition. This can be cultivated. "How?" you ask. By the constant assurance of yourself that you are seeking to become a conscious individual which necessarily must be "to become a child of God." Thus one must be careful not to permit a dishonest or dishonorable thought to creep into the consciousness, nor any dishonesty to creep into any transaction. Each negation allowed within the consciousness will necessarily weaken the individualism, will build enervating elements into the physical and Spiritual entity and, if permitted to remain, will work toward self- degradation and failure. The elimination of all imperfect elements from the realm of Soul building will permanently establish Divine harmony in the microcosm or littler world which is man.

MAN, HIMSELF, MUST FIND HIS CENTER OF CONSCIOUSNESS

To become a perfect magnet, an instrument of attraction, harmoniously tuned, we must tune ourselves to the keynote of the Universe, the macrocosm; to the LAW which is Infinite because it is unlimited, never-changing and all-governing to the Love atmosphere which alone can light the Fires of the SPIRITUAL Center.

Once coming into complete unity with the SPIRITUAL essence on the threefold plane, we will be practically unable to give thought to dishonesty in any phase in our efforts towards success; unbelievable as this appears in a world of almost universal dishonesty,(6) "double dealing" will not be necessary, nor any help toward true success.

(6) It is questionable whether any age known to history or to man was so honeycombed with dishonesty as the present period. Nations repudiate treaties made with each other as if they were worth less than scraps of paper. They war with each other without the honesty or decency of declaring war. Nations war upon their own citizens, destroying them as though they were so much vermin. Nations practice confiscation of the property within their borders belonging to other nations or nationals without thought of recompense. Individuals and families repudiate their contracts without a thought of responsibility. Manufactures and unions enter into solemn agreements, only to break them at the slightest whim of provocation. Property is destroyed by individuals or mobs, as though it has no value, and without a thought that the destroyer is responsible for the destruction. (In all the realms of the dealings of man with man there apparently is but one contract still held intact - the poor man's signature upon the face of the collateral whereon he borrows money.) This contemptuousness being true, nations universally face disaster unless they right-about face, and also accept the personal responsibility of their contracts, and exile their rulers who refuse to do likewise.

Any failure to recognize the sense of power flowing from the innermost being - our own conscious center of Consciousness - breaks the connection or contact with the Great Center of both the macrocosm and Spiritual Spheres, rendering man cowardly and impotent toward actual accomplishment. Until a man attains consciousness of his own worthiness, and is too much a man to be untrue to himself, he will be unable to find the Christos which is his own Illuminated Soul:

known to men as the Christ. True, he may find the outer, the material man, and therein put his trust - without awakening the real or ideal nature - only to find himself in the darkness of failure. Here again we find that the Master Teacher uttered a scientific truth when he said that the kingdom of righteousness (rightness) must first be sought and, when found, be immutably made a part of the Soul.

SUCCESS IS A POSSIBILITY FOR ALL

Not until we recognize the Law of personal responsibility and awaken the Consciousness within at least to an appreciable degree, will the power be ours to draw to ourselves the essentials for a complete and abundant life. Not until we achieve this state will the beggarly spirit of ignorance, fear and weakness leave us and free us; then, as children of an all-embracing Father, we may command - be potent to command - our loyal and princely birthright, having earned it.

Any amount of worldly goods may be bestowed upon us or be accumulated by us, but if we still be beggars in Spirit, what will it avail us? How long will we possess it before it will be taken from us? Or the Operating Law separate us from it? Let us truly live and, so living, give the same privileges, which we claim for ourselves, yea more, to our fellow men. Though we must be cautious and have the strength to prevent the vicious from taking advantage of our generosity. If we do thus, then very soon eternal forms will be robes of glory, symbolizing power, possession and potentiality; and poverty and squalor, the warp and woof of the garments in which fear wraps herself, will flee us.

Success is for all who make themselves worthy of it. In the attainment it is not so much the outer substance with which we must deal, but the sp

A COMPENDIUM OF OCCULT LAWS

Chapter II

THE PHILOSOPHY OF OCCULT INITIATION

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Part of the Great Work is to recognize the Weak and Undesirable Within, select a worthy Motive or Ideal, then choose a Master Teacher as Guide during the process of Substitution or Transmutation of the Undesirable and work under his direction until such time as we ourselves become an Occult Initiate - a Master.

PRELUDE

The Initiate recognizes two diverse methods for gaining Wisdom.

On the one hand is the intellectual attainment, the study of the methods and experiences of others, accepting as truth the conclusions reached, memorizing them and applying them to the affairs and activities of life; accepting more or less without questioning the old axiom that "what was good enough for my father is good enough for me."

This is superficial to a high degree, because it depends entirely upon belief and imitating others. What has been taught can be turned into actual knowledge through analysis and experience; discarding the unverified. But the vast majority of mankind fail to proceed that far, and are only too willing to take for granted as truth that which the mass and delegated authority have concluded to be the truth, or accepted as the truth.

The other method is not only to accept the teachings and experiences of others, but also to develop the inner or spiritual faculties - latent in almost all mankind - thereby awakening the receptive and intuitive powers. Both the methods and the conclusions may be put to the test and Wisdom gained, often instantaneously, either through feeling or sensing or by an actual visualization and living. This, Arcanely, is called the Way.

The adherents of the material school rely entirely on the physical senses and on a mental retention of the things heard and seen, discarding all other means of gaining knowledge, generally failing even to be guided by their own experiences. While the Occultist accepts as possible these same conclusions, he also connects with the source of all things and there obtains a verification or refutation of the information desired through what might be termed "absorption," or the coming into communion with the source or universal record of all that has existed and still exists.

Heretofore it has been the belief of the mass that the work of the Secret Schools of Initiates was impractical, dealing ONLY with Spiritual subjects, such as purification of the heart so as to throb with love for all mankind and, through the awakening of intuitive faculties, gain the key to Nature's Laws, thereby enabling the Initiate to accomplish his desires, becoming conscious of and satisfied with this attainment.

This is but one part of the Great Work. These Schools have always had in mind, aside from the perfection of the individual, the improvement of physical humanity and the freedom of man from all the forces that tend to enslave him, inculcating an Ideal Code of Ethics for the establishment of an Ideal - but practical - Democracy wherein every man is a King. This is not to be accomplished through revolution and the destruction of life and property, but through the evolution of the individual, making him truly capable of self-government, a master of his own emotions and passions, a free man, free from himself and the tyranny of his weaknesses as well as from the slavery imposed upon him by other men, who are stronger and often more ruthless.

SIGNPOSTS ON LIFE'S HIGHWAY

The organism of man resembles a kingdom: its capital is the mind, its ruler should be the Spiritual self, its body is the temple. In that mind and temple will be found many false prophets. There are the Pharisees of sophistry and false logic, credulity and skepticism; the Scribes with prejudices and erroneous opinions engrafted upon the memory.

If you would comprehend the truth, do not heed what these false prophets "say," but listen to the voice of Wisdom that speaks within your heart after you have opened it to the truth. It is written that the temple built of speculations which the Scribes have erected will be destroyed, and none of the dogmas and theories of which it has been constructed will remain when the day of judgment comes.

Open your mind to the truth so that it may be reflected from within your own heart (feelings); and feeling, you may know. The mind listens to false logic and is lost. On the one hand is the apostle of materialism who boastfully proclaims his thesis that to accept material science is to become enlightened. On the other hand, the religious enthusiast begs you to believe in his theories so that you will be saved. Both pretensions are illogical and lead to delusions. To believe is not sufficient, nor is it wise to blindly follow these leaders.

To become enlightened, it is not sufficient to merely believe and to follow; it is necessary to awaken to truth, to live, to become one with it and to manifest it from within oneself. Science is of value only as it verifies reality. Religion, i.e., Spiritual and philosophical verities, is desirable only as we make it part of life. The one object of both science and religion - these are combined in Initiation - is to ennoble man and to awaken in him a realization of the Divinity of the Soul within. If there is no such Divinity, then life is a delusion, and neither science nor religion is of any value. If there IS such a Divinity, the whole object and purpose of life is to manifest that Divinity in life and action.

FAITH WITHOUT ACTION IS FRUITLESS

Occult Initiation combines science and esoteric or living religion - the practical Spiritual philosophy. Acceptance by faith alone is not enough but through its inculcations and practices it ennobles man and awakens in him a realization of the Divinity of the Spiritual self which dwells within. Initiation such as this, in its practical aspects, brings about a real knowledge of the relation which exists between man and the Elysian sphere, from which the Soul emanated in the beginning. It does not end there; it leads to a conscious union of man with God, or call it the source of all things; a union impossible by mere belief or faith, or by blindly following the enthusiasts of sects or isms. It can be attained only through desire, Will and obedience, not to man but to the Divine Law.

There is no real knowledge to be gained by merely memorizing a theory and knowing how to apply it! There can be no Wisdom unless the theory is confirmed by experience, in other words, unless one actually lives according to the philosophy he believes. Initiation demands the application of the Laws taught until they materialize in manifestations of a combined Spiritual-practical nature, and man becomes that which he believes and practices.

THE CONFLICT BETWEEN THE CARNAL SELF AND SPIRITUAL ASPIRATION

Wisdom is acquired neither by study of mysticism or philosophy nor by moralizing, although these prepare the foundation. Wisdom is not dependent on theoretical concepts dealing with terrestrial or

celestial things, nor can Spiritual (Soulual) REgeneration be attained by leading a virtuous life for fear of consequences that are likely to follow if we indulge in evil thoughts and acts. It is attainable only through the actual realization of the realities stored in the Subconscious, and that are accumulated through numerous incarnations.

The process of REgeneration or Initiation involves, as it were, a continual battle between the Spiritual aspirations and carnal desires, in which the Soul must gain the ultimate victory over selfishness or finally lose its identity as an individual entity. It is equally true that nothing of real worth, even though earthly in nature, is to be destroyed in the process.

"SEEK YE FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD"

The philosophy of the Secret Schools inculcates a strict morality, it is true; a life which brings no guilt upon the Soul. It likewise demands obedience to the Laws governing health, strength and virility; not because these things are held to as a creed, but because obedience is essential if success is to be gained and Consciousness of Soul attained.

Those who seek to become Initiates, who are to be known as the Brethren of the Rosy Cross, Initiates of Light, must enter the Path for no other reason than this: that they have love for the Light which is hidden within. If the heart is unselfish, then in truth may the "kingdom" be found, and all else will be included. To become one with the Light is to be an Initiate, and this is to find the Fire, which is God in manifestation. For this reason Fire, in one form or another, has always symbolized the Conscious Soul, the Initiate.

LOVE, THE KEY TO INITIATION

The Occult Law requires more than curiosity and secrecy on the part of the Neophyte. These alone can never be the password to the adytum of true Initiation. It necessitates something more than selfish interest to enter the gate of the Path leading to Soul Consciousness. It requires a heart able to throb for the welfare of humanity and a love of justice. He who seeks Initiation because it offers him an opportunity to become all that the Divine Plan had intended him to be and, in addition, the possibility to be of service to others, will - by effort - reach the goal of attainment.

No one has ever sought the Path to Initiation who has not found the Door into the Secret Portals and, proven faithful, was brought face to face with the Sublime Mysteries, the knowledge that love leads to God and accomplishment; that both love and God, like the Soul itself, are symbolized by the Sacred, ever-burning Fire; that same Fire or Light which is symbolized throughout the ages in every form of Initiation.

OCCULT LAWS HAVE BEEN BEACON LIGHTS THROUGHOUT THE AGES

The traditions of the Occult Law, the Philosophy of Fire, the practices which lead to Soul Consciousness and all the self-development and self-improvement this implies do not derive their value and application from historical data, but from the universe and eternal truths embodied, and the fact that all the teachings and symbolism of the Secret Schools are founded on the Divine Philosophy of the human Soul. The individual Spiritual self, your Soul, is a smaller edition of the Oversoul; therefore, this Soul may manifest through the universal Fire in the form of Love to the

greatest good of the self and to all others; and unveil all the Wisdom which is hidden from the profane - that is the unenlightened.

Were the historical episodes only legends, the world in its cyclic revolutions would long since have swept over them and buried them in eternal oblivion. They are facts imparted by Master to Neophyte in the Secret Schools and thus, forever beacon lights to generation after generation, always held out as the goal to humanity. These beacon lights are reached by a few in every age, and these few hold them before the mass as an incentive to urge them to go forward.

The Divine Laws which combine within themselves the Wisdom which can lead man from his carnal self to Divinity become obscured and almost lost in one age due to the selfishness and cruelty of men, only to rise, Phoenix-like rejuvenated, in the next age. These Laws have never been lost, merely suppressed and held in the secret archives of the Secret Schools to be promulgated again when the time is opportune. These Laws are immortal truths, universally applicable, knowing neither decay nor elimination by time from the eternal records. In all ages there are those who have remained faithful to their obligations and who stand ready to lead those to the Light who seek for more than immediate carnal satisfaction.

A GRADUAL REVEALMENT OF THE MYSTERIES

Occult Initiation is not to be confused with ordinary ceremonial initiation, however beautifully illustrative it may be. Occult Initiation is the gradual revelation of the Mysteries to the Soul as it gains interior Consciousness of its Divinity or Immortality. Such an Initiation is possible only to those who willingly obey the Arcane and Divine Laws and are ready to live the Arcanum, a highly practical life of a sincere Novitiate and thereby grow into the knowledge and Wisdom resulting from such conscious living. To experience is to know. To be taught and accept as fact is merely to believe. It is not knowledge, and can not be knowledge until applied and found practical; then it is Wisdom. The Divine Law, Occult because it is hidden, is the one supreme Law in the Universe. It alone teaches men to accept, to practice, to live, to feel, to experience and, therefore to know and become. Hence, the value of the training given by the Secret Schools is to teach these Laws and guide the Neophyte to attainment.

MASTER TEACHERS ARE SOUL BUILDERS

Occult Laws are immortal truths and as such know no decay, nor can they be lost. They are like Divine Images concealed in blocks of stone, which many artisans may assail with mallet and chisel, square and compass, only, perchance, to release a distorted form. It is only the "Master Workman" the Initiate Master, who can so chip away the stone as to reveal in all its grandeur and beauty the Divine Ideal and, having released it endow it with the breath of life.

Such are the builders of the Soul. It demands a Master Artisan to take a man in his crude, materialistic, carnal state and so instruct, guide and counsel him to become Soul Consciousness, an Initiate and the master of his destiny; master not alone in things Spiritual but also in life's everyday affairs.

NONE SO BLIND AS THOSE WHO REFUSE TO SEE

If Occult Laws - real knowledge of the nature of the Soul and of the destiny both physical and Spiritual of man - had never existed, our present status would indeed, be pitiable in the extreme. But when we demonstrate that this knowledge has existed for ages uncounted, at times only in the secret archives of the Secret Schools, but always at the command of those who sincerely sought, then, there is no longer any excuse for any man to be other than at his best, despite circumstances and environments which tend to enslave and hold in bondage the weak and inert.

Two conditions at the present moment stand squarely in the way of the advancement of all but the few who have seen the Light. First, anarchy and confusion, a defiance of law, a disbelief in God or in the Divine Law and order, the result of selfishness in social relations among all classes. This plight can be overcome in but one way, viz., the recognition of the unqualified equal rights - NOT their equality as they are, but may BECOME - of all men to seek knowledge and Wisdom in their own way, not as a theory, a religious duty or a mere matter of sentiment, but as a necessity in nature, a universal and Divine command. The penalty for the refusal is precisely the conditions under which humanity now struggles and suffers.

The second condition, which gives rise to the "confusion among the workmen" in the building of the social structure and the individual habitation of man, is brought about by the false ideals, inefficient methods of education and a non-classification of the laborers, making of men cogs in a huge machine with the destruction of incentive. Add to this the almost total ignorance concerning the finer forces, potentialities and innate Wisdom possessed by man, and the absence of all efforts to bring these latent forces into manifestation until these Divine inheritances are well-nigh starved to death, and only the physical and intellectual part of man survives. What must be the result? Barely one individual in a million has the hardihood to call his Soul his own, to possess an opinion different from the mass, or the desire and willingness to make the effort to seize opportunity toward real advancement in the evolution of the higher forces and powers innately possessed, and become the man Nature and the Divine Law intended him to be.

Once the struggle for bare existence involved the need for the greater part of the energy, time and opportunity at man's command; but this is no longer true. The struggle is more bitter than ever, but this is due in part to class friction and partly to misunderstanding and the desire for luxuries which in themselves have little or no intrinsic value, and are mostly nonbeneficial, but often detrimental and leave the combatant weaker but not wiser.

As long as man is thus blind to his own interests, he will never discover the real meaning of life nor the actual purpose of human existence; much less does he realize the power he might have manifested of the good he might have accomplished, and thereby he misses the happiness he might have obtained. This much may be discerned from physical evolution alone and from the study of the human brain, wherein there is a continually increasing portion of gray substance set free from the functions incidental to the preservation of the physical structure, primarily designed to be appropriated to a separate and higher purpose. Mere intellectual activities alone, connected with the physical plane, with the maintenance and enjoyment of life, will not explain the slow but certain cerebral development in awakening man.

It is only when man divides his time properly - giving a part to necessary labor; another part to rest and recreation, pleasant and beneficial; and devoting the third part to self-improvement and the awakening of his Higher Self and his latent forces in accordance with the Divine Law - that he may become the balanced being the Creator intended him to be, no longer the pawn in the hands of egomaniacs or the forces of fate. This is the rational and natural philosophy taught by the Initiates and Master Teachers of the Secret Schools.

SOUL DEVELOPMENT IS THE PATH TO SPIRITUAL ENLIGHTENMENT

It is an axiom of the Occult that there is but one real source of knowledge - i.e., Wisdom, gained by experience - and of power; namely, self-awakening, interior and exterior development, Spiritual enlightenment through unfoldment of the faculties and forces latent within every human being. If these concepts were accepted and actually acted upon, there would result time, opportunity and the ability to comprehend the deeper and higher problems of the origin, nature, ability and destiny of man. Man generally has not reached this plane as yet, and will not until he seeks and finds his Spiritual, or eternal, self - his Soul, that living Fire which allies him with the creating force. This creating force we know as God and may be called the functioning, directing and sustaining activity of the Law.

What man may become or what he might accomplish under favorable conditions and by awakening and making use of all his forces is seldom dreamed of by humanity, and is only visualized for us by the lives of the few great Masters who have lived, suffered, sacrificed, achieved, enjoyed and conferred great gifts upon unappreciative mankind.

THE REAL MEASURE OF A MAN

The Ancient Wisdom embraces a knowledge of the requirements of the physical man and his possibilities as well as an understanding of the Soul, its origin, nature, potentialities and the Laws that govern its evolution and development. This is precisely where modern materialistic science in its self-sufficiency has failed the human race, but what the Secret Schools have always taught in the Mysteries. It is for this reason these Schools have continued to exist, even throughout the dark ages when human life was "expendable" as it is again becoming.

All preliminary study and training in these Secret Schools lead up to this: "the real measure of a man." Just as all life should be a constant evolution, so must all real (basic) Knowledge or philosophical study be an Initiation, proceeding in a natural order, advancing by specific "degrees" or stages of growth and unfoldment.

THE CANDIDATE FOR WISDOM MUST BE WORTHY

In all true Arcane Initiation, that of gradual Growth and becoming, the Neophyte must be "worthy, well-qualified, duly and truly prepared." He must intuitively perceive that such an Arcane knowledge exists; he must wholeheartedly desire to come into possession of it by being willing to make every necessary effort and whatever immediate personal sacrifice is necessary for its acquisition. He must recognize that personal selfishness dare not enter, yet he must be aware that the return for every effort made, every sacrifice undergone, will ultimately be tenfold. He must pass beyond the stage of blind belief or superstition, admit the possibility of everything, yet accept nothing as truth and fact until he has tested and experienced it.

This is the meaning of being "duly and truly prepared." He must prove his fitness in these directions no less than prove the absence in himself of that subtler form of intellectual egotism which comes from the possession of what usually passes as intellectual attainment, as also, from the desire for dominion over others less highly endowed for selfish purposes of his own. The motives, therefore,

of the Neophyte will alone determine whether or not he is "worthy and well-qualified."(1)

(1) Difficult! Not at all, Simply restore manhood, morality, honesty, the acceptance of full personal responsibility.

MAN BECOMES THAT WHICH HE SEEKS AND MAKES EFFORT TO KNOW

It is unquestionably true that on every plane of activity in life, during the process by which knowledge is acquired through experience, man becomes that which he seeks to know. This is to say, Wisdom, such as the Neophyte seeks is a progressive becoming through feeling and experience,, it being understood that nothing can actually be known unless it has been felt. There results, therefore, a continuous transformation or transmutation of the motives, ideals and perceptions of the individual as he travels the Occult Path, and proceeds to pass through an experience of life during the natural process of his own evolution.

This is the philosophical and scientific meaning of true Initiation as taught and illustrated by the Secret Schools and is, in fact, The Alchemical Process or transforming or transmuting the lesser into the greater - the dross into fine gold - the end of which is freedom through experience and self-development.

THE INCENTIVE TO DO - TO BECOME

Mind with desire, in one sense, is the constant struggle of the faculty of understanding in assimilating experience and tabulating it for future use. It is the effort of the individual to adjust precept with practice, practice with results. It may be said to be that living, active something which is the incentive to do, to become what appears to be most desirable, without the payment of a penalty, thus helping the growth of the Soul and increasing man's capability to apprehend truth and apply it to everyday affairs of life, if he also lives accordingly, he is actually growing or transmuting the undesirable from the standpoint of his own benefit, and the process may be well advanced before he is aware of the growth attained.

SOLVING THE RIDDLE OF LIFE

Through the Ancient Mysteries life presented itself to the Neophyte as a problem to be solved, and not merely as certain propositions to be memorized and then possibly forgotten, as is the rule in modern institutions of learning. The solution of the problem through feeling and experience, constituted Wisdom and was an initiation at every step or "degree." Therefore, the command: "Man, know thyself." written above the door of every Temple, was not an idle precept, but a profound command; and it was necessary for each Neophyte to actually learn to know - become acquainted with HIMSELF, his passions, emotions and weaknesses, as well as his strength and potentialities, before he could attain to the status of an Initiate.

As the vision of the Neophyte became enlarged in relation to the meaning and duties of life, his power of comprehension and assimilation of knowledge increases proportionately. This is a process of actual or intellectual evolution. The lower degrees or stages of growth, also termed initiation, and

known as the "Lesser" Mysteries, concerned his physical being and the ordinary affairs of life, i.e., a knowledge of the laws and process of external nature; his relation to these conditions of his physical body, as well as his duties on the physical plane because of his animal senses and social instincts to his family and his fellow men.

These things having been learned through experience not by merely memorizing, the Neophyte passed on to the next stage or degree. Here he learned the nature of the Soul, of his real self and the process of its development, and began the unfoldment of those finer senses which have been so frequently referred to on works dealing with Initiation.

If he was of fair intelligence and possessed of normal moral strength, he would be capable of understanding these sensitivities and would presently discover that there is an evolution within him of senses and faculties pertaining to the Soul plane, yet connected with the affairs of life and his fellow men.

If he were found negligent of the ordinary duties of life - duties to his family, his neighbor or his country - his progress would be instantly arrested and his teachers would refuse him all further instructions, proving the highly practicability of the Occult Initiation. All duties that man owes to others must be discharged before he can stand upon the threshold of Mastership; to become an unselfish servant of humanity as a whole he must compulsively do his duty to the Law.

INITIATION IS SLOW GROWTH BY DEVELOPMENT AND REGENERATION

Occult Science in its higher phase - the Arcanum - recognizes that the ultimate aim of genuine Initiation consists in the orderly unfoldment of the natural forces and powers of the Neophyte so that he will ultimately BECOME what he desires to attain. All genuine Initiation is both evolution and REgeneration from within the self. Devoid of such an inner mystery, all Occult training would be without meaning and lacking an aim. In seeking "magic," man becomes the Magus.

The present-day Occult Initiate seldom uses the term "magic" because of the disrepute into which the science has fallen through the abuse and degradation by those who obtained a smattering of knowledge, broke their vows, proved false to the instructions they had received and in general became Judas-like to all that Initiates hold most sacred. Despite these, there are Magi who have purified the heart so that it throbs with love for humanity and, through the awakening of feelings and intuition and the unfolding and the consciousness of the Soul, hold the keys to many of Nature's Laws wherewith they are enabled to accomplish their mission in life.

AWAKENING TO THE POWER WITHIN

Occult Science maintains that it is a cardinal Law that every Soul must work out its own salvation. This does not alienate the Neophyte from God or the operating Law. On the contrary, it opens every door leading to opportunity and in nowise restricts the possibilities of attainment. When man accepts the challenge and proceeds to apply the Laws of development, it will be but a short time before he begins to realize the awakening of a power, a force, a potential energy within himself wholly unknown to him before. This becomes his incentive to greater effort toward accomplishing his mission on earth.

CONTACTING GOD WITHIN

While seeking perfection, the Occult Initiate gradually acquires the knowledge of unity which is wholly impossible for man as long as he merely lives in faith and the hope that he will be saved by some power outside of himself. To attain the Wisdom of unity, i.e., At-One-Ment, one must rise above the personal self toward the Divinity. This Divinity or, more correctly speaking, part of this Divinity is within each one of us. That which we know as God, because we have been unable to find or invent a more satisfactory term, dwells within each man to the degree of that man's Spiritual unfoldment or consciousness. Few, exceptionally few, have found Him, It or this state of Spiritual Consciousness, because they have been unwilling to either make the necessary effort or exchange the tinsel in their possession for the pure "gold" that might be theirs. Nevertheless, this is the only Path to "salvation," the only method whereby to attain Mastership.

EVERY SACRIFICE BRINGS ITS REWARD

A Master has well said:

"Once thou hast perceived the perfect Being, or the perfection of being, that is above the world and yet within thyself, do thou decide to abandon the enemy in thy household which bears the form of carnal desire. Control thy passions; better yet, transmute them into power. The joys afforded by the senses are wombs of future sufferings. Remember this, yet joys and pleasures are not denied thee, be their origin in the heart and pure. Not alone do good, but, above all, feel this generosity in thine heart from which kind acts spring. Let the motive be in the action; the fruits will bring their own blessings.

"He who turns or directs his desires and labors toward the knowledge, whence proceeds the beginning of all things, ultimately attains to perfection in exchange. In this SPIRIT, that is, in his Soul's desire, the Neophyte acquires a Spiritual Wisdom which is far beyond the worship of offerings and experiences a felicity of inward peace which is Divine. For know ye that he who within himself finds his happiness, his joy, his peace and Light is one with God, with that unrevealed allness which embraces all and is all, yet remains hidden to all but the Initiates who are the sons of the Light - Brethen of the Light."

MAN MUST WORK OUT HIS OWN SALVATION

Real Occult Initiation is an internal, not an external, ceremonial or formal process. An outer form may be useful in so far as it symbolizes and illustrates, and thereby it makes clear the inward changes taking place. To be truly initiated is to be fully transformed; to be transformed is to have become REgenerated; and this is possible only by trials, by self-efforts, self-conquests, often through sorrow, disappointments, possible failure and a daily renewal of battling the conflict.

It is, thus, that in a religious sense, man must "work out his own salvation," but it is equally true that in this manner man must take himself, an uncut marble, and by the Ideal in his Soul and by his own efforts, release the holy image therein and emerge the Master. The consummation of Initiation is Mastership according to the "degree" one has been willing and able to overcome the finite, and has found the Christos, for these are one and the same. This is the goal, the perfect consummation of human evolution through conscious development on all planes.

THE REGENERATE SELFISH SELF ASSURES SOUL ENLIGHTENMENT

By constant struggle and daily conflict the Initiate has conquered self, and no man can know how weak, yet tenacious, that self is until he undertakes to subjugate it. Life after life, man has gained experience. Truly, he has been a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. He has been assailed by many problems, studied all science, exhausted all litanies, apprehended all philosophies, practiced all arts. Then he awakens: he glimpses a ray of the Light; at last he comprehends his mission, at every step he learns to sense and feel more deeply, to help humanity more and more, and seeks his own mundane benefits less.

Grown thus familiar with planes and phases of life through sore trial, by bitter conflict, frequent defeats, hopes many times deferred, almost despairing, yet ever refusing to give up, when he has at last mastered the selfish self, removed the debris, and desiring nothing other than reality, then, everything comes to him. Such is the story of life - and Initiation.

BREAKING THE BONDS THAT BIND THE SOUL TO THE SELFISH SELF

Through natural evolution and an infinite amount of conflict and suffering, man is continually climbing to higher levels, although often nations are destroyed in the process. Evolution, fortified or assisted by a process of conscious development such as the Occult Law offers, helps man to reach the goal centuries or eons before unoriented evolution could possibly bring this about.

Through oriented development, man's five senses become adjusted to observations and experiences on the physical plane, and he gains Spiritual knowledge. The senses are narrow and circumscribed, yet capable of refinement. His tastes gradually alter; his tendencies ascend. He begins to reach outward as his sympathies expand, and upward as his ideals become elevated. There is revealed to him a whole world of experience in which the lower senses are refused a part, a world of aspiration in which the selfish self is no longer in control.

The things that held his physical self in bondage begin to loosen, expand and disappear. Heretofore he may have been conscious of flashes of intuition, of comprehending things he had seemingly never learned. He begins to feel inner meanings, and senses subtler powers; he begins to have experiences beyond the bounds of the senses; he begins to comprehend the forces of centralized thought. By conquering the clamor of the lower self, his Will becomes strengthened; by subduing or refining passions, his mind becomes creative. At last man has broken the mortal bonds of self and begins to function on higher planes of being, although he will be nonetheless practical in the world of mortal activity.

WILL POWER, A FIRST STEP TO DOMINATE BODILY PASSIONS AND APPETITES

The problem of genuine Initiation consists in placing the activities of the body under the dominion of the Will until the Spiritual self is brought into consciousness and begins to function, freeing the ego - the Subconscious - from the dominion of the appetites, passions and man's lower nature.

The idea is not to despise, weaken or destroy the body, but to strengthen, purify and exalt it; not to destroy the appetites, but to control and refine them. This mastery of the lower nature does not

change the keynote to the physical nature as such, but subordinates it to the higher plane of activity. Without this subordination, the clamorous lower nature drowns out the Spiritual "voice" and lowers the vibrations, just as if, in an orchestra, the bass violas and drums only could be heard; and inharmony, rather than harmony, results.

One of the initial steps to be taken by the Neophyte, entering the Path toward Initiation or Spiritual Consciousness, is to gain control of his thoughts and desires, accepting only those which will promote his material welfare and Spiritual advancement. He must learn also how to guard against all suggestions and influences of outside sources. In making this effort he will gradually gain mastery over his own mind, free the Will from domineering inferior thoughts and desires; and gradually he will be governed by his own awakening Spiritual nature.

TRANSMUTATION OF THE CARNAL NATURE NECESSARY TO ATTAIN SOUL CONSCIOUSNESS

Every effort made by the Neophyte has for its intent and purpose the subjugation or refinement, elevation or transmutation of the lower or carnal nature; in no sense the destruction of the human nature, but that the mind, free from debased carnality, may harmonize with the Spiritual self which has been permitted, aye forced, to be dormant and buried, lo, these many ages, by the debris of these ages.

The Soul itself can be only as a Light or in the form of a Fire. Therefore, the source of Spiritual Light and for this reason the Initiates of all ages have subscribed to and taught a Philosophy of Fire, which is the foundation of all Occult Law and initiatory process.

LOVE, THE AFFECTIONS, UNDERLIES ALL OCCULT POWER

"We assert that no power ever comes to man through the intellect; that goodness(1) alone is power and that goodness pertains to the heart only. Hence power comes to the Soul only through its capacity to comprehend love, the underlying, primal Fire-life, subtending the base of Being - the formative flowing floor of the world - the true sensing of which is the beginning of the road to individual power. Love must lie at the foundation; it is the synonym of life, strength and steadfastness.

(1) Used in the sense that goodness is not a form of inane inertia, physical weakness and Spiritual laziness, but a combination of kindness, generosity, affection, the desire to help others, yet with the strength to help establish justice, and justly punish wickedness and destructiveness.

"Holding, as we do, that Deity, the creative energy, dwells within the Shadow - only the Shadow, darkness, can manifest Light - behind the everlasting flame or Fire-form, the amazing glories of which minds have confounded with the very God, we declare all things, especially the human Soul, to be a form of Fire; yet man is not the only intelligence in the universe. The aerial spaces abound with multiform intelligences, having their conscious origin in the Æth or Flame Sphere, as man has his intelligence in matter, and there are grades of these, towering away in infinite series of Hierarchies, human and ultra human, all of whom are ready and willing to help and protect the Neophyte on the Path if he is sincere and single of heart and purpose.

"We inculcate the doctrine that the Soul is a polar world of white Fire within the human body; that its negative pole resides within the brain as a general dwelling because the mind is the constructive agent; that in dreamless sleep or physical unconsciousness it may go the solar plexus or abdominal brain to impart stores of Life or Vital-fire to the entire body via the nervous system.

"True manhood accepts personal responsibility and is more or less en rapport with one or more of the upper Hierarchies of Intelligent Potentialities. There are means whereby we may become associated with and receive protection and even guidance from the Hierarchies; they may and do at times cross the chasmal steeps to save, succor and assist the worthy, the sincere, though weary Neophyte on the Path just as a good brother on earth flies to the relief of anyone who gives the grand hailing sign of distress.

"God, the Oversoul or Soul of the Universe, is positive heat, celestial Fire; the aura of Deity is Love, the prime element of all power, an eternal Fire; both are the informing and formative energy of all matter, the incentive to all activity. The induction is crystalline, for it follows that who so hath most love, even though its expression be coarse for fine, cultured or crude, has also most of God or the Divine essence of power in him or her, the element of time being essential to the perfection of all refining influences over this emotion.."

_____ P.B. Randolph, AFFECTIONAL ALCHEMY.

CONTACTING THE SPIRITUAL HIERARCHIES

"Occult is fantastic and impractical in the opinion of the materialists of these ultra practical days concerning all that relates to these higher precepts; utterly forgetting that the revelations of contemporaneous science are all based on the dreams of the old thinkers. Out of natural philosophy, the Brethren of the Light sought the Spirit of the Rosy Cross philosophy. To this inner heaven of being, so unlike ordinary life through purification of the self, through physical refinement called development, through Mantra, and changing the desires of the mind and needs of the body for purely carnal satisfaction, they have placed themselves en rapport with the dwellers of the Æth or Aerial spaces, the Biblical Hierarchies or Principalities thereof, and have gained knowledge and understanding otherwise impossible. This has freed them of false pride, enabling them to see things as they are. They are no longer drunk with power or boastful of their prowesses, knowing that the one force which levels all men is surrounding them, ready to call the roll."

_____ P.B. Randolph, Rosicrucia.

FIRE IS THE GREAT PURIFIER - BASIS FOR ALL LIFE

The symbol of Fire is apropos. Fire is at once the great purifier and separator of the elements. It is the "hell" or disintegrator of evil and all that is evil, but to the pure in Spirit it works no injury, for the Soul is likewise a Fire, and the Occult Initiate is aware that sooner or later the whole world must be, and will be purified by fire - so clearly indicated in Revelation. Only an intense love for the New Dispensation or New Age can promise any protection. The Initiate likewise recalls that Fire is heat, both physical and Spiritual warmth, therefore, the basis of life.

LOVE IS GOD'S EXPRESSION THROUGH MAN

Like all things, he touches, the undeveloped, that is , the normally healthy, carnal man, constantly draws down to his own plane of being everything belonging to the higher conception of the life of that Spiritual something which he cannot comprehend; therefore, he denies and defies that which to the Initiate is the Light. He finds manifestation in the lower levels of creative ability, degrading it. In either instance he does not know or he forgets that it is a direct emanation of the Divine Creative thought.

All the greatest lessons, of living and acting, are embraced in the unperfected and unrefined creative activity. The Law of Love(1), that God-expression in man, holds its basis of manifestation on the healthy activity of the creative function, the basis wherein dwells the furnace of physical fire. It is, uncontradictably, the beginning and end of life. The moment of conclusion is the beginning of a new life. It is also the moment of death, the point at which the whole organism enters into the realm of dissolution; but the great creative energy of the Spiritual self is fortified with a forward and compelling force into the beyond, so there shall be no retention with the House of Death.

(1) The Love between man and woman, the affection between parents and children, among friends, among children, where ever found on the human plane, is but the outer expression of this Law of Love, the God-expression in man. The more advanced and refined man becomes, the greater his impersonal love for all God's creatures.

It is the House of the Fire of Life wherein is manifested the completion of the Divine Plan, first of the individual, then of the mass of men. It is here the was becomes IS, and the Is-is passes into the shall-be. It is through this differentiation that the great trinity manifests itself unto itself. Verily, the Kingdom of Heaven, the power of God for all good, lies within us , waiting to be awakened and wisely directed. This is the Path and work of Occult Initiation.

THE PATH TO FREEDOM AND POWER

Through two baptismals the Neophyte must pass, both the baptismals of water and of Fire. The mysterious meaning of the baptism by water has long been lost to the mass. It is symbolic of the awakening of the human mind to the feeling first and, then, the assurance that there lies something beyond the cruel, cold, matter-of-fact world we live in, and which is but for a day. Thence, if the longings of the mind are not denied, the baptism of the Fire must follow. This leads to freedom and power, the inspiring Light, the God-Flame which the Magi knew and understood. This is, indeed, the mystic meaning of the little-understood Biblical text of John wherein he declared: "I, indeed, baptize you with water unto repentance [understanding and a new life], but he that comes after me [that which follows] is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear; he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, [that is to say, the understanding and revealing Light], and with fire."

THE QUEST FOR LIGHT - AND MORE LIGHT

We are all well aware that in this age of professed atheism and gross materialism it is considered the smart thing to sneer at any belief in God and the teachings of the Bible. Despite this, every Initiate is aware of two things: first, that in the heart of practically all but the most debased men and egomaniacs there is a longing for something which cannot be satisfied by material power or possessions. Secondly that the Bible, whether or not we consider it an inspired book, does contain both the teachings and the key toward the consummation of man's innermost sacred longings.

Moreover, this key is to be found in the Bible's constant reference to Light and Fire.

It became all the more apparent when we bear in mind that the purpose of initiation in almost all fraternities is the search avowedly for more Light, even when the ceremony is only a form of initiation.

Our quest frankly being Initiation - the consummation of the Arcane Law it behooves us to give serious consideration to the inculcations we find in the Book which millions have professed to hold sacred but which only a few have actually accepted as a Book of Law, much less obeyed its precepts.

MAN RECEIVES SPIRITUAL ENLIGHTENMENT THROUGH THE MEDIUM OF LIGHT

It was a fundamental Law in most of the Secret Schools and their Initiation that man may so live as to make it possible that the mysteries of life and the Law would be revealed to him and that it was possible for God, Himself, naturally in secondary form, to appear unto him and instruct him. This was professedly through the medium of Fire or the Light. If any man attempted to come into the presence of God or draw unto himself the Sacred Fire before he had fully prepared himself, the penalty would be grave.(1) In not one particle has the Occult Law or the Practice of the Secret Schools changed in all these years; it is the Law and therefore, it is eternal.

(1) Lord Bulwer Lytton in his book, Zanoni, gives consideration to this (Biblically) trying to take the "kingdom of heaven" by storm.

THE VOICE OF GOD SPOKE TO MOSES

In Deuteronomy God instructed that Moses, who had become an Initiate, should teach the children what was to have been a New Dispensation, a New Age so that they might remain a great people; and that it would be wise for those seeking the solution of the riddle of life, who desire to attain Initiation for themselves and for all people to heed these same instructions, obey them and profit mightily thereby:

"For what nation is there so great, who hath God so nigh unto them, as the Lord our God is in all things that we call upon Him for?"

"And what nation is there so great that hath statutes and judgments so righteous as all this law, which I set before you this day?"

"Only take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life; but teach them thy sons, and thy sons' sons."

"Specially the day that thou stoodest before the Lord thy God in Horeb, Then the Lord said unto me, Gather me thy people together, and I will make them hear my words, that they may learn to fear me all the days that they shall live upon the earth, and that they may teach their children."

"And ye came near and stood under the mountain; and the mountain burned with fire unto the midst

of heaven, with darkness, clouds, and thick darkness.

"And the Lord spake unto you out of the midst of the Fire; ye heard the Voice of the words, but saw no similitude: only ye heard a voice." _____ DEUTERONOMY 4:7-12(1)

(1) Some have foolishly argued that this concerned only the Jews and not the rest of mankind. They do not know, or they forget, that Moses was only partly Jew, and that he was educated by the Egyptians and trained in the Egyptian Initiatory Halls.

It matters little whether we interpret this to mean that the Fire-Light within Moses, which we call the Spiritual self, or that God Himself spoke to Moses. In the one instance it would mean that the voice of God spoke to the awakened, enlightened Soul of Moses, While otherwise it would mean that God spoke directly to Moses. In either instance, it indicates that Moses had so obeyed the Law that he had attained Soul Consciousness; that the Immortal Light within him had become awakened through his own efforts, enabling him to recognize and commune with the Divine Entity; and that the medium of communication was the Light which may be aroused within all men through obedience to the Divine Law. These are the teachings of the Initiatory Schools.

THE FIRE IN THE BURNING BUSH WAS THE LIGHT OF GOD

"Now Moses kept the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law, the priest of Midian: and he led the flock to the backside of the desert, and came to the mountain of God, even to Horeb.

"And the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a Flame of Fire out of the midst of a bush; and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with Fire, and the bush was not consumed." _____ Exodus 3:1,2

Mortal, physical man cannot see or recognize the Divine Light, but there is that within man, known to Occult Initiates as a Spark of Divinity, which may by a process of transmutation - a means within the reach of all men - so change the body that the gross, carnal, undesirable and degrading material within man will give sustenance to the Divine Spark, bring it into manifestation, a counterpart of the Divine Light; and is capable of communion with the Oversoul which we call God. The Fire is the Illuminated Soul in the midst of the bush - the transformed body.

"And Moses said, I will now turn aside, and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt.

"And when the Lord saw that he turned aside to see, God called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Moses, Moses. And he said, Here am I.

"And he said, Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground." _____ Exodus 3:3-5

How may it be that the bush should have been on fire and yet remain unconsumed? Because the bush here is symbolic of the body, the physical being of Moses, while the Fire within the bush represents the Soul of Moses which had become awakened - Illuminated, i.e., filled with Light - and capable of communicating with God or the Father - the Flame.

The Voice which Moses heard was that of the enlightened Soul known as Intuition, the Still Small Voice so frequently mentioned in sacred literature and known to so few because the Divine Spark

has been permitted to be covered by eons of carnal desires, worldly ambitions and destructive passions.

The "allegory" of Moses and the burning bush is the ancient legend of Arcane Initiation, becoming Soul Conscious and a co-worker with God; or, if you are too modern to accept God, then acknowledge the Operating Law, work in harmony with it and attain the goal to which man is destined.

LIFE IS A CONSTANT BECOMING

The appearance of the angel of God's presence, or the Divine person representing God, likewise of the presence which is symbolic of God, or the fiat which is to be - the Shekinah - is always surrounded with glory, a Light or Fire, and for this reason the earliest Initiates accepted Light or Fire as the sphere wherein God dwells and functions.

Was it not a Fire from the Lord which recognized and consumed the burnt offerings of the altar erected by Aaron?

"And Moses and Aaron went into the tabernacle of the congregation, and came out, and blessed the people: and the glory of the Lord appeared unto all the people.

"And there came a Fire out from before the Lord and consumed upon the altar the burnt offering and the fat: which when all the people saw, they shouted, and fell on their faces." _____ Leviticus 9:23,24

God, or the Law, whichever you choose, has not changed nor can God or the Law be Changed. That which truly is, is eternal and nonchangeable. Life is a becoming; to receive demands that we give; nevertheless, the lesser may be changed into the greater, and herein is the universal Law of advancement.

If we offer of the flesh or of material things, then by the exchange of the process of transmutation they will return as Spiritual verities as higher attributes. Moses and Aaron were willing, aye, anxious to offer to the Lord that which was the lesser, the mortal, the carnal within themselves. The Lord, of Law, accepted it; it became the soul's offering transmuted into Light, and through it they came to know God. It is the eternal story of sacrifice or of being ready and willing to give up - exchange - the lesser, in order to attain the higher. In no other way can man advance and finally come into his Divine or destined estate.

TRANSMUTATION IS BY MEANS OF THE FIRE

In Judges, we find another illustration:

"And Gideon went in, and made ready a kid, and unleavened cakes of an ephah of flour: the flesh he put in a basket, and he put the broth in a pot, and brought it out unto him under the oak, and presented it.

"And the angel of God said unto him, Take the flesh and the unleavened cakes, and lay them upon this rock, and pour out the broth. And he did so.

"Then the angel of the Lord put forth the end of the staff that was in his hand, and touched the flesh and the unleavened cakes; and there rose up Fire out of the rock, and consumed the flesh and the unleavened cakes. Then the angel of the Lord departed out of his sight."

_____ Judges 6:19-21

The consuming of the flesh and cakes is symbolic of the process of the transmutation of carnal desires, material weaknesses and unholy passions through the elevation of our ideals. There can be no consuming, either of the material or of the carnal, except by Fire, and as these lesser possessions are transmuted or changed, Light will result because the Spirit is elevated, the vibrations raised.

All these are illustrative instances of becoming; of mortal man gradually throwing off his mortality by transmuting the mortal into immortality, by the process of giving up a cherished possession for something greater; of a weakness being transformed into strength; of failure gradually climbing toward success. All, however, is accomplished by means of the willingness to deny oneself one thing in order that another and a better may replace it in exchange. A willing, unregretted exchange is the eternal Law; a renouncing of a selfish desire that a greater, more inclusive desire may be given birth and take its place. Hermetically, it is like tearing down an old house and replacing it with a new house; Biblically, replacing the old "bottle" with a new one.

BURNT OFFERINGS AND SACRIFICES ARE THE TRUEST FORM OF PRAYER

"Now when Solomon had made an end of praying, the Fire came down from heaven, and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices; and the glory of the Lord filled the house.

"And the priests could not enter into the house of the Lord, because the glory of the Lord had filled the Lord's house."

_____ II Chronicles 7:1,2

The prayers - devotions - of the righteous availeth much. Prayer, as comprehended by the Occult Law, is not a form of meaningless or selfish supplication. Prayer is a keen, personal desire, not for personal benefit, aggrandizement or purely worldly advancement, but for the attainment of a status which is not achievable by physical means. True prayer is a desire, plus a willingness to give up something already possessed, in order that something greater may be attained. It is, therefore, a sacrifice, an offering; and the desire and feeling is the Fire which consumes the less worthy and changes it into that which is sought after; the Fire or Flame resulting - the glory of the unselfish sacrifice or offering - fills the whole house, temple or being of the one so offering.

"And when the children of Israel saw how the fire came down, and the glory of the Lord upon the house, they bowed themselves with their faces to the ground upon the pavement and worshiped, and praised the Lord, saying, For He is good; for His mercy endureth forever."

_____ II Chronicles 7:3

The advancement of the race must come through the efforts and sacrifices of the individual. As the individual obeys the Law and elevates himself to true manhood and Spiritual enlightenment, he becomes a shining example of unselfishness, and attains as a result of such unselfishness. The mass will come to recognize the operation of the Law and "bow down and worship"; that is, they will ultimately follow the example of those who have achieved, and the race will advance, not by faith alone, but by faith and by works, i.e., effort.

THE SPIRITUAL BECOMES VISIBLE TO MAN AS LIGHT OR FLAME

Manoah desired to speak with the angel, and at his request God allowed the angel to appear before him, although Manoah thought it to be a man:

"So Manoah took a kid with a meat offering, and offered it upon a rock unto the Lord: and the angel did wonderously; and Manoah and his wife looked on.

"For it came to pass, When the flame went up toward heaven from off the altar, that the angel of the Lord ascended in the FLAME of the altar. And Manoah and his wife looked on it, and fell on their faces to the ground. ____ Judges 13:19,20

According to both Sacred and Arcane teachings, the first appearance of God was in glory, i.e., in Light or the form of Fire. It could not be otherwise; the Spirit, which Biblically is God, and the Conscious Soul of man, ARE the Ineffable Light, the basis which cannot be other than a Spiritual Fire.

Even though we denied the authenticity of the Biblical allegories and acclaimed them to be the fairy tales of an early people, it would not change the ever-active Divine Law one iota. It still remains a fact that even in our earthly, material and everyday life, it is necessary for us to exchange one thing for another. If we desire light or heat for comfort and convenience, power and energy to run our machinery, fire for the preparation of our food, then we must be ready and willing to make an exchange, something immediately less necessary than that into which we convert it. All this we readily understand because we can see the process of conversion as also the results of the change.

This change or exchange is precisely what we must do if we seek health, strength, success, enlightenment and Wisdom. We must be willing to give up, even - seemingly - sacrifice something we feel is of lesser value in order to obtain something of value or benefit to us.

Esoterically or in the spiritual realm, that which we receive may not become visibly manifested; the evidence may first become obvious to us by a change of concept and feeling, a sense of well-being and of peace.

While the process of changing the lesser into the greater is taking place, we are not conscious of where the "altar upon which the sacrifice is made" is located until it is manifested by the LIGHT or FLAME following the completion of the WORK.

THE SPIRIT OF FIRE WILL LIGHT THE FLAME THAT IMMORTALIZES MAN

Occult Initiates maintain that all knowable things, both material and what are generally termed Spiritual, are evolved out of Fire, and finally resolvable into it; Fire or its resultant Light is the last, highest, and only-to-be manifestation of God.

Watching the leaping flame, the triangle plainly manifests itself. The base below, the apex pointing up, from the beginning of time was accepted as symbolic of the Unseen, the Unknown, God - the Spiritual in man. There is nothing in all the world that holds so completely within itself all the attributes of the Supreme Intelligence. The point reaching upward is always the sign of superior energy, the creator of life and sensation. Hence, the apex of the Fiery Triangle must be the Absolute;

for the real potency of this Fire appears at the moment of contact.

The Spirit of fire we recognize as life, aye, more, a REgenerative force within man leading to eternity and Allness. Wherever God is, there is life; wherever fire rests, there manifestation will be. If fire is life, and we hold it to be so, then it must hold within itself the Divine Intelligence, hence, the Flame. The essential essence of the flame is life - God. If Fire is God and God is Love, essential Fire must be Love; thus, we can only find the FLAME through Love, and God through the Light emanating from the Flame. The manifested fire can sweep away all man's possessions and destroy his body; but the ESSENCE, passing into the secret place of the Most High, the maelstrom or vehicle which holds within itself the Unseen element of all existence, will light the Flame that Immortalizes man.

Wherever man wholeheartedly worships, in the Biblical "closet" as commanded or elsewhere, there Lights will burn upon the altar, symbolical of the Divine Essence or Energy of the double Divine Creative attributes, generation and REgeneration, both of which are the divine inheritance of man, thus, clearly indicating that man may become a coworker with God, the Law or Divine Intelligence - call it what you will.

ALL NATURE IS BUILT ON A FOUNDATION OF FIRE

When primitive man first witnessed fire struck out from the cold unyielding flint, he concluded that the coldest, hardest stone must have a "heart" of fire. All nature has its existence in this fire foundation; otherwise there could be no resultant vibration; all things would have continued inert; hence, God's command: "LET THERE BE LIGHT: AND THERE WAS LIGHT." And life began.

Nature waited for the great Central Sun to Drop a ray of fiery essence into the bosom of Mother Earth. It thereby creates sufficient impulse to cause it to stream forth, unwind its starry limbs and burst forth into manifestation. This fire, descending upon the altar of Mother Earth from the eternal sun, holds concealed as its ultimate the secret of life; and to man, also, the secret of all forces in Nature.

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CONSIDER THE LOTUS AND THE LILY

We repeat time and again in order to emphasize the Law of Transmutation that the lily and the lotus bulbs contain the same activating fire necessary in all forms of transmutation. They inherit, as do all creations, the creative energy to rise from the lowest to the highest and offer a potent example to man. The lotus and the lily unveil an entire lesson teaching the Law of Transmutation into the highest type, symbolizing purity and beauty; the lotus and the lily, therefore, are symbolic of the Soul of man.

By its own function and growth, the law of creative energy acts; the gross becomes the supernal. The supreme atom of the lily and all else that it has kindled at the base of this Altar of the Waters, the eternal essence of life, is fire or the resultant heat. When it reaches the surface in manifesting beauty there burns within its "bosom" the White Chalice of the Gods, the Heart of Fire, the Tongue of Flame of the Holy Grail, the Illuminated Soul, just as this same process may be repeated within man with but one difference - Conscious Immortalization results.

Having descended into matter for the purpose of taking hold of the material, it converts, changes or

transmutes the opaque into the brilliant purity of the highest Intelligence. The Holy Spirit or Flame of Life does not really descend, but only places itself in touch with that which is lower and which is to be raised up. What an example in transmutation and "bringing forth" the beautiful lily offers us! The secret is so simply unveiled that all with eyes to see, may see.

LOVE - THE IMMORTALIZING ELIXIR

The fire springing out of the Etheric Auric vibrations is born of the spontaneous action of the positive and negative forces. We gaze with awe upon its multiform shapes, its trails of sparks, its flame wreaths, scintillating, wavering arches and vortexes, starting up out of the matrix of apparent solidity and then reducing its source to its own ultimate insensibility.

Fire is significant of both rebirth and Resurrection: of the Spiritual born out of the material. It is a symbol and substance at once of the Immortality of the ego or man's individuality. Hence, the "angel" of Fire and Light has dominion. Above all is the glowing supernatural flower of love concealed in the inanimate womb of matter. The great "love" of the physical world, the warmth and ardor which transmuted the material and perceptible form, is symbolized by the unwrapping flame freed from its prison of limitation and thus formless, it gives rebirth to the Spirit in both the seen and the unseen worlds.

"The Fire Symbol, the beautiful, the resplendent, conceived in the Matrix of Silence, born out of the Womb of Mystery - thou art the Shadow of the Shadowless! Thou art the Causeless Cause, the existent God! We bow our knees, NOT to the Fire, but to that which is represented by the Fire - Love, the Immortalizing Elixir of Man." ---Jennings.

There is no power other than Love - the unalloyed Love, the Godly manifestation - strong enough to hold through all the complex problems of earthlife. It is love that greets us as we cross the threshold of the narrow gate. It is Love that looks into our eyes as we close them in the last earthly sleep. It is Love that meets us when the Gates of the Beyond swing inward for our reception to a new life after our long or short pilgrimage in the mortal realm. Love is the ONLY thing which abides and is as eternal as God. This is the one incentive which is capable of taking mortal man and transforming him into Immortality; making of him one of the gods, having learned to know good from evil - transmuting evil into good by the Fire of Love, the unalloyed Love.

Love, the Law, in its fulfilling, must hold for itself both an inflowing and outflowing current. The ebb and flow of the life blood is symbolic of the give and take of Love in activity. He who loves lives in the highest realm of the all-life. He who loves counts all things but loss if he may but win and hold that to which his affection is bound, whether this is to a person or an Ideal. Love tune the Harp of Life to the perfect vibrations of the At-One-Ment, that state which all human creatures must attain before their earth's pilgrimages can end as they return to complete their destiny.

INITIAL STEPS IN THE STUDY OF ARCANE OR OCCULT LAWS

An initial step on entering the Path is to thoroughly search the self and become fully conscious of THE PRIMARY REASON WHY SUCH KNOWLEDGE AND ATTAINMENT IS DESIRED. To repeat, this is in obedience to the ancient command: MAN, KNOW THYSELF.

In many instances, the desire is unquestionably based on a more or less selfish motive. When this is

true, the Path becomes a dangerous one - like a child playing with fire. Better would it be for the one imbued with selfishness to forego the quest, avoiding the penalty that must be paid by anyone who would activate and direct the Divine forces for ulterior purposes.

The sincere Neophyte whose heart's desire is solely to advance himself on all three planes of life, mental, physical and Spiritual, will not permit any ulterior motive to govern his efforts. His quest is only for knowledge and Wisdom and understanding; these follow in ratio of application and resultant experiences.

MAN MUST BECOME MASTER OF THE BEASTS IN HIS OWN FIELD

Man seemingly is a unit, a single being; in fact, he is fearfully and wonderfully made, a composite of all that exist. Within him dwell all things that are in existence separate of himself. He is actually the microcosm of the macrocosm, the small duplicate of the larger world. While he lives the wholly material life, constructive and operative forces are mostly dormant, and are held in bondage, but when he finally begins to awaken and arouse the sleeping giant within, he also becomes conscious of his undesirable inheritances.

As he overcomes the "beasts in his field" or transforms these undesirable qualities of his nature, he becomes conscious of a new power, a deeper understanding, capable of applying this new knowledge; and when he finally masters the denizens of the world that are within, he will find himself possessed of former unrecognized potentialities. Thus it is written that "man shall become master of the beast in the fields.

MAN, KNOW THYSELF

Once the mastery of the creatures, i.e., all undesirable passions, weaknesses, emotions and desires within, is well under way, another important step is taken - that of the search for the "gold" buried within the self. Within man are all the powers, forces and energy which are a part of the universe; just as in reverse there is also all the evil. For this reason - to repeat again - the ancients inscribed above their temples: "Man, Know Thyself," knowing full well that once man accomplished this search and subjugation, or better still, transmuted the undesirable successfully, he would possess the knowledge to become the Master.

MAN MUST PASS THROUGH THE SHADOWS OF DARKNESS TO REACH THE LIGHT

This quest naturally opens up unknown worlds and brings forth darkening shadows, not the least of which is the gradual comprehension that he who is awakening perceives that he is now far different from those still asleep in the flesh; this comprehension may give birth within to a great feeling of loneliness - actually a degrading self-pity. But this will pass away as his comprehension of the Divine Law and its power increases. This was well understood by the Ancient Initiates, as clearly indicated by their axiom that man must "pass through the shadows of darkness in order to reach the realm of Light."

The knowledge that the searcher for the revelation of the mysteries, both within and without, must pass through the chambers of darkness - as he had to overcome the nonconstructive passions,

emotions and desires - should not by any means prevent him from proceeding, for let it be known to him that before Soul Consciousness or self-mastery can be attained every human being possessing a Soul must ultimately follow the same Path.

THE MASTERY OF THOUGHT

Apparently there is nothing more terrible than isolation and solitude to those who know no other life than that of external experiences and who are not yet able to create their own thought-world, especially if there is no change in their surroundings to hold their attention and stimulate them to think. Thinking, like planning, is an art, and few Actually think for themselves or hold on to a thought. Once they advance so they are able to do so, they create their own world, and find peace in solitude and silence.

Men generally do not think(1); they accept thoughts that come fleeting into their minds without any particular volition of their own, or at the behest of their physical appetite as a result of desire. Welcome and unwelcome thoughts enter, guests who do not harmonize but defy all the rules and regulations. This is diffusion, it is weakness, the reason why man is ill, unhappy and discontented, a failure. The Occult Path leads to the mastery of thought, concentration on constructive ideas, imagination and ideals, all of which lead to health, strength and final mastery

(1) The great Tolstoy was aware of this mental lack and confusion and in his great work commanded: "Man, bethink yourself."

THE BAPTISM BY WATER

In the beginning of the search for Wisdom and attainment beyond the ordinary, there is confusion which appears to be endless. The mind, awakening from its centuries of sleep and inertia, attempts, like a mother with a large family of unruly children, to bring order out of chaos, and finds the din and confusion so much greater because she has become Conscious of the disorder; but gradually, almost imperceptibly, separation of the desirable and the nonconstructive begins to take place. Every emotion, passion and desire is slowly, perhaps painstakingly, placed in its own niche, and when all are catalogued and the mind has succeeded in establishing a system, new thoughts, new ideas, new plans and new ideals will form. Life and its purpose will take on a new and higher aspect. This is the baptism by water, the forerunner of the baptism by Fire. [Top]

A NEW LIFE AND A NEW WORLD

When the mind has become aroused and partly awakened, a new existence begins; man is really commencing to live, his capabilities are awakened to picture a new world with new creatures, all of whom will begin to work in harmony with each other. The Neophyte will start to look within, a new sphere opens; his image-forming faculties develop, and visions - the foreshadowing of what may be - now present themselves to his inner or Spiritual eye and become objective. He begins to realize that he can bring them into manifestation and that real success is within his grasp, including the mastery of environments and circumstances.

VISIONS ARE THE BASIS OF ALL CREATION

Visions of things formerly known, of which memory has lost knowledge, but are safely stored in the Subconscious, begin to appear, vivid and real with all the details. Desires entering the heart immediately take on objective forms in the mind; the Neophyte becomes a creator, helpful to others in need and sufficient unto himself.

THE WORLD WITHIN

Gradually, as man finds himself - as he passes through the second birth, that of the SPIRIT - he visions within his inner self yet another world, with spaces as infinite as that of the outer world which alone he has known, and with legions of opportunities for knowledge and advancement. He begins to draw life for his Will, and nourishment from his thoughts in the sense that the awakening man receives ideas and power from the Infinite, and becomes capable of making application of them in everyday life in all the affairs of men.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING COME BY MEANS OF SOUL DEVELOPMENT

Wisdom does not come as a result of the acceptance of theories and postulates. The instructor's and guide's words must be accepted, but the Neophyte cannot actually know or attain Wisdom unless and until the inner perceptions of his very Soul are awakened, and he feels and senses the truth. By personal experience from the inner being, the Spiritual self, alone come the knowledge and understanding. To feel is to know. To suffer is to understand. To create is to be wise. To merely believe and see may be a delusion.

No vision is possible, nor will the Spiritual sight of the neophyte be opened, unless he has first learned through the effort of concentration and conquest to silence the senses and passions of the carnal self. Once having opened the vision of the inner self, the true being, the Neophyte is well on the Path to Wisdom and the capability to attain mastery.

SOUL CONSCIOUSNESS AND INDIVIDUALIZATION

The neophyte on the Path must firmly close all doors to external senses and prejudices; he must exclude the profane, the sophist and the scoffer. He must open the door to his Spiritual perceptions, beware of passions and evil desires, avoid erroneous conclusions and intellectual opinions not based on facts. He must keep the mind continually directed toward the Divine source of all existence, strive after a continual realization of the real and, above all, desire to walk in the Path leading to Spiritual Consciousness and individualization. To this must be added the necessity to be practical and rational from a worldly viewpoint.

TRANSMUTING THE DEGRADING SERPENTS OF PASSION INTO SPIRITUAL, CREATIVE POWER

No man can actually know his own weaknesses, nor yet know his own strength who has never been forced to descend into the nethermost depths of his own Soul which may be infested with "serpents and venomous reptiles," the symbol of the brood of passion and spirits of evil desires, which, when defeated or changed, become the power, forces and energies to attain material and Spiritual success.

IN THE SACRED PORTAL IS THE THRONE OF THE SOUL

The enemies of the Soul can easily be kept from the Sacred Portal if the aspirants have centered their aims upon something higher than the gratification of sensual appetites. The beauty of any corporeal form, however pleasing or desirable to the eye, cannot enslave him who has learned to know the beauty of the real and lasting, and who quickly retires to the "Throne of the Soul" whenever temptation appears.

FEW MEN KNOW THE POWER OF THE SUPREME TEMPTRESS

Neither court nor flee temptation. Temptation will FOLLOW you; meet and overcome it. He who has not been tempted cannot know the power of temptation, nor is he able to comprehend the mysteries of the Spiritual self who has not descended into the lower caves where the supreme temptress dwells. Let not the Neophyte take pride in his strength until he has been thoroughly tested, and let him not condemn one who may have fallen, for neither may he know the strength of the tempter nor the weakness of the one tempted. Let each one search himself for his own weaknesses and beware of a secret entrance left open within himself by which a favorite passion may enter.

THE LAW OF ACTION AND REACTION

Whatever man does or desires will always produce a corresponding reaction both upon himself and all things with which he is allied or connected. He who benefits others in dire need is actually helping himself, while he who works injury to another, though ever so slightly, is decreeing his own punishment. The acts of men are the external manifestation of their own interior existence, and every thought and act has a natural tendency to repeat itself. Thoughts become entities which struggle for life and manifestation according to the potency given them by the thinker, and seek to become embodied in acts.

DIVINE ALCHEMY

Finally, the Neophyte must come to a clear comprehension that there is no good without relative evil. No man is free from the carnal within his nature. Were this not so, there would be no chance for development and advancement, for the reason that the Soul, the Divine Alchemist, draws its nourishment and strength in the conversion of the undesirable passions, desires and emotions, just as the purest and whitest lily draws its sustenance from the slime and filth in the bed of the lake. Not to destroy, but to use wisely the elements of evil, by means of transmutation, is the purpose of the exemplification of the Occult Law.

A COMPENDIUM OF OCCULT LAWS

Chapter III

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THE HERMETIC TEACHINGS

Instructions in the Laws and their application which govern success on the material and spiritual planes of action. Life, to be at its highest must be a balance of the material and the spiritual.

Source of the Teachings: The present chapter is based principally on - not exclusively - and is a digest of the writings of the two Phelons, both the published and the private manuscripts which are in possession of the August Fraternity: and on the published works and private writings of General Ethan Allen Hitchcock. See Alchemy and the Alchemists.

THE RESTORATION OF MAN

Axiom: Any undesirable passion, habit or weakness to which the human being is subjected and which holds man in bondage, preventing him from attaining his assigned high estate, may be held in abeyance; or much to be preferred would be to wholly conquer or turn it into a channel of usefulness, provided a stronger desire, emotion, motive or ideal is substituted, and brought before the mental vision to make it a part of life. From weakness to strength - that is the Hermetic concept.

POSTULATE

The human mind, irrespective of its intellectual attainment of the individual, is able to reason only by analogy. It is equally true that the more advanced the scientific and intellectual attainment of the individual, the less willing he becomes to recognize or understand the Divine Law in its relationship to the everyday affairs of life, and the development of the individual in the various phases or activities of man on this mundane sphere. Incredible as it may appear to many, there comes a time when the person who has advanced far along scientific and intellectual avenues of activity is unable to conceive or believe that there are laws other than those governing material objects and existence. He denies the existence of either God or a directing Law, which is Spiritual in its nature and, therefore, the governing force of all that exists.

Because of the materiality of the age, it is essential that analogies be drawn between the apparent and the real, which can be known only by sensing and feeling in the manner of love and affection. Those searching for the Mystery of Life and the hidden dynamo of life's energies must come to understand that the apparent, whether this be of body or mind, is no more than a reflection, a manifestation of the real, which man can neither know nor understand, except by its shadow - the manifested.

THE LAWS OF SPIRITUAL AND MATERIAL SUCCESS

Man universally recognizes the duality of nature. Nevertheless, contradictory as it is, he accepts the body, the apparent, as a fact, a reality, but often denies the existence of the Soul or Spiritual self, the unseen - because it cannot be felt and made manifest as a separate entity.

So long as man is thus blind, even to that which would be to his own interest and lasting benefit, it is essential to cite examples and prove by analogy the fact that he is a dual creature. The activating principle, the ability and energy to create and become, is not of the physical man which he so strenuously maintains is the reality, but is the unseen, physically unmanifested, the Spiritual self which dominates and directs the material being.

AN EXAMPLE WORTHY OF CONSIDERATION

When we, for the last time, gather together in sadness and in tears around the casket which holds the inanimate form of a beloved one, we do not for a moment imagine that there is any sensation in the lifeless body. We know that all the organs of communication are still there, but we also know that the faculties, the forces and the energies are no longer present. What is the change? Is not the manifested physical self there? That same self which we boast is the only real existence? Then, why does this self-evident, physical manifestation that is still present fail to respond to our love and grief? Because it is not the REAL, although we can see and feel it; it is no more than the outer expression, the vehicle used by the limitless powers and forces which dwelt within as long as it served its purpose.(1)

(1) Here is the secret of the Initiates, Magi and Occult Masters. They have learned during their course of study and training that almost all that is physically Manifested is both temporary and decidedly limited. Although the physical body can be mightily developed, nevertheless, it is still no more than a vehicle or medium through which unseen forces act. The Occult Masters have learned to know that the power, the energy and the force is not in the body, not even in the brain, but in that intangible something which is variously known as the Spirit, the Soul and the Ineffable Light, a Spiritual dynamo, capable of developing something commonly known, for want of a better term, as magnetism; the magnetic or Æth force, to a degree beyond the comprehension of physical science. It is through the awakening of this force that the almost unbelievable can be accomplished.

The body, that much-vaunted reality, is still with us, but, do all we may, love it as we will, it has taken the first step toward final separation, and will soon return to its original elements - "earth to earth and ashes to ashes." That which we have really loved, that which loved us, and which we erroneously thought to be the body or physical expression, has left for realms generally unknown. The apparent but unreal still abides with us, though we are now anxious to put its accumulating disagreeableness out of sight, forgetful of the fact that we always thought this to have been what we loved. The real, the Spirit and Soul, the source of Life, Light and Love, the energy, power and constructiveness, the Individuality we failed to recognize. Although it was always with us, it has passed one step onward, possibly into the realm of the Light that is never on the land nor in the sea.

THE GREATEST OF ALL MYSTERIES - THE SOUL

Mankind, deluded for ages by the grossly apparent and the superfluous tangible, has been blinded by that which is nearest, and has attributed all things to the physical; and it has lost sight of the fact that nothing material has - nor can it have of itself - life, power, force or energy. The physical is wholly dependent upon what manifests through it; just as the magnet is no more than a prepared piece of steel properly charged by an electrical current, changing it from inertia to activity, and the attracting and holding force is the electrical energy which has become a magnetic force.

In man this force and energy is variously named. It is said to have come forth from God, the Eternal Source of all that exists, and to be essentially good, because evil cannot exist of itself. It can manifest only through a material medium such as man. Man, being of the flesh, is necessarily more of the nature of the earth and its elements than of the essence of the higher realm. Although this spirit, force or energy is fundamentally good and constructive, having come from the source and realm of all that is good, it is governed by the vehicle, the human creature, in which it abides and through which it manifests.

This spirit-force must continue to act according to the dictates of the body and the human mind until such time when the mind becomes enlightened, recognizes its Spiritual potentialities and transmutes the gross physical and mental powers, forces, passions and lesser emotions into the finer and higher Spiritual energies which may be directed by the REAL self, the individualized Soul.

Those who so awaken,(2) live and act accordingly are the Initiates - the Magi. Through their enlightened minds, awakened Souls, rarefied and vivified energies, they become the masters of themselves and of men, capable of performing feats considered as miracles by those who continue to accept the material as the real.

(2) The most difficult task confronting the Master Teacher is in awakening those who seek the solution to the Mysteries to the fact that all real advancement, whether in material affairs or Spiritual realms, is necessarily based on accepting the Laws of Duality, giving proper recognition to the mind and the physical man as vehicles or mediums for every activity, fully aware that power resides alone in the unseen within, and, with the aid of the mind, that this power is capable of developing, energizing and becoming a universal medium for the accomplishment of the desired ends.

MAN AND NATURE ARE UNDER AN ABSOLUTE LAW

All natural operations (everyday occurrences) move in circles or cycles, or are the results of such movements. The rising of the sun heralds the day. The setting of the sun brings with it a period of rest. The succession of the seasons is a progressive movement of cycles, all under the operation of an absolute Law. The development of man is governed by similar cycles called incarnations. It may require eons of time and many incarnations before man accepts the Law and harmonizes himself with it. The Soul, a Spark of the Divine Essence or Oversoul, is compelled by the Divine Law to reincarnate time and again - much as wise parents compel the child to return to school, term after term, until his education is complete - for the purpose of building itself into a Conscious Individuality, free from all entanglements, out of the knowledge gained from experiences in all its planetary lives.

MAN MUST AWAKEN HIS OWN SPIRITUAL SELF

In all transfers of the horizontal to the circular motion there are two dead points, or points of rest. In the growing season all nature is instilled with vigorous life; then, there is a rest. So does the Soul of man take on a body of flesh, make every effort to supply the material self with its needs, gain experience and then rest for a time. Ever since its emanation from the Father - GOD(3) - its source, it has thus continually advanced or retrogressed, according to the degree of its awakening and efforts on the cycle of the infinite. How many years or millions of years it has thus traveled between

the earth and the inner planes, none may know; and how many incarnations may yet be necessary to bring it to full Consciousness will depend entirely upon the selection of mediums through which to manifest. Fortunately - or perhaps unfortunately - for its welfare, the Soul has the right of such choice, provided the choice is made while in the earth life.

(3) These terms are used interchangeably for the reason that modern man is decidedly materialistic and has faith only in that which he can see and feel. Consequently, to him, God is nonexistent. However, all men recognize that there must be an operating Law and a Source of Being. Whether we call this the Infinite, the source of all things, or God is a matter of indifference. Whichever it is, it does exist; and man's mission is to connect himself with it and so partake of its every benefit.

For years, antedating his present life, man has submitted willingly to the tyranny of the carnal nature, believing it to be to his best interest, seeking only the gratification of his appetites, lusts of the flesh and personal self-interests. But at last the awakened Spiritual(4) self is no longer willing to contend with the usurper on its inherent right to rule, and it demands the fealty of its "subjects" - both capabilities and unholy passions. Dominance belongs to the Spiritual(5) self, and sooner or later man must recognize himself as a Spiritual being - think, feel and live accordingly.

(4) The term Spiritual is here used interchangeably with that of "Soul." It is unfortunate that our vocabulary is far too limited to serve us with terms, words and phrases which would be adequate for our purpose to define not only states of mind, but even phases of the Spiritual nature. While the term "Spirit" is used instead of "SOUL," it has reference to a state of condition, the real person in man, as has the term, "Soul." In the present instance, we have reference to the awakening of the real man and which, if permitted to progress, will bring the Soul itself into manifestation. Spiritual forces, once awakened, become part of the Soul the Immortal part of man, and lead him to an assured Immortal success.

(5) At the moment, in fact, throughout all of this work, we have in mind the lasting, not merely temporary, success of man. A man may succeed in a material sense, yet such success is but temporary. All his possessions, whether lands, houses, money, jewels and even reputation, are impermanent. On his exodus from the earth plane, all that he has accumulated will quickly pass into the hands of others who are all too frequently inimical to all he stood for; they quarrel among themselves and rapidly dissipate all that he had amassed, perhaps by hard work and much suffering or on the contrary, by methods not based on honor. One might well repeat the words of the Master Teacher: "For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own Soul?"

On the contrary, the success the Secret Schools, the Great Work and Hermetic Science teach is based on eternal certainty. It is to man's highest interest, in fact, to his every interest to understand the Spiritual or Divine Law; to recognize that all material powers, forces and successes are temporary; to so organize his life that all his efforts are based on Spiritual Laws and with the desire to benefit not only himself but for others to benefit equally, although his first duty is to himself. In this manner Arcane Science enables man to be as materially successful as any man has ever been, and at the same time build an eternal structure that will continue to exist in the realm of Light after he sheds the garment of flesh. Here is the opportunity to meet with a double success, one temporary, yet beneficial to all; the other, eternal and toward his Immortalization.

THE UNIVERSAL LAW IS GOD'S SERVANT

God, as we define Him, is omnipresent, omniscient, the Omnipotent. If He is all of these, then, there can exist nothing but God in an uncountable multitude of forms.

This statement is now frequently challenged by the defiant: "There is no God." There are today millions who most sincerely and honestly feel that there can be no God because of the partial failure of both the church and society. Both are admittedly powerful, yet fail woefully in preventing - and frequently in even attempting to stop - the fearful carnage now taking place throughout the world; not always by kings, emperors and dictators, but the mass against the mass, individuals against individuals. This is no indication whatever that there is none higher than man because he was given Free Will and failed in his duty, first, to himself and, secondly, to his fellow creatures.

The statement that "God is omnipresent, omniscient, the Omnipotent," is but another way of saying that there is a Universal Law, aye, a Divine Law, governing all, which is a representation - a manifestation - of Himself. No one can question that there is such a Law, for otherwise the morning would not follow the night, seasons would not follow seasons, all without interruptions. Whether we call the Law, the Divine Law, Nature's Law - God in action - or by any other term is wholly immaterial.

There is a governing power and it is universal, continual and uninteruptable as well as ever-present and everywhere. This God, or the Law, has given man FreeWill, the right of choice to do as he Wills, to be a slave, or to defend himself and his rights and be free. That there is evil, is merely a reflection of the fact that within all men there is evil in varying degrees. It is only as men free themselves from evil that they will become free from the influencing evils of others. This is all the more reason why the application of the philosophy of the Secret Schools is so essential to man, for thereby man can become free from evil at the hands of others.

NOTHING IS EVIL OF ITSELF

God, i.e., the operating, overshadowing, constant Law, is "good," exalting and uplifting. Consequently, all is good, and there is no room for evil to exist of itself. The term "good" has been grossly abused and has come to mean a negative inactivity; it does not mean a weakness or lack of self-defense when abused or wronged, but a constructive activity, a constant activity toward the elimination of all that is weak, degrading and destructive. Nothing is evil of itself. The most violent poison rightly used may become a life-saving agent. Money, so frequently termed "the root of all evil," is nothing more than a medium of exchange and the means of bringing man the things he actually requires for his welfare, and opens up to him many avenues of pleasure which are to his benefit. It is only when money is used in effecting the abuses that it becomes an agent, or a root of evil. Nothing is inherently evil. It is in its application, in the abuse, that evil is given birth. This must be repeated time and again. |Top|

GOD IS MANIFESTED LOVE

God is existence. Without Him nothing existed and nothing can exist. Therefore, God is Light, Love, Reality, Substance and Intelligence manifested. This is but another way of saying that all that belongs to the realm of Light, of which the Soul is the Spiritual part of man, is the highest and most perfect personified or Individualized form. God is Love manifested - not that personal love which demands much and gives little or nothing; but the unselfish love we see manifested between lovers; in the mother, for her child; in the affection among true friends; in the selfless interest which induces one to serve another in time of need without thought of personal gain; where there is present no evil thought or desire; and unalloyed Love, something rare and of heavenly origin.

God, or here let us use the term Divine Nature, is a combination of - and embraces - Light, affection, mind, constructive activity; it is existence itself. Existence, because only through BEING can the various potentialities be brought into manifestation and the gross, physical self - free from the temptations of biological urge - become transmuted into the finer Spiritual being.

DUALITY OF GOD, MAN AND NATURE

God, or let us call it the outer expression of the Law, is dual in nature and manifestation.(6) This is most easily understood by the finite expression of outer and inner, upper and lower, or perhaps by positive and negative. We maintain that life, light and motion are attributes of manifested existence. Where they do not exist, death, darkness and inertia appear as the opposites, but they are not attributes; their seeming presence is simply the absence of the attributes.

(6) This is an Occult Arcanum and once understood will change the entire outlook of those who have become conscious of this Law. A material success, however desirable, is but one expression of a dual law. It is nonlasting, fleeting and temporal because it is not balanced. When, however, such success is made positive, or combined with the other expression of the Law, the Spiritual development or advancement of the self, then the double Law is being fulfilled; and it is a success, both real and lasting. However much we decry Scriptural tests, nevertheless, such texts as "Seek ye first the kingdom of heaven, and all other things will be added unto you" are basic laws. Therefore, if one obeys the Hermetic Law and first, or even concurrently, develops the Spiritual or Soul nature, success is assured in the material realm; and what is most important, it balances the dual Law and is a lasting success.

THE WORD OF POWER

Light, whether it is the Soul Light in the individual or the material light of day (one is the complement of the other), proceeds from the Supreme Intelligence.(7)

(7) A command by the Secret Schools to those Initiates selected and accredited to teach Acolytes is: "Learn to know the desires - the hearts - of those who sincerely seek the Arcanum and instruct them accordingly, each to his own Ideal."

Accept the Acolytes temporarily as they are, and gradually instruct and guide them as they become ready and willing to STUDY and PRACTICE what they are taught that they may follow the Path from its very beginning, step by step, coming into the SPIRIT as they progress. As they, by their desires and efforts, open up the Subconscious, and unfold the Wisdom stored therein and, also, by their efforts gradually awaken the hidden Spiritual self, known Arcanely as the Christos, they will ally themselves with the over-all Intelligence, and gradually come into the Light.

The procedure actually differs only slightly from the student who, for instance, enters medical school. He MUST study his texts daily, come into the knowledge taught and Gradually become part of it, or it becomes a part of him - HE BECOMES IT. The one difference is in the fact that to the material knowledge gained there are also the Spiritual concepts of which the student also BECOMES A PART.

Light is the symbolic scepter of the universe, the manifestation of the creative thought, preceding perception by personal sensing. "Let there be" has been - and still is -the word of power, the Still Small Voice from out of the Silence, joining Infinity and Eternity, the finite with the Infinite, the man who is the creature with God, the Creator.

As creation has been, so it continues to be. Men are born, only to be forced to return in rebirth, and all because they are too self-important to perceive, accept and apply the Law, and thereby connect the infinitely small with the infinitely Great in completion of the dual Law, and their destiny.
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MAN, THOUGH POSSESSING FREE WILL, IS SUBJECT TO THE LAW

Love, the affection that is separate from sex, is not a quality of the physical. The Law of Compensation, of strict justice, not tempered with mercy, governs and guides the material operations of all Nature.(8) -----

(8) The one universally applicable Law which man in toto has refused to accept, wholly to his own detriment, is the absolute Law of Compensation. This reason is self-apparent. Whether we are willing to admit it or not, nevertheless, it is a fact and cannot be contradicted, that no living being other than Elijah has lived in strict honor, justice and morality. Consequently, all of us are in debt and, therefore, in bondage. To accept the Law of Compensation is to admit being in debt. It is an admission of bondage, and no man in bondage can call himself free. Every debt must be paid to "the last farthing," and until so paid man cannot be entirely free. Those who seek the highest form of success, whether Spiritual or material or both, must recognize the Law, make every effort to apply it in all their activities, assured that it will actually advance their progress.

The Law functions. IT GOVERNS MAN AND ALL THAT IS. There is no deviation on its part for any reason. The avalanche or the torrent of burning lava sweeping down the mountainside swerves not one hair's breadth from its course because of the innocent babe or the tender woman who is likely to be in its path and get crushed. Neither does it change its course to avoid the villages lying before it, but rolls on, leaving devastation behind it.

The blind man sensing no more than the outward manifestation of an absolute force in operation, makes no effort to delve beneath the surface to seek the cause. He accepts the apparent as the real and imitates, as best he knows how, the outer operations of Nature in balancing its accounts.

Man reasons from appearance, not reality. He notices the manifestations of Nature and being unacquainted with the Divine Law, concludes that since Nature, apparently the mother of all material things, has a right or takes the privilege of removing from its path that which stands in the way of creating a balance, he, vain arrogant man, having attained a position of temporary power, foolishly believes that he has equal or co-rights with Nature and, like Joshua, "would command the sun to stand still." He fails to perceive that perhaps another, just as proud and arrogant as himself, may reason in like manner and bring destruction upon him and an untold multitude, foolishly presuming this is no more than a balancing of accounts.

LOVE IS THE LAW

Immediately accepting the Law of Compensation, which also embraces personal responsibility, we begin to function under a vastly different Law than that which today governs man - the mass - almost universally. We place ourselves into the hands of the Universal Law which tends toward

universal freedom, and we begin to rise to a higher plane of being. Justice begins to be tempered with mercy, born of love, an attribute of infinite mercy, of the Supreme, who is declared to be the essence of Love as the essential of His existence; and as we progress the balancing is gradually accomplished.(9)

(9) The present universal trend appears to be against all things religious, and such statements as these would appear to be fundamentally religious. The misunderstanding is due to making the term "religious" synonymous with "Spiritual," and "Spiritual" with something that is not of this earth and is too impractical for the struggles of the earth life. This is a misconception. The more fully the Spiritual Laws are comprehended, the more certain we are to gain an understanding of those Laws which underlie all human, worldly or material success; but such success is won without the exploitation of our fellow men, or depriving them of something so that we may benefit. Hermetic and Arcane Science has as its mission the developing of man as a whole, a dualistic, acting being, balanced Spiritually and materially in tune with the Infinite and, therefore, a free man.

That which really exists (the things which continue after this earth life or earth span ends) and that which seems to exist (the temporal and fleeting) bring us to the question of reality and unreality; one being the truth, while the other is only the semblance of it. God (the self-existing and continually existing) is the only reality. Do we desire a knowledge of actualities? Then, must we contemplate that which was before we were, and which continues after we pass; that which was, and changes but continues to be. The two are identical, even "as the flower grows (changes) unconsciously, but eagerly anxious to open its soul to the sunshine and give its beauty freely and unselfishly to all who will have love for it, without itself losing anything thereby." Love and truth are of the Spirit, part of the Soul, the inner man; the inner man is distinguished from the physical, which is grossly selfish until it accepts the Law and turns its efforts toward reconstruction and transmutation.

MAN ORDAINED TO BE A CO-WORKER WITH GOD

God is substance in the sense that He is the basis of the power and the force that stand under or uphold the universe of cycling worlds. All things come forth from Him in the sense that He is the source of all that exists; and all things are maintained and suspended by the potency emanating from Him as the Creator and the Preserver. This is true only to the degree the man, God's creation, accepts the Divine Law and begins to put it into operation in so far as he and his activities are concerned. Man, then, becomes a co-worker with God and as such is ordained to help free, first, himself and then, humanity from the heavy burden which we term "sin." Were it otherwise then all Priesthoods would be illusory.

THE NEOPHYTE MAY CONSCIOUSLY CONTACT GOD

God is Intelligence because He is also the Directing Law under which all the operations of Nature are directed and controlled. All perception, potency and knowledge are embraced in the Godhead. This being true and provable by the fact that, although mankind were swept away and a new creation, Wisdom would be regained without mortal preceptors, it follows that in Him alone is the intelligence that can formulate knowledge from experience. It is thus through experience and not necessarily from the precepts of man that man gains Wisdom. It is correctly stated that experience gives birth to Wisdom and understanding.

The religious inculcators who first formulated the statement that "there is no God but God" had a clear comprehension of the Law of Existence. Men may come and men may go; but although all may go and but one return, that one will again become consciously intelligent for the reason that the fountain from which all drank still remains and is freely open to all. Deny God as man will, there still remains existent that which changes but continues. It is this that is continually existent which, under various names, the Neophyte endeavors with all his ability to contact and through which Spiritual and material success is won and the Law of Duality is fulfilled.

"THY WILL BE DONE ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN"

Man's duality is a reflection of the duality of God and of the operating - directing - Law controlling all things. This is both manifested and yet to be manifested. That which is manifested is also dual, consisting of the larger world, called the macrocosm, and the lesser called the microcosm.(10)

(10) Hermetic philosophy has consistently taught that the universe is the macrocosm or larger world, while man is the microcosm or little world. The two are identical, and governed by the same Law. The difference is the universe obeys the Law; man refuses to do so. The visible sun is the soul of the universe; therefore, all animate things would quickly cease to exist if the sun would cease to shine. The Soul of man is his "sun," and unless this Soul is awakened and made to "rise," that is, brought into manifestation, Consciousness or call it what we will, the days of men are limited. Just as the Creator of both the universe and man decreed that the sun must rise to give warmth and life or all things in the universe will perish, likewise did He decree that man must cause his sun to "rise," his Light to shine, so as to illuminate his own little world.

The Master Teacher said truthfully, "Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven," which is the same as though he had said, "Let thy will be done in the microcosm as mine is in the macrocosm, and both shall manifest the glory of being."

The lesser, or microcosm, throughout all its existence and activity, is a reflection of the greater, or macrocosm; and this constitutes our environment. Man's life consists of his inbreathing and outbreathing. As man is finite, either act is but the duration of an instant of time. The inbreathing is the indrawal and manifestation of the constructive, and constitutes the opening chapter of Genesis: "...And the earth was without form and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep."

Thus indrawn and manifested, man reaches the point in eternity when the outbreathing shall commence; when He, who has thus veiled Himself in darkness, shall make Himself visible in the Light. As man, in the lesser sense, wakes from sleep or inertia, so the Infinite in space and eternal in duration stirs within; new conditions come forth which man must accept, apply and adjust himself to, or be ground into the dust.

MAN, A CREATOR OR A DESTROYER

Manifested to us, in the universe or the macrocosm, is the thought of God - the activity of the Law of Causation. Here again the Law of Duality is operative. Man, having been created in the image and likeness of God, is either a creator or a destroyer.(11)

(11) The most vitally important concern of all Laws is the elevation or degradation of man which governs the creative thought. By his own thoughts and in no other manner is man's being reconstructed and REgenerated, and his social status advanced. In this same manner does he think himself into personal advancement and success as also into all the powers he may possess by BECOMING an Initiate. In reverse ratio he weakens and degrades the body, draws to himself failure and misery and becomes the slave of those who understandingly or unconsciously apply the Law. It is this Law of constructive thinking which is of primary importance to the Neophyte, and which must be obeyed by him if he is to advance into the higher grades.

All of man's personal environments, first imagined or desired by him, were conceived in his thought and born by the formulation which brought the thought into visible manifestation.

To the degree man's thoughts become perfected, free from the purely personal self-interest, they are aligned with and similar to God's thoughts, to God's creations. The universe or macrocosm may be likened to God's body, and is impressed by His thoughts or desires. However, no third force intervenes between God's thoughts as a cause and fruition as a result. In like manner the influence of man's thought upon his own body is direct as also is his influence upon others. His influence upon the great, sensitive thought current of the universe, by the projection of his thought, has its influence either in alignment with the constructive or in its perversion.

Much has been said relative to the influence of evil upon mankind. Undoubtedly and admittedly there is such an influence, but it should be recognized that such influence can only make an impression or an entry where the guard is down. The most powerful thoughts of evil projected by an evil master-mind cannot gain entrance or make an impression upon the mind that is free from evil unless the mind of that person is wholly negative. In the natural order, like attracts like. As is the above, so is the below - is the Hermetic Law. To receive, one must be prepared or at least passive. Even the weak mind, positive to good, cannot be influenced by an evil thought or word. The rate of vibration precludes this. Evil thoughts create low vibrations. All that is good or constructive is of high vibration. A lower rate of vibration cannot penetrate into a sphere of higher vibration. Radio reception has proven this law.

What we see and class as an evil may actually be good in disguise. To illustrate, we may be meeting with success and, then, suddenly an unexpected factor enters, and our plans, formerly successful, fail. We, of course, immediately call that force, or that interference, evil. But is it? If we could analyze it fairly and with open-mindedness, we might find that the methods we had pursued were basically dishonest and, if continued, would lead not only to failure but to dishonor. By accepting the interruption we can rearrange our plans and methods, and avoid such failure and dishonor with no more than a temporary loss. Therefore, that which at first glance seemed evil was an agent for good. Examples such as this might be multiplied ad infinitum.

MAN'S ENVIRONMENT IS HIS OWN MAKING

What is the purpose of environment? It must exist for the simple reason that it cannot be otherwise where perfection is lacking. All environments exist to meet the self-created requirements of the Soul, or if we deny the existence of a Soul, then of the person. According to material laws, which all comprehend, for every demand there is a supply. The supply is naturally according to the actual personal requirement and the Law, and not the demand of the person. Therefore, according to our condition and the necessity for advancement is the environment wherein we are placed or have placed ourselves, and from which we alone can free ourselves. Environment, however lowly or

undesirable, is neither a curse nor reason for discouragement. It is, however, cause for thought and analysis, and for a search for the cause. Our greatest weakness may be made the means to our greatest strength. It is merely a matter of acceptance and application.

Figuratively speaking, God must think, and the heavens (all spaces) above the earth, as is the earth, are filled with His manifested thoughts. The very fact that He thinks - creates - in like manner so does man, being the microcosm of the macrocosm, only to a lesser degree. Man, naturally, cannot equal the Supreme Intelligence; for a part can never equal the whole. In all the lives, in all the states and conditions of existence, man, as a thought of and part from God, may develop and grow into a balanced individuality. This is man's reason for coming into an earthly existence. This attainment is the Great Work of the Secret Schools. Man shall accept the Law and, by an application of it to his own person and action, develop himself into a Conscious Individuality, an Initiate, a son of God, but not yet, a God.

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THE TWOFOLD WORK OF THE SECRET SCHOOLS

Man is separated from God, the Creative Center or Energy, as a drop of water in the sea or the grain of sand in the mountain is separated from the whole. It is cut off from the mass as it were, but cannot escape its unity of condition and similarity of structure. Man is held to his place in the world, bound by the web of existence, in order that the talent given him may by his voluntary efforts become "ten or five talents."(12) -----

(12) No man, mentally normal, comes into the world, who is so poorly equipped that he does not possess at least one quality which, if developed, will bring him success. The first handicap overcome, the first success won, can be used or directed to open other avenues so that the one "talent" may be changed into yet other or greater talents.

Success is like a ladder. (It must be "climbed" to reach the top. The pity of it all is that so few out of the many millions are either ready or willing to take the first step. These masses are not satisfied with what they are or what they have, but regrettably do not possess the moral character to make the necessary efforts to overcome their inertia. It is easier to stand idly by and condemn others who wake up to their possibilities and achieve the success that faith and toil repay.

Thus, the Soul's Center may clothe itself with completion and fitness, enabling man to dwell forever in the inner Light of inbreathing where the manifested shall return upon itself. This is the perfection of the thought of God in man.

The Great Work of the Secret Schools is twofold. On the one hand, the development of the material, physical self, with all its potential powers and energies and all its possibilities. This, contrary to the general opinion, directly affects the Spiritual self. On the other hand, its greatest work is not the material success of man which, after all, is but for a short period of time - the span of the earth life - but to help the Soul to clothe itself with the Ineffable Light, the Light which we call God manifested, or Cosmic Consciousness, the aim and end of life, the ultimate to which man may aspire and attain.

WHAT ACTUALLY IS MAN'S PURPOSE ON EARTH?

Man questions without receiving a satisfactory answer: "From whence did I come?" "Whither do I

go? ~For what purpose am I here?"

On these points many build fine-spun theories, listen to exhaustless arguments, then, in despair of practical demonstration,(13) or even a certain foundation for any and all concepts, turn to the complexities of their environment, submerge everything in more or less futile efforts to attain mediocre success.

(13) The weakness of the mass has always been that they themselves are willing to either theorize or listen to the theories promulgated by others. They are merely believers and as such can never KNOW. Some find satisfaction in argument, while others seek for physical demonstration made by those who usually benefit themselves. This is not the method to pursue in finding the answers to these question. There is a way. This has been open to all true seekers for longer than history has been written.

The Secret Schools have always held the Door open to those who are truly in search for the answer to the riddle of life, but such must be in earnest, accept a method of thought, desire and ACTION as a fundamental, then Practice - LIVE - so that in time they may have the experience themselves; this is the Wisdom of the secret of life - not faith, except as an incentive to action, but the effort which made faith manifest. -----

As human life averages, if there is no life beyond the present mundane sphere, then, the Infinite Creator or Law of Causation has made a disastrous mistake, inexcusable for the experiment. The pain, misery and sorrow experienced on life generally are in no sense compensated by the amount of pleasure that may or can come to the earth-born, if there is nothing more certain and real for them.

THE SIMPLE, ETERNAL SECRET TO WHICH HUMANITY IS BLIND, the answer to the question of questions, is: IF MAN VISIONS AN IDEAL, IF THE DESIRE FOR ATTAINMENT OF THAT IDEAL IS SO STRONG THAT HE DOES NOT EVEN QUESTION, then HE WILL HAVE THE MEANS AT HIS COMMAND TO FIND THE ANSWER.

The All-Wise, the Oversoul, did not and does not make mistakes. If He did, then the sun would not rise on the second for eons of years in succession, nor would it set as regularly; consequently, there must be something more for the real man, the Spiritual self, after the mortal coil is discarded and it stands free and is relieved of its present incumbrance and can no longer be retarded by it. All of the past great religious leaders perceived part of this truth, and in so far as they were capable, incorporated it into their precepts. Such glimpses of truth result as a reflection when vital enough to incite a search for knowledge based on an inherent feeling carried over from a previous incarnation and, then, by making the necessary effort to open up the Subconscious so that it will be able to reveal the hidden knowledge stored within.

THE ETERNAL CANNOT BE OTHERWISE THAN ETERNAL

If man is to exist always, then he must have always existed as man, not possibly or necessarily as a separate entity, but in the Godhead or Creative Center. It is an absurdity to suppose that Infinite Justice would insist that the normally allotted years of man's average life should decide the question of eternal duration thereafter. Man - the Spiritual self - coming from the Eternal Past through the present "now," passes on into the Eternal Future to again live in the existent "now." As a thought and Divine Spark of God he must be, in his Spiritual - real - self, part of God; just as the thought is a part of all thought, yet separate from all other thought except where harmony has been

established.

From out of everything possessed of life there goes forth at the end of the visible or mundane existence the final - last "breath" - increment or vitality.(14)

(14) Hermetic teachings have termed the life principle variously as vitality, vital force and spirit, NOT Spirit. This is due to the fact that the term "spirit" is generally confused with the Spiritual self, synonymous with the term "Soul."

The Secret Schools and Arcane Fraternities have clearly defined the life principle common to all living things as the spirit, and the immortal part of man, or that part of him which may be immortalized, as the Soul or the Spiritual self. It is not easy to keep the two terms from conflicting at times, for the reason that in all too many instances that which might be the Soul of man is in reality little more than an expression of the spirit or animal life principle; it may not become more than that for many incarnations, until some great sorrow, suffering or loss awakens that person to the superficiality of carnal existence, and he begins to grope for reality.

This universal agent does not die. It has a continued existence, for it is the basis, source and supply of all physical life of manifestation. This vitality or virility which is life force is common to man, beast, bird and plant. It is like a thread strung through a number of beads of all sizes and colors - the tread the same, but the beads different. This great stream of vital force, emanating constantly from earth, surrounds it like a vast sea, ever-present, to be drawn in by the first breath of the newly born. Into this plunges the Spirit(15) on its way to manifestation and is here clothed and quickened with the powers necessary for anchoring itself in the physical body.(16) Once securely placed, its basic intent was and is to proceed to build its Soul, the object and aim of human existence.

(15) The term "Spirit," as used here, might be confusing but is used interchangeably with Soul. The spirit which is life is part of the new being from its beginning. The Spirit, the waiting Soul, is indrawn and domiciled in the new body as is a tenant moving into a new building.

(16) Here again the reference to the "Spirit" has in mind the Soul. The Spirit must be there, or the child is stillborn or an idiot. It is not the spirit which is the anchorage of the Soul in that new body: it is the perfected mental unit which proves the anchorage. Both spirit and Soul are separate entities. As the descending Soul is breathed in, the mind results and begins to function. If for some reason there had been interference at any part of the gestation so that the brain structure failed to develop normally, the Soul would not remain - become anchored - and the child would be an idiot, Soulless, though still retaining the spirit, and continuing to live, but would be irrational.

THE BUILDING OF A SOUL

Experience brings knowledge and Wisdom; by means of this Wisdom, plus desire and effort, the Soul is brought into Consciousness.(17)

(17) A recent writer has stated it differently: "The Soul is the accumulation of experience." This, we may illustrate by saying that a man prepares the foundation for a house; he gathers the material, stone, lumber, hardware, and whatever is needed; then, he proceeds to fit the separate parts together and, finally, he has a house for a home. Every experience the Neophyte passes through is like a piece of stone, lumber, or iron, used in building the "house." The Soul he develops, i.e., builds, will be according to the experiences he has passed through; each experience becomes a part of the

whole.

The entity so formed may or may not perfect itself to the fullest extent of its possibilities during any one planetary life, but when it goes hence, time disappears in eternity and places it in infinity. Continued existence is a matter of choice while in the earthlife, and depends on how well one has applied his time, energies and knowledge to build in the present AND INTO THE FUTURE.(18) In some few instances as when the carnal life is discarded early in youth in exchange for a life of constructive usefulness and personal advancement, the present lifespan may be sufficient to TRANSMUTE the mortal into the immortal, and further incarnations might not be necessary though desirable.

(18) This statement can readily be exemplified by referring to the Hermetic Law:

"As above, so below [the material];
As below, so above [the Spiritual]."

How many have built beautiful mansions, closed them for a time while taking long, extended journeys, then returned to reinhabit their mansions? In the present we may build our future dwelling place, and while we are building we also live in the present.

In the vast majority of cases one lifespan is no more than one grade in school, and many lives are necessary for final graduation. Nor is this any cause for despair. Once we see the true Light and fully recognize the reason for earth existence, then, even sorrows, losses and sacrifices become just so many pawns in the game; and although the memory of former lifespans, with the attendant pain, must be eliminated from our consciousness, both peace and satisfaction are derived therefrom as when a personal sacrifice - actually a manifestation of affection - is made in helping a loved one.

THE SOUL ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE BORDER LINE

It will appear that the more Spiritual the accumulations - the experiences of life - the more readily they will become a part of the Soul, and advance it toward its final, high destiny. Likewise, it may happen, as it unfortunately does most frequently, that these experiences are so gross and earthy or carnal that the Soul is unable, in the supreme moment of separation from the body, to lift its load. In such instances, the Soul must necessarily remain earthbound for a longer or shorter period until the hold which the grossly material has upon it becomes weakened sufficiently so that it may free itself from the force that retains it. Then, it must pass into the realm of darkness, and possessing so little Light - the Light which is neither on land nor sea - it must remain in semisleep, without the power of self-volition, until such time as the functioning Law governing all Souls calls it to reincarnation, and gives it another chance to either perfect itself or drag itself still lower into carnality.

When such a Soul reincarnates, although it is no more than a Spark of the Oversoul, its own denseness and the grossness of its present physical body are such that they veil the past life or lives from its present knowledge; but they only veil, they cannot destroy or undo its inheritance. It is only when the last earthlife has been lived, and perfection or Consciousness of Soul attained, that the good and constructive of the past will have become a part of the Individualized self or Soul. All that was once evil and destructive has been transmuted, and made use of in the effort of the present attainment.

MAN INHERITED THE ABILITY TO BECOME WHAT HE DESIRES TO BE

This basic Law forces us to face the fact that, although the material part of ourselves is brought into being by those we know as progenitors and the Spiritual part is a Spark from the Divine, nevertheless, we are our own creators. We are wholly responsible for all that we will become BOTH MATERIALLY AND SPIRITUALLY. Within us is the substance and the capability, as well as the capacity, to become exactly what we desire to be, and whether the finished product be to the glory of God, or such as to shame the devil, we created it, and we alone are responsible for it. Neither environments nor birth nor temptations are to blame. Our own choice can make of these what we will: an almost unbelievable material success, honor and high Spiritual attainment; or the reverse: failure, physical and mental degradation, and finally failure to achieve our Spiritual birthright - Immortality, in the present incarnation.

This concept(19) effectually nullifies the accusation of any injustice on the part of God, who in the ultimate, does no more than to permit us our existence, and graciously and freely offers us all the forces in the universe to do with (apply) as we please. Every human creature is given the same opportunity.

(19) This Law - it is an absolute, undeviating Law - is simply and comprehensibly stated in the Biblical LEGEND OF THE SOWER. Refer to the text: The Great Work - The Council of Three.

It is equally true that not all human creatures are like endowed at birth, due to the misuse made of their opportunities in a former incarnation or because they have not nearly evolved to possess Souls, nor will they be like-endowed in the next incarnation. This is because the greater number will abuse and dissipate their forces, while others will correctly apply them. Herein is the secret of the inequality of men, and no earthly or man-made legislation can remedy this. The concept that man is enslaved by circumstances which fix his status cannot be otherwise than inconsistent with the omniscience and omnipotence of God or the Law of exact justice.(19)

If reincarnation is accepted as a fact, it must necessarily happen that at certain periods of the earth's history, person's who in former life were governed under a certain dispensation of concept, desire and activity, would be reincarnated at about the same time, and would give a wonderful impetus and direction of what influenced their former life.(20)

(19) This Law - it is an absolute, undeviating Law - is simply and comprehensibly stated in the biblical Legend of The Sower. Refer to the text: The Great Work - The Council of Three.

(20) This is accepted by the Secret Schools as a fundamental doctrine of their philosophy. Atlantis reborn is the vision of the Neophytes in the Arcane Fraternities. Atlantis, then Egypt were the lands overshadowed with wings; now America is the land overshadowed with wings.

In confirmation, the opinion is held by those learned in Occult lore and Law, that the dwellers in the great Temples of Luxor in Egypt, when they were in their glory, are now one by one reincarnating - BY THEIR EFFORTS (fruits) SHALL YE COME TO KNOW THEM. To this fact is credited the great interest now everywhere apparent in the hidden forces of the universe, and their application to the development and advancement of individuals first and, then, to the universal benefit of all men.
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THE LAW OF KARMA

Memory, except in very rare instances, is incapable of retracing the past, or gathering the threads of former lives from incarnation to incarnation. Yet there is a power, in itself the operation of sequence, known as Karma, that holds within itself the secrets of all past experiences which are on record in the Subconscious.

Karma is most nearly interpreted by our English word "indebtedness," as an individual, continuous responsibility, which acts and reacts upon itself in all the unending cycles of progression. It not only includes the present life, but reaches over into the future life. It brings out of the store of the past causes for the present conditions and circumstances of much that puzzles the judgment of those who live only in the illusion of the unreal. The outer does not formulate the inner, but by its acts builds up the inner and is remanifested through the outer.

Genius, like character and Karma, is a manifestation of the past through the activity of the accomplishments of the present. The genius of the day, the child of supposedly good fortune who, apparently without effort, becomes a master musician, great artist, inventor or master mechanic, is NOT, as so many foolishly believe, the darling of a favored God; but he is at last reaping the fruits of his past efforts, self-denials, sufferings and in all probability persecution and prosecution at the hands of those who had set themselves up as judges; and often these judges - the evil and vicious, of which there are many in our modern times - condemned to the gallows or the fires all who did not believe as they did or conform to their views. Thus, a Galileo may have been the father of an Edison.

No living man nor power on earth or in heaven can shield another from the inviolable workings of the Laws which govern the universe, Laws which rule the macrocosm or great world as surely and correctly as they do the microcosm or little world. Laws called into activity by the decree of the Creative Thought cannot be put aside, thwarted or evaded by man, not even by God. Man can attempt to evade, but cannot break or set aside a Law; God will not do so lest He become changeable, therefore finite. Even so great a one as the Master Teacher said: "Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the Law, till all be fulfilled," and it will not be "fulfilled" until of no further use. If a single particle of the Law, any Law, be "broken," God concurring, then, all are thereby annulled, and the universe will return to chaos again, into the dreadful blackness of desolation.

OVERCOMING EVIL BY DOING GOOD

He who transgresses the Law must pay the penalty,(21) each for himself; no other one can do it for him.

(21) There is but one exception to this rule. One who is under the ban of Karmic Law or who has committed an act or acts contrary to the Divine Law may repay by deeds of kindness or mercy. As an example, a man has either stolen or obtained by false pretense money from one who could ill afford the loss. The Law of Karma demands that in some manner, somewhere, somehow, the guilty person may anticipate the action of the Karmic Law by helping some truly unfortunate person to a greater extent the amount unlawfully procured. This is the precept of "overcoming evil by doing good."

Each is given the Law, each is an individual to himself and must work out his own destiny, repay

his own Karmic debts, transmute evil into good, in harmony with the constructive Law. Evil, whether Karmic or within man's nature, is the fuel which may be set afire to free the gold from the dross, give birth to the Divine Fire within, and bring about immortality in like manner as the mire at the bottom of the lake supplies the food from which springs the immaculate lily, the glorious Lotus of the Nile with its seed pot of golden hue.

The different stages of growth, beginning with the lowest criminal and ending with the World Savior, are at once the cause and effect of Karmic action or reaction. The Soul, striving out of the experience of its mundane life to build itself into Consciousness and individuality, because of erring judgment, often makes mistakes - serious in proportion to intent. These errors infringing upon the Law of Spiritual Development bring more or less serious effects which must be eliminated by constructive effort.

If I, as a purse-proud aristocrat, have spurned in Spirit and crushed one who in humble station begged for help and mercy at my hands, then I must suffer the penalty of the golden rule, and be done to as I have done to others until the engrossing selfishness of my nature is thoroughly conquered and full redress is made. Thus the tyrant, dictator, of today may easily be the beggar of the next incarnation,(22) or the slave of the cruelest of men.

(22) It would be a blessing to untold millions, and the salvation of nations if those in power or those selected for high office would fully understand this governing Law, and elect men accordingly. They would then quickly understand that for every usurpation of power, every injustice and every shameful "laurel" added to their "crown," they are creating conditions, and setting into motion certain forces which will enslave them for ages to come; that every unearned "victory" will bring upon themselves and their followers tenfold penalties; that they who seek to gain will end by losing their own Souls. Dante's Inferno is as nothing compared to the place these blind leaders are NOW creating for themselves.

THERE IS NO ESCAPING FROM THE LAW

The cruel attempts at enforcing creeds and dogmas have crushed out millions of innocent lives, all because they held closely to the letter and utterly failed to find the Spirit of what they were taught. Calvinism and Arminianism later crossed swords in clashing arguments. They who believe man is predestined cannot be reconciled to the doctrine of Free Will. Yet both exist, and both are true. By the certainty of atoning, in suffering or the reverse, for his thoughts, desires and actions, man is predestined to follow a certain line of action to free himself. From this, there is no escape. This is the predestination of his Karmic debt. While he is thus working out "his own salvation with fear and trembling," he may resist and struggle and, as it were, dash himself with blind fury against the invisible walls that hold him to his punishment and detriment. By such manner of resistance he creates for himself an undesirable position in the present life-cycle, and at the same time Karma will require further incarnations in order that he may free himself from his bondage.

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MAN IS WEIGHED IN THE BALANCE

If life is accepted as cheerfully as is humanly possible, even when conditions and circumstances are decidedly unpleasant; if at all times one makes the most of opportunities as they present themselves, even gathering sweetness from bitter experiences, as bees gather honey from bittersweet, then the next incarnation will be vastly different in every respect and he will be repaid for all that might have

been unjustly exacted from him.

It is not necessarily true that one must wait until the next incarnation for his reward or advancement. Frequently the test, the experience and the accounting are in the present life and follow each other in quick succession. How often we see the divergent nature of men in their acceptance of a similar condition! On the other hand, we see a man accept an undesirable personal problem as a matter of course, just as he would an unpleasant duty. He may feel that it is wholly unjust and uncalled for, but he recognizes that it must be met and removed before the way is clear for him to proceed as he would otherwise. Without malice and with clear vision, he undertakes the problem. He does not fume and swear, nor does he call vengeance upon all concerned; that to him is a waste of time. A work must be performed and he does it. That man has not only prepared a favorable Karmic condition for the future but has actually set into motion forces that will help him toward success, Spiritual or material, as the case may be, and he will profit by it, possibly beginning at once.

Another, of an entirely different temperament, will see only the hand of fate and the malice of his fellow men in the matter. He cannot conceive that it may be used as something to test him. He cannot comprehend that it may be used as something to test him. He cannot comprehend that a just Law may be in operation. All he can realize apparently is that it is an injustice. As such, in his opinion, he should not even be expected to undertake it. His unreasonableness causes him to perform his task in a perfunctory manner, or in the spirit of failure. He weakens himself mentally and physically because of the ill-will he feels during the entire effort. When the task is completed, he has not only failed to create a credit for himself, but he has made himself wholly unworthy for anything better. He has neither paid Karma nor created favorable conditions because he responded unwillingly. All the ill will, the bitterness, the resentment of his thoughts and feelings have created that much more Karmic indebtedness for the future.

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"BLESSED ARE THE MEEK"

Karma is both the Law of Predestination and Free Will. We are bound by all of our past as we are bound by the actions of the immediate present, and we will be bound by all actions of the future. Our present is held as hostage for the future in building that temple "not made with hands," just as it is in the attainment of material success. "Blessed" are those who build wisely from incarnation to incarnation or, as the Master Teacher said: "Blessed are the meek [those who fulfill their duty as it confronts them], for they shall inherit the kingdom of heaven." In other words, they shall know peace, happiness and profit; and it is not sacrilegious to mention profit in conjunction with peace, happiness or God. One is but the reaction of the Law of Duality. They are opposites, it is true, but harmonious one with the other.

"A DAY BECOMES AS A THOUSAND YEARS, AND A THOUSAND YEARS AS A DAY"

If we step out in the open on a clear, starry night and lift our eyes to the blue vaults which we call "heaven," we will perceive light from innumerable stars so distant from us that they tax mathematical ingenuity to compute the distance. With an inconceivable velocity, that ray of light which enters our eyes has traveled for many thousands of years before it covered the distance between the eye of the observer and the realm or sphere of which it is a part.

At any period during all these eons of time, an eye meeting this ray of light could have seen the star more or less plainly in the ratio of its own strength and power of perception. Thus, somewhere in

that space there has been, and ever will be, a picture of this star seen by the light reflected from its surface.

God, the Law, or the Eternal Scroll, perceiving everything, both the manifested and the unmanifested, symbolically speaking, visions at one and the same time on this record of events the past and the present; and, thus, "in His sight a day becomes as a thousand years and a thousand years as a day." This is the book which Revelation tells us St. John saw opened before him and denotes neither more nor less than that just as the light of each star may be seen separately, so is every act of man recorded on the record of time, and is open to the operating, functioning Law for immediate inspection. Likewise, every unconstructive act must be replaced by a constructive deed, by force of the Law itself; or it may be wiped out willingly by acts of kindness and motives of humanitarianism. Our humanitarianism means sympathy and kindly help to those in sorrow and desperately in need of help.

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HIGHER VIBRATION FINALLY DOMINATES

The teachings of the Initiates of the past, as well as the investigations of the present day, concur in the conclusion that there is a medium of communication permeating the atmosphere as water does a sponge. As light acts on the atmosphere, so does thought act upon this finer surface, which has been variously called the "Astral" or simply the "Akasic."(23)

(23) These terms are still used by the writer on Occult subjects because it has been difficult to find other terms to replace them. Generally speaking, they are not descriptive of the Hall of Records wherein all men's actions are recorded, but have more direct reference to the sphere where the unconscious Souls are supposed to dwell during the interim between earth life and the next incarnation. The Arcanum does not recognize these terms as applicable.

An orator stands upon the rostrum, and by his impassioned discourse sways his hearers to smiles or tears, serious thought or angry outbreaks. How? He does not touch them; his words are but vibrations that reach their feelings or consciousness. What is the unseen force that is so powerful in its operation? What but the impact of the individual potency upon the cosmic current of the universe, resulting from the innate emotion, passion or faith which the speaker feels, which raises his vibrations far above the mass, opens the way for its influx and sways the feelings of that mass; just as when the switch of a generator is thrown so that the current flows over the wires, all machinery connected thereby begins to revolve or move. The mass is either passive or antagonistic to the vibratory forces of the speaker. The message reaches the passive hearers; by impression it reaches their consciousness. Herein we have the secret of hypnotic as well as of all Occult forces to influence the individual or the mass.

In the Astral, therefore, are laid up the thought and deed impressions of the Universe, as are the deed impressions of one's own life and environment in his memory. It may be well and truthfully said that, as man's memory is the record of his life, so is the Astral the record of the world. What a man's memory, when fully awakened, is to him, the Astral is to God. It is the Divine memory.

ALL WISDOM AND KNOWLEDGE ARE CONTAINED IN THE ÆTH

Memory must be quickened and not be dead to perform its office acceptably. Man's memory is

quickened by the awakening of his Subconscious, his real, pervading self. God's memory becomes active by His aura or emanations, the finest, most impalpable and irresistible in the universe. It is known as ether, and its relation to the AEtheric Spirit (Fire) is that of the Soul to the body. It is the third of "the books that were opened." It is the book of perception. It is by this impalpable, silent aura, thrilling at every impulse that begets thought, that the universe is bound together as one. By this also is continually magnified the Wisdom and glory that are God's and which manifest in love, Wisdom, understanding and intelligence. These we know exist, even if men refuse to believe in God which these attributes constantly manifest. This ether(24) is the Soul of the Cosmic order.

(24) The word "ether" is not actually comprehensive and inclusive. It is used for want of a better and more descriptive term.

In the Cosmic realm, the ether manifests itself in order to formulate the pattern of every thought, word, desire and deed which may ever become manifested in the physical. It follows, then, that all knowledge and wisdom are contained in this ether or Æth. Those who are gifted or who develop the Spiritual by striving to comprehend what constantly unrolls before them become possessed of whatever they truly and sincerely seek. All that has existed ever in the thoughts of others or in the Divine or creative thought is on record. It is the Book of Life, the Record of Wisdom, the Remembrance of God. To so awaken the Neophyte that he may read as he passes, is the work of all Occult Fraternities who are true to their mission.

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RECAPITULATION

Men fuss and fume at what they term their limitations, as does the dog full of life pull at its leash to gain freedom. Limitation is necessary for growth and experience; and it is only through the knowledge gained by experience and growth that there can be progression at any point or under any circumstances whatever. If this were not so, there would be no necessity whatever for the ego to come back into earthlife after having once left it. Were it possible for the Soul to grow and increase its Wisdom and enlarge its potency and the power of its Will in the domain which it enters after leaving the earth plane, it certainly would be foolish, indeed, to pass down into the trials and opposing conditions of the earthlife as it does by returning again and again. That such recurring incarnations are necessary is clearly illustrated by the fact that the millions here now, just as countless millions before them, have not developed one-tenth of a single talent they possess. Only now and then, probably one in five Souls, does actually develop to a perceptible degree one or more talents, such as Edison, Steinmetz, Burbank and a number of others like them. The almost unbelievably vast number of others succeed no further than to become conscious that they have a physical body and a mind to think, and a few develop the faculty to actually think constructively.

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HERMES - COLLECTIVE WISDOM

We speak of the Arcane Schools, the Occult Fraternities and the Schools of Initiation. All of these are founded primarily upon what is generically known as the teachings or philosophy of Hermes,(25) the thrice wise. Hermes is a symbolical term, meaning collective Wisdom - the Wisdom that has been gathered together throughout the ages.

(25) All that is said and written of Hermes is cryptic. It has in mind one who has, throughout the ages and many incarnations, accumulated all possible Wisdom by experience. It is at once, one who

has attained to the highest Spiritual degree of enlightenment, and the philosophical concepts and practices to become as such.

"Hermes" was born when the first rational thinking man conceived the idea that the body and the mind of man existed for reasons other than to merely exist a few years, probably enjoy himself, most certainly to suffer much and then to pass on. The mind of this awakening creature conceived the idea that he could plan ahead, and might bring into manifestation a new being which he felt was beginning to function within himself.

With this possibility in mind, Hermes, this spiritually awakening creature, NOW man, prototype and symbolizing all-inclusive knowledge, set himself to the effort and felt the urge to "enter where angels feared to tread." Undauntedly he pressed forward, step by step, gathering new ideas, unconsciously cataloging them - this became the ego - and continuing in his adventure he, by consistent effort, at last attained Soul Consciousness, a knowledge of his part of God, and established the Spiritual Brotherhood - the first School of Initiation. He was the Genesis of the Hermetic Teachings, the Wisdom School.

This "man" who had attained to the Divinity via his Soul's Consciousness or Illumination, knowing full well that all success must come out of the harmony of unity in which only knowledge can be attained and held, decided to establish a Brotherhood of Wisdom. In this Brotherhood all members sought complete harmony, and knew that in helping another to attain each would likewise establish his own status in the Spiritual realm. The vibrations raised by design of Spiritual desire and flowing on the same plane, align and carry with them force in proportion to the number of streams flowing in the same direction; hence, the power of many individual units working along identical avenues are in harmony and unity with each other. This is Biblically recognized in the promise: "Wherever two or more are gathered in my name, there will I be also."

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"MY WORD SHALL NOT RETURN TO ME VOID"

It has been claimed that the first King of Atlantis was the first Initiate - Soul Conscious of his Godhood - and established the first Arcane Fraternity. Whether this is a fact or a legend matters not at all. Out of their efforts, out of the power which they gained and learned to direct by which they were able to collect and control forces, a mighty civilization was built, and they gained contact with the Spiritual entities and Hierarchies of the invisible planes.

Their temple, with its great white tower ever-pointing toward the heavens as the source of visible and Spiritual Light, strength and power, was an emblem of the aspirations of the brothers bound together by obligation and by kindred desire to assist and unfold all knowledge and whatsoever belongs to knowledge, strength and powers vouchsafed to men; just as this is true today in the Arcane Fraternity.

This ideal necessarily manifested itself through the individualized forces of Natural Law, because there can be no supernatural law. That which is termed supernatural is the Divine, Omnipotent One in action, and from Him and His activities proceed all law. He is above Law, yet in the Law and for the consistency necessary for harmony, He is the unity born of harmony. Having created or set into motion a Law, He cannot interfere with its operation, nor change it. Once a Law proceeds from Him, it brings with it the everlasting edict, "My word shall not return to me void." Those who harmonize themselves with the Law, which in no wise interferes with material success or material obligations, will benefit to the degree of their harmony and unity with the Law.

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MAN IS TO RULE OVER HIS ENVIRONMENTS

The August Fraternity, Hermetically born, continues to do its full share in avoiding, by proper effort, the great catastrophe which the physical has drawn upon itself; a disastrous condition has come about because the Spiritual self, the Soul, has yielded inch by inch to physical domination. The Spirit is many times stronger when the physical is subservient to it, because it can then so manifest itself by dominion over all that is earthly, and it is to be remembered that the first promise made to man was that he should rule his environments - be the "Captain of his ship."

Man, individually and collectively, made the mistake of permitting material environments to subjugate his Spiritual self, and has never been free since. Because he is at last becoming conscious of the undesirability of his position and is willing to make the effort, the Spiritual Hierarchies have united with the Initiates and the August Fraternity for the Great Work that lies before them. Everything that has to do with mitigation of man's condition, and everything that will help man to LIFT HIMSELF UP from the dregs of the earth toward the possibility of the higher, nobler and more truly practical life is in the province of the Great Work. It is not necessary or desirable that we go forth into the street with the sound of drums and cymbals in strange attire to masquerade and make ourselves the victims of the opposing forces.

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MAN IS EITHER A SLAVE OR IS FREE

Even the advanced of humanity are only beginning to perceive as Divine truth the fact that the Spiritual, in the finale, actually governs and controls the physical, and that the Spiritual forces have greater power and, given the opportunity, can help man do whatever he wills to do in the physical realm.

When these forces seek to bring about better conditions in the material world they work on that plane, always seeking through physical environments to accomplish their aims. Man is not to be blamed for finding it so difficult to shake off the dominion of the flesh which has come down from the Stone Age when the physical dominates the Spiritual by the weight of the material conditions. But with the knowledge now at his command, man is held responsible and accountable if he refuses to reverse himself or alter his approach to the problems of life; or if he fails to avail himself of the forces which will lift him from servile slavery and bring him success, freedom and Spiritual Consciousness.

Everything worthwhile, of more than transient value lies in the great treasury of the unseen, and is there awaiting man's demands and bidding. It is yours if your Spirit is awakened enough to righteously direct it.

A COMPENDIUM OF OCCULT LAWS

Chapter IV

THE HERMETIC SCIENCE and the ALCHEMICAL PROCESS

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Instructions in the full and complete conquest of the mental faculties; the development of all forces and energies; the emancipation of the will, and the attainment of an absolute individualism.

THE HERMETIC CONCEPT

The Great Work of the Hermetic Art is before all things the REcreation of man himself by means of transmutation that is to say:

- First - The full and complete conquest of his faculties.
- Second - The development of all his forces and energies.
- Third - The perfect emancipations of his Will.
- Fourth - The establishment of manhood and the attainment of absolute Individualization.

Man is not truly man unless he is a FREE man. So long as man is shackled by limitations, whether self-created or by man-made legislative enactments or by the dominion of the power usurped by other men, he is not a free man; therefore, he is a slave to conditions, circumstances and environments.

This is in no wise indicative that man should ignore the statutes created by other men. On the contrary, it stipulates that the free man is so proud of his inheritance that he will not stoop to commit "sin" - a wrong against himself, other men or society. Having attained such freedom from the domination of his own passions, he is too noble to stoop to any unworthy act. It was written of such: "The men best governed are those least governed," because these govern themselves.

The concept of Hermetic Science and Alchemical Processes is the development of the threefold man: body, mind and Soul; the complete activation of all his forces, powers and energies; the attainment of Soul Consciousness here and now; and the severing of all man-made shackles that hold him in subjection and interfere with his obedience to the Divine Law.

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HERMETIC SCIENCE AND THE ALCHEMICAL PROCESS

The aim of Initiation:

"That the children of Darkness
Become the sons of Light!"

The study and mastery of Hermetic Science reveals to man the mysteries of his nature, the secrets of his organization, the hidden potentialities with their possibilities and the means by which he may attain happiness, the successful achievements of his life's purpose and, lastly, a degree of perfection; in short, the AIM and END of his destiny. This is the secret of Initiation and has been its purpose since the first man became conscious of his Soul or Spiritual self and inaugurated the Mysteries whereby all men might, if they so desired, attain Spiritual Consciousness.

The "key" to this process is the hidden teachings in all sacred writings; it is the basic foundation of all religious - Spiritual - inculcations.

The older Mysteries were dual in their object; that is to say the Masters had two distinct purposes in view - a double doctrine.

The first object was to emancipate man from his state of barbarity (1) and civilize him, and then take the cultured man and instruct him toward perfection. In other words, to lead man, who was universally believed to be lost or fallen, back to his first estate. According to this concept, man must become REgenerated, his Spiritual nature brought to the ascendant; and this is only possible through a process known as Initiation, the method being Alchemical and the means transmutatory.

(1) Unfortunately for mankind, just as we had about convinced ourselves that man had at last mastered the inhumanity in his nature and had accepted the Divine Law to govern his actions

toward his fellow men, we are confronted by the outburst of a cruelty heretofore unknown, even in a state of utter barbarity, thought foreign to reasoning human beings. No time in the history of man, not even in the conquests of Mexico and South America, was there known to be such wanton destruction of undefended property, innocent men, women and children. How far (at least a part of) humanity has retrogressed is readily seen when we compare the actions of officials of enemy forces during the Revolutionary War to the tactics of present wars. During the American Revolution, the enemy officers would not permit the burning of homes unless it was absolutely essential for their success or protection; and certainly there is little or no record of the killing of defenseless men, women and children, or capturing them for purposes of slavery. Compare this with the inhuman destruction of life in Russia and many other countries during their revolutions. Many of these nations, by so doing, set themselves back by fifty thousand years.

The second object was to discover the means whereby gross matter could be raised to its first nature, the secret which was lost to all but the very few.

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THE PHILOSOPHER'S STONE AND THE ELIXIR OF LIFE

Gold became the symbol of the first matter and has so remained because gold is the purest substance known to man; it is capable of resisting even fire, the universal cleanser. Fire is to matter what the Ætheric Fire is to the Soul; thus, Initiation had two divisions:

In the first division only the propensities were purified; only the "man" was put through the crucible. This was a Spiritual Alchemy, a process of transmutation, a human transformation, Arcanely known as Initiation.

The second step in the process dealt with the mysterious operations of Nature and was an initiation of the "body," the material.

In the one process was contained the search for the Cornerstone of the Philosophic Temple of Mankind, and with ingenious symbolism it taught the Neophyte that all humanity should and could be reunited into one great fold of universality, differing in expression, but united as to objective - without interfering with each other, harmonizing instead.

In the second division, the Neophyte was taught to search for that which led back to a new Golden Age, the Philosopher's Stone of turning failure into success, and the Elixir of Life, which not only maintains health and well-being but also prolongs life.

The object of all this philosophy and of all Initiation is to obtain the knowledge and the art to make perfect that which either Nature has not yet perfected or that man has degraded by the misuse of his Free Will; and then to apply this force to the benefit of himself first and then to his fellow man, recognizing the Alchemical knowledge that man's first duty is an unselfish one to himself.

Afar in the past, when man's first Spiritual awakening commenced to reflect on himself, he became aware that, though knowing and approving the good, he was strongly inclined to do what was not to the ultimate benefit of himself or others; this in itself proved that the strength of his desires was far greater than his reason. He enjoyed only partly, or in appearance only, his inheritance of Free Will. It quickly became apparent to him that if he utilized his right of choosing and of determining his actions throughout his life, he must subdue those unruly passions which controlled his very being. From thence sprang the first idea of the sage to be a free man and master of himself. Every

institution and philosophy which has in view the making of Masters and Adepts must primarily have in view this self-mastery.

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THE GREATEST OF ALL VICTORIES IS THE VICTORY GAINED OVER THE CARNAL SELF

Alchemical Science had its origin in Arabia and was closely associated with religious rites. Geber is its accredited founder. The Egyptian Priests were initiated into its mysteries, it being part of, and closely associated with, the Hermetic Science. Alchemy postulated an orderly universe, but Alchemy was richer in its varied details, far more picturesquely embroidered, more prodigal of strange concepts to make it interesting than the Initiatory Art and Science of Egypt. The Alchemist constructed his ordered scheme of nature on the basis of a universality of life. The Alchemist saw life in everything and that life was threefold in its aspect. He recognized the manifestation of life in the form or body of a thing; in its spirit and in its Soul.

Things may differ materially in appearance, in size, taste, smell and other outward properties; yet, according to Alchemical Science, be intimately related because they were produced from the identical principles and animated by the same universal Spirit or activating force. On the other hand, things might resemble one another closely in their appearances outwardly yet differ in their essential qualities; because, according to Alchemy, they were formed from different elements and in their Spiritual properties were vastly different. The transformation of one thing into another, according to this Science, can only be affected by Spiritual means, acting on the spirit of the thing, because the true transformation consists essentially in raising the substance to the highest perfection whereof it is capable.(2)

(2) Within man there are two constantly active fires. One is his creative energy, while the other is his Divine Principle. All men are familiar with their creative energy, how it governs and controls their every action. Because of lack of control, all the crimes in the catalog are committed daily. It makes a monster out of a weakling and a demon out of a physical wreck. Under control, it is the impetus of the imaginative faculty, and men become inventors, artists, scientists, musicians, authors, physicians, masters of science; but still no more than men. But when this creative energy, this creative fire is raised up - Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness - to its highest perfection, then the meek and lowly man becomes an Initiate, a master, one of the gods, a free man in every sense of the term; and to be truly free, no longer under the dominion of any other man or set of men, or any force or circumstance, is the highest that man can attain in this mundane sphere; it is the Odyssey sought by all philosophers.

THE "PEARL OF GREAT PRICE"

How man may use his forces and express them harmoniously is the secret of the Alchemic, Hermetic and Arcane philosophy, and is the "Pearl of Great Price." A deep and earnest study and a steadfast purpose on the part of the Neophyte to live the life - the concept and the work of the Hermetics - as taught in the instructions and by the counselors, will in due time open his vision to the true and most wonderful meaning of this philosophy. All this philosophy would be of little value unless actually related to man's moral character and ultimate freedom. The true understanding of this philosophy gives us a natural religion and verifies our faith; it is the connecting link between earth and heaven; between moral law and material law; and between the microcosm and the

macrocosm.

Morals are the basic statutes of religious and Spiritual inculcations, while Spirituality is religion itself. God about us, in our very presence, not somewhere else, is a stronger influence than any theory can be, however elaborate. We must have more than a conjectured God. Our own intelligence resides somewhere in some thing. Which is the substance? Is it the most subtle, homogeneous and ultimate element of our bodies - and what?

"Dissection," says William Hemstreet, in the text, Mind Is Matter, "has laid open to our eyes the secret channels, battery and paraphernalia of an electric fluidic life. Thus may not the Creative Intelligence inhere in the universal ether? This is the 'image' in which we have been created." And further, "The plant needs actual contact with sunshine, not to possess in itself a 'theory' about sunshine nor a 'belief' in sunshine. Man is in need of a God(3) with whom he can actually associate, with his Spiritual and physical particles in reality of contact, like the proximity of one we love, not a theory of God, not a belief in a distant God." Lacking this contact, man will continue to be forced to rely on other men like himself; and the chances are that it will be someone with lesser enlightenment and intelligence than himself, and in consequence the tendency is ever downward and away from perfection.(4)

(3) Is this concept so difficult to understand and realize? All basic concepts of God are that He is LOVE. The one, man or woman, who has really experienced love, or who is IN love, feels himself to be a dual person. That love which is real to him is as much A PART OF HIM as is his material self.

(4) This downward tendency, away from individuality and toward universal serfdom, has been proceeding rapidly within the past decade. Before the first World War, while kings and emperors still ruled many nations, the universal tendency was toward freedom and individualism. Millions were fighting within themselves to awaken sufficient courage to risk their own life and possessions to gain freedom from the dominion of others; and we were well on the way toward an earthly democracy where men would be judged by what they truly were; then, came the second World War, ostensibly to bring such freedom for all men, but with just the reverse result. Untold millions who were well on the way toward such freedom have completely reversed themselves or permitted themselves to become so weak that they are more completely bound, body, mind and Soul, than the serfs under Ivan, the Terrible; and there is no written history to indicate that there ever was a time when king or emperor in any land dared to set himself up as unto God as do the egomaniacs of today, nor did they dare to command and force into obedience the millions as is done today in many lands. Even the czars of Russia gave their condemned subjects a chance of living by sending them to Siberia, whereas now there is wholesale execution of the most cruel, diabolical and unreasoning kind. Within a decade or less, humanity has lost the freedom and right of self-determination it has been fighting for since civilization began due to inertia, blood pollution and immoralities that would shame Babylon.

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MEN SNEER AT BELIEF IN GOD AND RELIGION TO HIDE THEIR IGNORANCE AND DEBASEMENT

Hermetic Science is upheld by Holy Writ. The men who wrote the moral and Spiritual precepts of the Scripture had minds and hearts imbued with lofty concepts. For their moral reasoning, great Spiritual insight and fine intuition, they were giants compared with modern money-and-power-mad human creatures, encrusted with modern materialism and the lusts of flesh. Based upon mere human

standards we should revere their views. They taught, as do the Initiate Schools of today, that virtue, love, hope, graciousness, forgiveness and strength to fight for the right are the Beatitudes of the Soul; Whereas vice, guilt, covetousness and infringement upon the rights of others are diseases and death to the Soul.

"For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace." __St. Paul

When we give our minds earnestly to a study of the mere transitoriness of mortal life and affairs and yet can feel how continuous our hopes and loves may be, we then realize the utter incompatibility of the Soul with all that is carnal.

We, then, see and realize that the human successes and earthly possessions may fade, literally and surely, like the sunset behind the mountains. All personal grandeur, popularity, business or political success, official station and power, property and even empires pass away like the clouds. None of them is abiding, simply because the physical is temporal - of a few days and known no more. If the body were everlasting, if all things did not undergo mundane changes, if the earth and time were eternity, then mundane aspirations would adapt to physical life. It requires an eternity to fully know the fullness of human love. Our ambitions are more than commensurate with earth and time. Is there an answer to the demand of every heart for permanence? We walk, act and build for permanence with scarcely any thought of death, although we are upon quicksand. Is there one place that is safe and certain? Yes! As seeds sown in the ground have innate qualities drawing them upward unto the air and sunshine, so do we have innate qualities drawing us upward to ethereal realms, if we give heed to feelings and seek to manifest them. if we give heed to feelings and seek to manifest them. One who can contemplate a lily or a rose, a newborn babe or the devotion of a mother in the sick room and say there is nothing higher than mundane life, is simply Soulless and without Spiritual perception. Such a one deserves the serfdom that is becoming the lot of most men in the present egomaniac age.

When we assume with scientific certainty that the mind of man is linked with a durable vehicle, such as a Spiritual entity, and that this has the boundless ether as its realm of life and activity, then we are ready to emerge from our earthworm condition and enter into the sunshine with the assurance of an eternity. Suns and planets may perish, but in the final crash they cannot harm the Soul that has dared to search for enlightenment and freedom from entanglements that are not of its own creation.

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INSTILLING MAN WITH THE SPIRIT OF ACHIEVEMENT

As, one by one, men, co-operating in earnest simplicity with the Divine forces of which by nature they are the repository, perceive upon a purified mentality clear imaging of the essential union within themselves of each form and force, and of recovered lost faculties throughout the subtler intricacies of surface sense of enacting that biunity, they come to understand the past and future of their fate; what has been done and what yet remains for them to do; what was the actual growth that struggled up through the "snows" of their outer nature; and how much still waits within to develop and come forth. They will face life with a new incentive to be active, to overcome and to achieve.

The vices, no less than the virtues which characterize the present generation with such marked vigor, are prophetic and initiatory of the rapid and inevitable change that must supervene throughout societarian life, both in its lesser and greater form of family, nationality and universality. The vices and weaknesses, the utter servility of today, must be transformed into virtue, fair dealing and

strength; or the present races, with few exceptions of those who in Arcane parlance seek the Path to attain self-mastery, will be self-destroyed and lost to history; and well this should be, because at no time in the age of man have there been greater opportunities than at the present moment.

Since the time when the incorporation of Spiritual potentials began to create reflection on the qualities of the desires which were produced within man, he has, in the rough-and-ready fashion of a relative inexperience, solved the mental problem suggested by the phenomena of his moral emotional nature. Men simply announced themselves to be constituted of elements of opposite kinds, generating forces of conflicting tendencies. For centuries, a temporary but necessary purpose has been served by epitomizing the work of all Nature struggling upward toward perfection, as the flight of a good (constructive and elevating) against the evil or destructive within or about man. This view was the only one under past conditions whereby the battle of life could be faced and maintained.

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VICE TRANSMUTED INTO VIRTUE

Either the misdirection and inflammation or force called evil - because it endangers freedom, harmony and life - must be suppressed, or the instincts for equable distribution of affectional vigors - which are called good, for want of a better term, because they engender justice, peace and progress - must be largely reinforced from the hidden sources of life(5) before a deeper insight can safely be acquired into the secret (hidden) force.

(5) These sources of life and power have been hidden from the vast humanity because the powers in control have decreed it should be so in order that the few, properly prepared and with the necessary moral strength, might successfully govern the many. All knowledge that had a tendency to give man strength and power to make him free and self governing was forbidden knowledge," and was only for the few, and had to be taught sub rosa and in Secret Schools.

Man's Soul was in the keeping of kings and priests and, to tell the truth, was permitted to be dormant, having no more light or wisdom at death than when it was incarnated in human form. Thus the millions were as pawns held in the grasp of a few men, and they fully realized that once man awakened to the fact that he possessed Spiritual potentialities which would make him as great or even far greater than those who held him in bondage, absolute authority would be at an end.

Advancement for three hundred years was rapid, and man began to achieve the acme of freedom, only to resell himself, body, mind and Soul; and there is greater danger that the mass will be hurled into far greater slavery than ever known before, for man's downfall and degradation are on a par with the heights he had attained.

Evil, in the individual, whatever its nature, cannot be eliminated by forces outside of himself but from within himself, and only as he recognizes both his weaknesses and the evils that are present. These weaknesses and evils are the "tares" continually mentioned in THE LEGEND OF THE SOWER. They should not be destroyed any more than the wise farmer does on his land, but are plowed under in order that they may become the nourishment for the soil; so in like manner, man becoming conscious of his "tares," TRANSMUTES THEM, and they become the substance for his advancement and attainment.

An unknown Initiate, an Alchemist, has interpreted the Legend in this wise:

"The tares in the field must be permitted to grow as a protection to the virgin soil for future service. When the husbandman is ready for the planting, he will turn under these tares that the virtues and potencies - the living elements in them - may be transmuted into life giving substances for the seeds or the plants which will replace the tares. Thus, the evils within man, even his degrading vices, if the degeneration has not progressed too far, become the life and the Light of the Soul, and wherewithal upon which all success and attainments are based."

The conception of life and force, which outgrows from man's present mentality, suggests to him that which his daily life and all the universal phenomena verify, that life and force are one. The direction of its currents, however intricate or interpretative, all refer to the same series of impulsions: that the whole range of facts constituting the suffering and errors of mankind, are but abnormal phenomena of this life-force. The ordinary sensitiveness of man to the life-force greatly varies among different individuals, and is generally exceedingly superficial. His nerves, though markedly more acute than the nerves of men who lived some ages ago, are still extremely dense and convey to his consciousness no more than a few of the strongest waves of the forces that sustain him. He is able to recognize the fact that his blood rushes to and fro between surfaces and centers, and concentrates and disperses forces and energies to his benefit.

The most profoundly and minutely sensitive depths - even in exceptional natures, unless Spiritually or Soulfully developed, which the mirror of external consciousness succeeds in reflecting - afford as yet to man only suggestions of the immensities of the life-forces resident in his being. Similarly the inner vision, to the degree man has developed it, affirms the vastness throughout the infinite worlds beyond this one. This suggests that life-force transcends analysis, prevents comprehension through normal faculties and can be understood only by those who have opened their Soul-sight by developing their Spiritual nature to the same degree the physical nature has been developed by time and environments.

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THE HUMAN NATURE OF MAN

At the present stage of human progress, it is as unintelligent as it is cowardly to view human nature and affirm its weakness and its viciousness, and attribute thereto the necessary prolongation of suffering on earth.(6)

(6) Man's viciousness, which is the basic cause of man's inhumanity to man, has been excused on the ground that it was "human nature" and, therefore, unavoidable. This concept is gradually giving way to a better understanding of the reality, and the new conception is that viciousness is not natural - is no part of nature - except to the criminal, the perverted, the degraded nature in man, and it must be eliminated by the Alchemical transmutation of the unnatural, i.e., evil inherent in the carnal nature. The vicious animal is either confined or destroyed. The viciousness in the individual must likewise be either self-governed (confined within the person) or transmuted into the Beatitudes. If the person is not willing to control himself, then it is society's responsibility to do so.

The fatalism of this popular concept is an insult to both God and those men who have become God-conscious, and to the whole accomplished work of the multitudinous form animated by the one and eternal force. Men no longer gape aghast at the fixed depravity of men; they know better if they will permit the ever-present situation of Wisdom to speak. The knowledge one man may have of himself, if he will use it, is sufficient knowledge to be the focal point of knowledges he should have of all the other millions. Let man be wise to register and to protect and direct each delicate movement that may thrill every fiber of his deep Soul, and he beholds the beginning of Wisdom, but

only its beginning. He, thus, opens to himself the first page or the book of Nature according to his reading. Gazing into the realm of his own spontaneity, man comes to realize that among the atoms of stirring consciousness is something the he cannot create or command. It demands conscious, effortful development.

A something appears to "float" to him, streams of vast inapprehensiveness, and becomes a part of him within his little domain, impregnating him with its essence of individuality. It surcharges all the vessels of his innermost being until there will be an outpouring of power and energy; and it will make of him a man apart, kindred to both his fellow men and God; yet, free and independent, related to all; yet, separate from the unworthy and undesirable, exemplifying the Biblical command: "Be among men but not of (like) them."

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KNOWLEDGE WHICH SHOULD SERVE MAN OFTEN RENDERS HIM A SLAVE

Freedom to be himself is at the basis of man's nature. Protection for his central life - emotions and education of the faculties for consciousness in the pure region of his being are not only necessities for man, but are the conditions which cannot be maintained without his perfect sanity or balance of mind and Spirit. If a man claims his freedom, demands this protection, seeks this education, he isolates himself amidst an impending and irascible mass of views, opinions and dogmas that dictate and coerce throughout every department of life - in religion, philosophy, politics, science, art, sociology and even business - by virtue of and in defense of the vested interests and prescriptive rights on which their influence and personal benefits and profits rest.(7)

(7) This is the basic reason why the Arcane Initiatory Fraternities of all ages have been maintained in secrecy and have kept the identity of their Neophytes shrouded in mystery. It cannot be said that this necessity no longer exists. There is, in truth, greater need for its secrecy today than for centuries past. Although we live in a supposedly enlightened age, where freedom of thought is apparently guaranteed to all men, nevertheless, the restrictions are greater today than for a long time past. This is true even in democratic nations, while in other nations fraternal organizations have been generally outlawed.

Men wound themselves with their own "arrows"; the knowledge that should serve them often renders them slaves. They kneel in helpless superstition before the "gods" of their own creation - mental imaginings - a fear-God, self-created. Still the high manhood, deeply enveloped in superstitions, waits for an opportunity to grow forth and manifest itself. It is this to which all men should turn - NOW - with watchfulness, faithful study and application.

"In the holy depth in man, where God makes sensible the qualities of pure human desires, is latent all that should be learned. It is the keynote of the reality of all that makes human life desirable, enlivening the consciousness of each man at the center of his personal emotions. Veritable perception is alone the registry of these emotions. Honest investigation and estimation of all the phenomena produced by other men remain impossible, unless they are based upon the personal experience of the Soul, from which the necessary hypothesis of the existence of human instincts is alone deducible. Silence at the sanctuary of his nature, where the all-holiness which man fails to comprehend deigns to meet in simplest intimacy with his frail capacities of sensational consciousness, makes silence of all harmonies and their joys throughout the whole productiveness of every other faculty that he puts forth. However, brilliant or attractive may be the mental work of teachers who fail, or who refuse to hear these deep vibrations, their influence rests upon the lives of men as weight and not as light; it moves throughout convictions, cooling - never impassioning; it

creates in hearts negation rather of veritable sentiment than aspiration for greater depth of feeling."
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THE DIVINE IN MAN'S NATURE

"The legitimate claim of each person, whether man or woman - a claim most difficult to exact of social exactions - is to be himself. The universal tendency of today for universal regimentation is against this, despite the fact that individuality is the only basis of that perfect altruism which alone can retrieve society. In the sanctuaries of profound emotion, man can only be that which makes him a man; that phenomenon of power and Will for perfectness; that machinery for passionate intention for universal rightness; that form impregnated by the Divine quality which should govern man's life on earth. Then, and only then, can he be a wise ruler of man. Alas! sad man, foolish creature, bearing within his breast this gem of a faculty for every perfectness, he, nevertheless, lies down in sheeplike weakness to be crushed by the social customs of his own making, the Juggernauts that he helps to establish. For the semblances of power that he gains by little increases in science, education, wealth, political influence, which command a relative obedience and superficial admiration; for the semblance of pleasure that he can extract a little while from portions of his nature by pampering them to abnormal growth, he misses, for the most part, all the power and well-being which are the essential attributes of his deep, human sense of being.

"The evolution of humanity suggests the proper methods and contrivances for the general improvement and convenience of man, but evolution cannot use them, not daring yet to seek the consciousness of those qualities at its vital heart-centers which are the mainspring of material and intellectual productiveness and which would dictate the most helpful application of the organizing material provided by science and invention.

"Among the peoples who have led the progress of the world and among whom the sense of manifold experiences, needs and aspirations increases hourly, generating the growth called civilization, two lines of tendencies are to be marked. These are the tendencies to develop higher and subtler qualities painfully, and to gain experience in the recklessness of pure and noble sentiment. The highest growth transcends all pain; the keenest pleasure must be free of all debaseness to reach the highest goal. Men must grow toward perfection; and they must live with joy. Whatever in man is pure, true, human, Divine, is essentially both progressive and satisfying."
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THROUGH SUFFERING OFTEN COMES SPIRITUAL ENLIGHTENMENT

The suffering growth-seekers cling to their brave endeavors, because they cannot yet divest themselves entirely of impressions stamped on their mentality from without, from social prejudice and injustice, from religious formulas and commercial skulduggery and all the rest that offers to man's minds conditions which they would wield and dominate, but which unfortunately control, limit and dominate them. The slow degradation that corrupts the heartless pleasure seekers results in a malady from the hyperdevelopment to which they urge a limited set of faculties and the absolute atrophy to which they leave the larger wealth of those with which, as human beings, they are inherently endowed.

These forms of suffering are signs alike of man's strange ignorance of the great powers to which he only is inherent. He will be able to escape from each if he will but turn faithfully toward that gathering-ground of all essential forces within his quivering Soul. Let those who dare, let those who Will, feel their way slowly along the shadowy way of life today and take what comes; and dream

that they do not change except for the better.

"Those who wonder, those who want, those who suffer, one and all, because of that clear presence of the fine all-life that sparkles in the breast of man at this triumphant hour of his labor, will find that they belong to a new race with which the world is to be gifted after the deluge of Armageddon; and that their pain, their weakness and their folly was due to their ignorance and disobedience. Man and woman, let loose the powers of nature in you that God may incarnate. Study the inspired writings of the old

A COMPENDIUM OF OCCULT LAWS

Chapter V

THE OCCULT CONCEPT of DEVELOPING THE COMPLETE, THREE FOLD MAN THROUGH OCCULT INITIATION

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OCCULT - ARCANE - INITIATION

Initiation is the unfoldment by degrees in an orderly, systematic manner, step by step, as the capacity to apprehend develops and opens up in the Neophyte. The result is neither a belief nor mental impression; it is a growth, an evolution, the expansion of man's inherent capabilities, plus inner Spiritual Consciousness.

Knowledge is not a mere sum in addition, something added to something that already exists. It is a progressive change or transformation of the original material man to make of him a new being - the Biblical "new bottle," the result of experience.

Real knowledge - the growth of Wisdom in man, not in his mind alone - is a constant becoming, a progressive transformation or transmutation of the carnal and material into the likeness of the Supreme Goodness (the term "goodness" is used for want of a more representative term) and Supreme Capability.

In Occult parlance, Life may be represented by a triangle. Two sides of this triangle are formed by two streams, the one flowing outward or downward, the other upward. The base may be taken to represent the material plane or the foundation without which the other two could not function. the mortal, carnal, everyday man has all his forces flowing downward, resting in the material.

The one on the Path seeking his highest development directs these forces to fulfill his destiny on earth by directing them upward toward the gods. From God proceed the gods and thence return. From the gods proceed all the Hierarchies of higher spheres, with their various Orders from the lowest to the highest. To contact one of the Hierarchies is man's privilege and part of the Great Work of Occult Initiation.

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MAN'S DESCENT - HIS POTENTIALITIES

To those Mystics, and to men and women of an impractical mind - who feel that the Spiritual Ideal is antagonistic to the material, who believe that in the Empyrean sphere, the angelic beings are pure and free from all material impulses - it must, indeed seem a fall for the Soul to descend to earth and

become incarnate only through the process of physical generation. And, yet, such is the law of physical being. In the order of the universe, the spirit - the physical life principle - is the primal essence in which there is neither sex nor age, neither sin nor capacity for pain or pleasure. The spirit is impersonal and unindividualized.

With the descent of the Soul - Divine Spark or Christos - into the physical form, life or manifestation, mankind became dual,(1) male and female, with sex as the dividing line between them.(2) Then ensued that strange transformation of the Soul's faculties which converted its original emotion, Love, mostly into material passion; intuitional knowledge into human reason; boundless perception into dim memory of the past and vague prescience; eternal beholdings into temporal; and a sphere - for such was the Soul incarnate - into a being of passion, of many parts, swayed by every emotion that ranges from the depths of vice to the heights of virtue. Such is man.

(1) This duality has to do with the body of man, and is in no sense concerned with the Soul.

(2) Early man, having no knowledge whatever of the mysteries of sex, but noting the results, concluded it could be no less than a Divine act that a new creature should spring from the embrace of two beings and he deified the act as Divine; and this was the first form of worship among primitive man. It was not yet Divinely written, "Be fruitful and replenish the earth."

MAN'S DIVINE ORIGIN

In this order of progress it can clearly be shown that the Spirit-dweller(3) of the original Edenic sphere becomes a Conscious Soul of the highest order. It is thus: Mortal(4) pilgrimages through spheres of trial and experience, discipline and purification are possible through the inhabitation of an organism made up of separate parts with appropriate functions, and the due and legitimate exercise which constitutes the method of progress. In such a scheme every trial and all forms of suffering have their meaning and constructive application; and every tendency and passion, even those of vice and crime, have their use in shaping the Soul through remorse and penalty into ultimate strength and Spiritual Consciousness which ends in Immortalization or Godhood.

(3) The Spirit-dweller is an "angel" transformed into a Divine Spark or Christos that it might incarnate; though originally a part of, it is yet a separate entity. It is not self-conscious, for the reason that it has known neither pain nor sorrow, nor can it know either until after it has taken on the form of flesh through which it gains experience. For this reason the "fall" is essential to all such "angels" awakening to experience, and gradually becoming Spirit or Soul Conscious, one of the gods.

(4) All entities, who separated from the Creator and incarnated, possessed the desire to know, to learn good and evil. This desire is the original "sin." As the desire became strong enough, the "angel" fell and took up its earthly habitation. The "sin" is in the fall of that which is part of God into the mortal form, because in or through that form it may destroy itself. However, in the desire to become a conscious, knowing creature it was no different in its nature than is the Creator who, having created a heaven and populated it with "angels" or Divine Sparks thrown off from Himself, still desired to people the world and was not satisfied until it was peopled. If the "angels" of high heaven "sinned" in their desire to know, then, it is equally true that their Creator sinned in His Desire to people the universe. If these creatures on earth were ever to become mortal - mortal first and finally Immortal and Godlike - it was absolutely necessary for them to possess Souls. This was impossible unless the "angels" or Divine Sparks placed in the Edenic-high heavenly garden fell as a result of their desire (sin) and took possession of the bodies which had evolved to the point of being

fit dwelling places for Souls of God's angelic children. This "fall" was no more than the wedding between the heavenly of "Edenic" dwellers and the earth dwellers, both God's creatures, each possessing the incentive or God-imbued desire to advance, to know, to become and, finally, to attain freedom, self-government and Immortalization, sonship or Godhood.

A familiar concept of the relative difference between the "angels" that inhabited the Empyrean sphere - knowing neither good nor evil, and that descended from their realm of primeval innocence to be born onto matter - and the Divine Spark, unfolded through incarnations of experience and discipline into the perfected Soul, is found if we compare the two states with those of the acorn and the full grown, acorn-bearing tree that challenges storms, wintry blasts and all the destructive forces of nature.

The one is still the oak in germ; but, the noble proportions of the tree, its overshadowing branches, the vast girth of its mighty trunk, the splendor of its mighty arms wide-stretched to the winds with its ten thousand leafy hands tossed on the ambient air, its rich harvest of countless germs, the unborn forests that are to be furnished from their reproductive powers, are all grown out of the association of the primal acorn with the formative matrix of earth.

Even so is it with the Soul. To become such, it must first immerse itself in man, the human form, then awaken to its birthright and possibilities, struggling on through ages of time and degrees of gradual unfoldment; and when all is finished, the Divine Spark, originally expelled from its Edenic sphere because of its desire to know, will regain its Empyrean sphere, but as a son of God knowing good from evil, having gained Spiritual Consciousness; and possessed of love and knowledge, it will become one of the gods - a Hierarchy, if it so desires, of its respective realm.

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GENERATION AND REGENERATION

It was with this perception of the Soul's destiny that the ancient Patriarchs and writers of the Pentateuch viewed the generative function as Divine(5) and the deification of their emblems as an act of Divine duty.

(5) All Initiates of the legitimate Secret Schools of Initiation still hold to this view. This is clearly demonstrated by the fact that in all their teachings REgeneration is essential to the attainment of Soul Consciousness. As carnal man has debased the creative function to a lower state than that of animalism, the Spiritual man elevates the function to its proper place and recognizes its importance in both the human and the Divine plan.

While all true Initiates know this view of the origin of early worship to be true, those who judge it from the standpoint of present-day results and contemplate the abominations practiced in its many forms might well believe it to be the result of man's lowest carnal nature; and such it became when men lost the Spiritual significance, and debased it to the bestial plane.

The modus operandi, by which the world, invisible to the outer senses of man, may become so manifested as to convince him of their existence, must necessarily depend on elements resident in the human economy and upon corresponding means operating upon man from the invisible realm or spheres.

Were there no correspondence between the worlds of Spirit and matter, between the visible and

invisible worlds, then, all man's imaginings - however sublime all his intuitive faculties, however penetrating, even the witness of his own interior nature - would never be capable of demonstrating the Soul's existence in the light of reason; nor could the Light of God be brought into manifestation with the absolute esse of being; nor could a religious faith be constructed on the certainty of the Father's (the God-head's) power to communicate with the child much as the true Priest does with the supplicant.

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MAN CAN ACHIEVE WHATEVER HE DESIRES

There can be no question but that the Soul's deepest and most intuitive perceptions of truth are its own most acceptable witnesses. These are the Soul's witness to itself, its God and its perception of Immortality; and it can never be fully described in human language nor become known in any other manner than by the attainment of Soul Consciousness and through the Ineffable Light.

Man, as microcosm in comparison with the larger world or universe, is the conservator of all forces, the image of all objective forms, the embodiment of all subjective ideas and the connecting link between all existences or states, both higher and lower than himself. Therefore, it is possible for him to achieve any state he truly desires, provided only that he is willing to make the necessary effort and exchange.

In man himself - analyzed by chemical and Alchemical means and the tabulation of his powers and forces in relation to the invisible world - is a trinity of elements consisting of body, Spirit or life and mind. The Soul is not a certainty but a POSSIBILITY. It is a potential, embryonic but not certain by birth. Man's body is a conservator of all the powers and functions of matter; his spirit, the animating principle, is composed of all the combined forces we call life, for want of a better name; his Soul is purely deific, an Immortal essence or Divine Spark and, as intimated, depends for consciousness and manifestation upon the correct application of Will and Intelligent procedure.

Judging from effects rather than causes, we must accept the teachings of the early Initiates, who were known as Fire Philosophers, that the Soul, being a form of animate Fire, is like its source - the Central Spiritual Sun of Ineffable Being - in its nature and essence, now dormant, but possessing the possibility of being awakened and brought into full Spiritual Consciousness.

It is the invisible (to the mass) and the infinitely sublimated Spirit of Fire - not the gross element we all have seen, felt and recognized by the senses - that innermost Ineffable Light which, while it reveals and proves the existence of things unmanifested, is itself invisible, unknown and incomprehensible except to those who have passed through the Gates of (Arcane) Initiation and found the source of the Light upon the Central Altar of Being.

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UNITING THE CREATOR WITH THE CREATION

It is this Ineffable, innermost and Divine God-principle, called the Soul (by us) which survives all changes, even in its unconscious and unawakened state. It is subject to neither decay nor disintegration. It is a Spark thrown off by Deity an order to manifest individuality, the Alpha and Omega of (human) being and the link connected by the conscious efforts of its custodian (man) that unites the creature with the Creator.

Enveloping the Divine Essence which we call the Soul(6) and clothing it as with a Spiritual "body"

is the subtle and all-permeating element which, in its effect, is force; in its action, through animate bodies, is life; in its all-pervading influence throughout the realm of space is known as magnetism, the attracting power; and electricity, in its propelling energy. It is the second of the grand trinity of principles whose union with the other active principles constitutes a reasoning being, and endows him with power, force and energy.

(6) To obtain the full value and to sense the great import of Arcane teachings, it must be constantly borne in mind that all ultrapower is a principle of the Spiritual - the Light and Fire elements of the Spiritual self - and not of either body or mind. Furthermore, the Spiritual self is defined or classified as Light or Fire, the awakened Conscious Soul, the final result of the transmutation of the gross and carnal fire into a Cosmic or Ineffable Fire, which gives it the power, the force and the energy to perform those feats (ignorantly termed miracles) of which so much is said in Occult literature. Initiation is therefore, that process which transmutes the fire dormant in all men into a Cosmic Flame, connects this Flame with the Universal Flame called God, and thus the Soul, becomes a co-worker with the Cosmic Soul. This understood, the value of Occult training becomes clear to all, as will the Philosophy of Fire as taught by the Rosy Cross. It is freely admitted that these statements, which should be explanatory, are cryptic much after the jargon of the Alchemists; but there are neither words for terms to define them more clearly. Only Spiritual attainment clarifies them.

It is this element which is recognized throughout the Universe by the duality of its mode of operation, known variously as attraction and repulsion, centrifugal and centripetal forces. The knowledge and directing of this dual force constitute the Occult operations generally termed miracles.

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THE SOUL IS MAN'S SPIRITUAL SUN

The early Rosicrucians maintained that an analysis of the Supreme Being would fail to reveal any other existence than that of a Central Spiritual Sun, Infinite, Eternal, uncreated, yet existent and incomprehensible, except by the Conscious Soul; One whose attributes alone were light and heat, energized into forms, suns, systems, worlds, human and animal creatures, and animated by a heat whose last gross external exhibition is fire; its attribute, heat.

In this sense the term "repulsion," which has been supposed to be an attribute of matter, is accounted for by the energy with which heat burns, consumes, disintegrates and drives off one particle from another; while "attraction," likewise considered to be an attribute of matter, is no more than the cohesion of particles upon which the restless energy of heat either does not act or becomes modified by the solidarity of the mass acted upon. Thus, attraction and repulsion are the dual forces or activities that make motion possible. Fire creates heat, heat creates both life and energy; and the fall or lowering of heat results in cold, which is a form of repulsion or death, illustrating the axiom: Where there is heat there is life; death is coldness, the absence of heat.

"If the sense of these abstractions is caught by the thinker, he will the more readily understand why the ancient people considered that they saw God - that is, with all their innermost possibility of thought - in Fire Light. This Fire Light, contrary to modern belief, was not our vulgar gross fire, neither is it even the purest material or electric fire, which has still something of the base, bright light of the physical world about it; but is was and still is Occult, mysterious and a supernatural fire, supernatural because it was not generally understood."

"It is the inner Light of God, of which man's Soul is a Spark, containing all things, even the Soul of

things, in whose inexpressedly intense, all-consuming, all-creating, Divine and fiery essence, all the evil in the worlds will be destroyed; back into whose arms of Immortal Light on the nether side, again receiving them, the worlds driven off into space by the Divine energy, will again rush back; just as in like manner the human Soul returns from its pilgrimage to complete its mission on earth."

_____ Lytton.

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MANIFESTATION OF LIGHT

Considered without bias, it will be found that all religious systems transcend up into a Spiritual Fire-floor, so to speak - God said that He was Light and Light cannot exist without Fire(7) - on which the phases of time were laid. Material fire, which is brightness as the matter upon which it reflects is darkness, is the shadow of the Spiritual Light which invests itself in Fire as a mask in which it alone can possibly act on matter. Thus, material light being the opposite rather than the expression of God, the Egyptians, who were fully acquainted with the Fire revelations, could not represent God as material light. Their adoration was paid to the Light BEHIND the darkness; only darkness could reflect the Light, the reflection or manifestation of the Eternal.

(7) "Although fire is an element in which everything inheres, because it is heat in manifestation, the principle of life, still it is itself an element existing in a higher of nonterrestrial, nonphysical Æthereal Fire, in which the first or terrestrial coarse fire flickers, waves, banishes, consumes and destroys, or gives life and strength, according to the substances upon which it acts. The first is natural, material, gross, the familiar element seen and known in the natural world as fire; it is an outer manifestation of the celestial, unparticled, infinitely extended Flame, which is the Celestial FIRE; and of which mortal mind and carnal passion can know nothing, but of which the Soul is a part and with which it becomes one as Spiritual Consciousness is attained." _____ Lytton

Light is never entirely absent even from the grossest atom. While it may require age to evolve, this Light which is fire, ever tending to purify, will still refine and elevate; and Alchemically convert base, gross matter into Æthereal, and the earth into a radiant and gloriously Spiritualized planet. St. John in Revelation envisioned this when he saw the heavens descend to earth.

Unseen and by most people unsuspected, there is a Divine Æthereal Spirit, and eager Fire, confined as in prison, constantly struggling to be free; and it is the Fire in man, given the opportunity, that will make him a god. It is with this celestial Fire that the Alchemist breaks asunder the atomic thickness of visible nature, which, yielding up its secret destiny of unlimited progress, sinks into the inner fiery furnace in its basest proportions to arise thrice purified, and forced upward toward enlightenment and Soul Consciousness.

It is with this celestial Fire that the Initiate bursts asunder the bonds of error and darkness that hold the Soul in a material prison-house. He becomes the Pontifex (bridge maker) who conducts the Soul across the dark waters of ignorance from the realm of the unknown to the known; from the gates of matter to the bright Light of the Soul; from the earthly blackness and bleakness to celestial LIGHT; from the visible fires of purgation to the invisible Soul Light, the Ineffable Light of Eternity.

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THE LIGHT LEADS TO IMMORTALITY

One of the greatest Master Initiates summed this all up in one short sentence which, once

understood, opens all the gates of Eternity:

"In the Light is concealed, by and through it will be revealed, all the mysteries of the Higher Occult - the Arcanum".

"Seek the Light which becomes the Soul's Consciousness. Follow the Light, and it will lead to the Gates of the Temple. After you enter the Temple, continue to follow the Light, and it becomes the Revelator, revealing to you all things of heaven and earth. This Light is your awakened Soul; it is the part of all that was, all that is, and all that will be; it is all-knowing, all-wise and all-powerful in proportion as it is brought into manifestation".

"You, the man with your reasoning mind and imaginative faculty, are the Architect of that Soul."

While the Soul or innermost part of man is a Divine emanation from Deity, the body or outermost part is an aggregation of material atoms, vitalized by the Spirit which serves as the life-principle of the body, the Æthereal body of the Soul, and forms the connecting link between the Soul and body. After death the more sublimated part of this spirit adheres to the Soul, the grosser and coarser layers form the outer covering of the body and remain with it.

The spirit, misnamed Astral - Paracelsus called it the "natural" light - is not a single original element like the Soul. It is a combination of all the imponderables of the Universe. Its first derivation or original essence is of the macrocosm, and upon its exterior form are engraved all the sand grains of character, motives, powers, functions, vices, virtues, hopes and memories which the Soul has gathered up in its process of growth through the medium of the material body. It is as much a perfect microcosm of the individual's mind within as of the visible and invisible Universe without.
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THE SPIRITUAL BODY OF MAN IS A RECORD OF HIS DEEDS

Not a deed, word or thought which has helped to make up the sum total of a human life but what is photographed upon the Spiritual self of man with as much fidelity as the mind of the Creator is written in the starry hieroglyphics upon the glittering skies! It keeps as faithful a record, as true a Doomsday Book,(8) and pronounces as sure a judgment upon human life and conduct as ever the Egyptian Osiris could have done in his sternest moods of Godlike and Infinite justice.(8)

(8) The Book of Records, "The Lamb's Book of Life"; in the final analysis, the ego becomes the Subconscious of the Soul when it reincarnates.

Admitting, then, the Soul's origin in Deity and the Astral spirit's origin in the solar system, how vastly momentous upon the newly born being's character and organization must be the solar and planetary influences which prevail in the hour of the germ's inception,(9) through every stage of embryonic life and at the very moment when, drawn by solar and planetary influences from the darkness of its embryonic prison, it is launched into space as a living creature!

(9) The inception of the Soul in the form of a Divine Spark into the prepared body is not governed by either planetary or solar influences, but by its own Karmic Law, which draws it into the environment which it prepared for itself in its previous lives. This Karmic condition, which is part of the Soul's destiny, makes its unacceptable to any environment wherein it could not work out its destiny; nor can it be born under either solar or planetary influences which would make it either easier or more difficult for it to pay its just debts or receive its earned rewards. Let us understand

that the Law is as just as the Universe is certain.

The ancient astronomers, not astrologers, discovered that all the vast vaults of the skies, the illimitable fields of space dotted over with millions of fiery little worlds, seemingly so fixed, so calm, so immobile in their solemn silence and mysterious beauty, were all in constant motion, a harmonious change. They move on in constant but ever-changing orbits. The certainty of these stupendous changes was absolutely determined by the discovery of that remarkable motion called "the procession of the equinoxes," a motion which in a given period of time, varying between two and three thousand years, swept the blazing sun of the solar system, with all its planetary hosts from one sign of the Zodiac to another, and which ushers in a New Age with a new application; thus a New Dispensation is born.

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EVERYTHING IS IN ETERNAL CHANGE

In our own time astronomical observations have determined that all the stars of the sidereal heavens, gorgeous fields of space, filled with the march of suns and systems, speed on with a momentum so tremendous that the mind of man shrinks back, awestruck, at the attempt to trace those footprints of fire through spaces wherein millions of miles are measured by minutes and by hours. Whilst the external aspect of these spangled heavens changes but little to the eye of the observer during many centuries of time, the real permanence of the scheme is only apparent. "Only constant in external change" might be traced in every glittering point of the sidereal heavens.

It is ever the same in the fixity of matchless order, ever changing in the spiral circle of ascending progress. This being true, how inevitable must the endless changes of the macrocosm affect the nature of the microcosm - man. And the little world partakes of the infinite variousness which discloses so eloquently the Law of Change.

This is a law which man can accept in willingness and advance as does the Universe, or refuse and be ground into the dust. Only one thing is eternal - the Law of Change - and but one thing is inevitable, that the change is ever forward or that nothingness and eternal forgetfulness end all. The choice is man's. He advances with the Universe or the Universe grinds him into the dust. Pointedly stated, "The mills of the gods grind slowly but exceedingly fine." Nothing so small as man can retard the eternal forwardness of the Universe. No wonder the prophet was made to exclaim: "He that is not with me is against me."

For ages it was the office and the pleasure of the best and wisest of men of every succeeding generation to devote a lifetime to the study of Nature, to the study of her profoundest depths and all the mazes and windings of her supernatural (so termed because invisible) relations with the visible and invisible spheres around her. Ever let it be remembered, too, that the Ancient Initiates brought to this sublime study a body as thoroughly prepared as the mind; a physique fitted by temperance, chastity and purity, to allow full sway to the mind which inhabited it; and for this reason the nations or countries prospered, were content and at peace, while these Initiate-Priests held the reins. The fall came with decadence when the Laws set down by these men were no longer respected and obeyed.

The most superficial retrospect of the lives, education and preparatory methods of discipline enforced upon the Ancient Initiates and their Orders invests that body with the true dignity which rightly belongs to such a school and its system of training. How do these compare with the careless, lax system of the present selfish age, which in our time and even those who are invested with the holy offices of priests or ministers?

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THE SPIRITUAL STILL UNEXPLORED

Nature holds no secrets from her true votaries. She sternly veils all Spiritual entities from the rude gaze of materialism which recognizes naught but that which can be seen and felt, and refuses to render up any knowledge beyond the plans from which the inquiry originates. The present-day chemist, geologist and scientist, as well as other disciples of natural science, coldly set to work to examine Nature through the formulas of physical laws, and they will have none of aught that will transcend them; therefore, the mass is also kept ignorant of everything beyond material. The Occult side of Nature, the Spiritual, eternal side, is left an unexplored realm to them. For this reason the Secret Schools and Arcane Fraternities are again making extreme efforts to awaken the people and teach them the true secrets of existence and life in all its avenues.

The chief interests of Initiates, whatever the school, have always been:

First: To find the contact or unity between man and the Hierarchies and Principalities higher than himself.

Second: To discover the laws of man's being and teach him to adjust his actions to the Will of those higher on the scale of existence than himself.

Third: To invoke or solicit their aid in the performance of his earthly mission which, of course, embraces the development of his entire nature and all his potential faculties. These have always been the objectives of the Initiate Masters and are no less obligatory upon the advanced members of the great Fraternity today, although formerly these Initiate Teachers were the priests within the church, where now there is a sharp distinction between the church and the August Orders of Initiation.

Utilitarianism is the genius of the present century. If religion were put to practical use or reduced to a scientific analysis, it would be today as much the fashion as it was five thousand years ago. Whatever comes in the guise of religious belief, even scientific discoveries concerning the Occult (hidden) side of nature, must conform to the materialistic and utilitarian spirit of the age, or the age will have none of it. Such is the crucible of human opinion of the present day concerning Spiritual verities, and the possibility of the application of Occult forces. Men miss the very thing which would lead them onward and upward to heights never achieved before. As inspiration invariably descends from the same plane to which aspiration ascends, Spirit answers Spirit, considering Spirit as relating to the Soul from corresponding realms of intelligence and being.

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TODAY'S THOUGHTS ARE THE FATHER OF TOMORROW'S ACTION

As it is below, so is it above; in the heavens as it is on earth.

The Soul never forgets. The reason for this has already been pointed out and requires no repetition. The overlaid mind of man retains the impression of every image presented to it; and this, in turn, is impressed upon the Subconscious - call it the Ego if you will - and becomes the Soul's record. As each fresh succession of images photograph themselves on the Soul's record, whether the result of thought, desire or experience, the last seems to crowd out and efface the imprint of the earlier ones. They vanish in that they apparently are forgotten, but they are still there; and there they will remain

until the Karmic Law is fulfilled, wiped out by deeds of "goodness." Unconsciously to their possessors, they yet inter into every phase of character. They linger like a subtle perfume in the sphere of unconscious celebration, pervade the sentiments; in fact, they govern them, enter into the mental picture, shape the motives, externalize themselves in words which linger in other's ears, in deeds which affect others' destinies; and silently interweave themselves into invisible but industrious images reflecting upon the light of the Universe.

"Could this most subtle but most potential realm of being be thoroughly explored, all the thoughts, words and deeds that have ever moved the race would be found in ineffaceable images engraved upon the light that heaves and swells through the ocean of infinity; and it would be found that the ill-will of yesterday is the father of our misfortune of today, while the kindly thought and deed of a year ago is the mother of our thought and deed of a year ago is the mother of our present fortune. There is great need of carefully planned action; and it is this most mighty of all fundamental laws, so far as the destiny of the individual is concerned, and which is so carefully taught to the Neophytes by the Secret Schools.

"Nothing is ever lost in nature; nothing blotted out in eternity. Every ill within our nature will manifest itself if not rooted out -REPLACED IN FULL MEASURE BY THAT WHICH WE KNOW AS GOODNESS. We and the future generations living, moving in them, recombine them into the elements of their own character and, thus, live over again in ever-rolling but ever-ascending cycles of time, every incentive of ideality of ideas. The spontaneous contact of two kindred minds, unknown to each other and removed apart by long intervals of time, are often inspired by the same thought, moved to execute and construct the same work, yet apparently an original piece of mechanism, the same constructive thought in literature or the same method for the elevation of mankind. This is also the source of cycles of destructive thinking, destructive action and mass madness and is avoidable only by thinking and living on a higher plane. Man's impressive thought and desire is his destiny tomorrow."

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THOUGHTS AND IDEAS THAT CIRCLE THE GLOBE

The gross atmosphere of earth traversed by waves of light is charged with the images which have been impressed upon it. Whenever the image-carrying wave strikes a human mind ATTUNED to the thought, idea, emotion or passion, it is unconsciously seized upon and appears to be its own. The wave flows on, the idea strikes another and yet another mind until the force of one leading thought sweeps on its career of influence from pole to pole and traverses the mental girth of an age. Such a thing is now occurring. The conquest and war-mad wave, set in motion by the wholesale murder taking place in subjective nations since the last world war, is continuing to sweep the earth and is setting aflame the minds of egomaniacs and millions so inclined.

This is one of the major reasons why the Initiatory Fraternities of the present age are making such Herculean efforts to stem the tide of mass destruction and turn the thought and desire of the mass toward constructive ideals, and to subjugate the morbid and carnal in the direction of awakening and developing all the potential God-like forces of man so that humanity in toto may benefit and be elevated to its grandest peak.

That the human Soul is an emanation from the Deity, therefore, deific in potentialities and attributes, is constantly forgotten. Whoever destroys the vehicle (human body) of a Soul thereby destroys that much of its Creator. The spirit which clothes the Soul and vitalizes the body is a part of all the great motive power of the Universe, the source and cause of all activity. The two combined, though, indeed, temporarily shrouded in matter, and limited to a degree by the

encasements of a material body, still form a deific and, therefore, all-powerful and individual existence which requires only the Light of a Spiritual science to render its functions as deific as its source.

This truth is made manifest when the Soul has become awakened through a carefully directed regime of life. Then the Soul, instead of the mortal body and carnal mind, becomes the director of the thoughts, desires and activities of the person; mastership and not serfdom is the guide at the helm of that individual human being.

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INITIATES AND PRIESTS OF PAST AGES

The peoples of past ages, such as those at the time of Atlantis - whether actual or legendary - generally, and the Initiate Priest in particular, studied the laws of Spiritual forces; they devoted generation after generation in analyzing and mastering their principles and the relation they bore to visible nature. Many of these teachings and Laws have been handed down throughout the ages from Initiate to Initiate, and are as applicable today as they were in the long ages past. It is these principles and Laws which the August Fraternity teaches to its Neophytes to enable them to master the selfish self and bring into manifestation the potential energies and powers native to all but the most degraded.

These Initiates have always taught, as they do today, that those who truly seek should emulate the Divine Plan and work from the center to the circumference, from Deity to His creatures, from Soul Essence to created forms, and despise not the result of human experience, the strivings of the human mind for Light and knowledge of all ages, ancient or modern. We should reverently regard the past as a stepping stone to the present and the future. The lesser chambers and galleries of the great temple of humanity are the foundations upon which the integrity of this superstructure depends.

Let us with a humble and contrite Spirit avail ourselves of successes and failures of those who have gone before us, considering them as the warnings of encouragement by which our own steps may be safely guided, and boldly push on in those transcendent paths of research and development which lead to success and achievement in the realm of our own choice.

We have discussed briefly the theories by which the ancients explained the order of being, and the elements of life, power and motion by which being itself becomes operative. Until the principles thus laid down are accepted and understood, any attempt to show their application to the practice of Arcane Science would be more or less futile.

If the Neophyte fails to comprehend what Nature is; fails to recognize the structure of man in his threefold character as a material, mental (magical, i.e., one who directs mental force) and godly being; fails to follow us in our attempt to define the active life-force which vitalizes all things in nature, and the Spiritual self which is the ever-living principle of man and the connecting link between man, the Hierarchies and Deity, it will be impossible to show him the Way, the method and its application toward ultra-development of his hidden but potential forces.

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MAGNETISM AND PSYCHOLOGY

Magnetism, the combination of mental, vital and physical forces, and psychology, i.e., Soul Science, not mental science, are the two grand pillars which support the Spiritual and Immortal

man. These are the Herculean columns through which the understanding faculty leads the Soul into supreme realms of power, and both can be developed by all who Will to do so.

By magnetic power of force, the imponderable, all-pervading life and vital elements may be communicated from one body to another. The difficulties which oppose the scholar's mastery of this science, as practiced by the ancient and medieval Acolytes, arise from a concatenation of causes, all combining to withhold knowledge rather than to diffuse it and tending to obscure whatever light might be otherwise thrown on the subject.

The Priests or Initiates of antiquity who were then the chief repositories of Occult Science and Initiation maintained their authority over the populace by reserving its understanding exclusively to their own Order and its Acolytes. It was not alone that they deemed such knowledge too sacred for vulgar minds, but they felt that their own exclusive possession of its secrets was essential to the continuance of their authority and the welfare of the mass. It would have been suicidal to themselves and the people to have entrusted the multitude with the knowledge of directing a reserve force which was not fully understood except by the comparatively few. Moreover, the Priest Initiates who were employing these forces in which they were thoroughly trained, were also the physicians to the people.

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VIRTUE OF INITIATION

It is essential that we disabuse the minds of all Aspirants who accept as truth that all Occult knowledge is to be procured only through ritualistic Initiation into the Ancient Mysteries, or through certain modern branches of those Orders that still exist in the Orient. While in many instances such Initiation may be desirable, the dogmatic statement of the truth on the part of those who may be interested on throwing the halo of mystery around their cherished pursuits. There is nothing in the initiatory rites of any ancient order that can develop (Occult powers or SPIRITUAL energies. It is in discipline enjoined upon Aspirants and the effects of actual psychological (Science of the Soul) changes wrought thereby that the entire virtue of the Initiation consists. If such Neophytes entering upon the preparatory degrees of their Initiation did not manifest the tendencies and results of Occult powers, or if after due preparation they did not progress, Spiritually as well as culturally, they were not in the past - nor are they now - permitted to proceed beyond a certain degree. Even so, they gained far more than merely compensated them for every effort made and were lifted by their very effort above the average of humanity.

ALL THAT IS AND IS TO BE

All the Initiates of the past and present exalt temperance in all things and insist that their Acolytes live within the Law of Necessity and not abuse any good thing. Of these classes of religious thinkers, the Christians should be the most faithful in the observance of this law, since it was charged upon them by both example and precept of the Founder of their faith, the Nazarene, and was prescribed as an essential of Spiritual discipline. Another mode of preparatory exercise for Spiritual exaltation was the practice of certain prescribed devotions.

Prayer, not in the mere routine of verbal solicitation, but a sincere aspiration of the Soul toward the great Source of all Life, Light and inspiration - this form of prayer, which is a living Spiritual service, must be supplemented by solitary communion with the inner Soul Consciousness. During this process there should be a complete abstraction of the senses from all outward manifestations; a

Soul-musing of the Creative energy; the I Am that I Am to be; and that deep absorption of the reflective powers upon the Spiritual self within, which constitutes the triumph of the Soul matter and all its belongings. He who can comprehend this and apply it will have all of the powers described by the Ancient Initiates because he will contact and become a part of the ALL THAT IS and ALL THAT IS TO BE.

Ablution, too, is another method of preparing the physical man for the influx of the magnetic force. By frequent ablutions, the skin - the vast system of dual functioning of evaporation and absorption - is prepared for a free transmission and reception of all the forces in Nature which constitute the Magical-Occult elements. During intervals of physical rejuvenation, light fast, consisting chiefly of vegetables and fruits, should be observed; while all stimulants and salacious substances calculated to excite the senses and pamper the appetite should be carefully avoided. Such are the preliminaries that help to make the Initiation possible.

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THE VALUE OF RITUALISTIC INITIATORY RITES

The chief value of initiatory rites of all ritualistic secret societies(10) lies in the psychological effect they exert on the senses by the fumigations of incense, the presentation of visual illustrations, the performance of delightful music, no less the effect which the rehearsal of deep thought and sublime ideas in the form of sacred invocations produces on the receptive mind. When to all this is added the magnetic effect imparted by the presence and manipulation of powerful Initiates whose magnetism charged with magical strength is infused into the prepared system of the Acolyte, it can hardly be wondered that the final rites of Initiation in such societies cannot fail to prepare lesser Adepts who feel as did Pythagoras when issuing from the crowning rites of Egyptian initiation: "I have been in the presence of the gods and drank the water of life anew from the Divine Chalice."(11)

(10) While in a sense ritualistic initiation, in any of its forms, has little or nothing to do with the higher development and the transmutation of the gross into the fine, nevertheless, it is strictly an Occult subject and as such is an integral part of the Great Work, having been made use of by some of the greatest Masters in all ages where, because of the temperament of the Acolyte, other methods failed. For instance, the great Marie Corelli could "travel the Path" only while in the magnetic sleep under Count Guinotte. For this reason the subject is here given certain consideration.

(11) During the ages when the Priests in the Temples were engaged in the healing of the people, and the process was known generally as healing by the "gods" because it was a religious-Spiritual formula, the term "magnetism" was unknown. This form of healing, known as Magnetic Healing, was very prominent in France during the time of Mesmer, Cagliostro and others.

None of the lesser methods of initiation has been found so potent for kindling the most exalted Fires of the Soul or transmuting its latent powers into active operations the "laying on of hands" or the Magnetic manifestations of powerful, well-intentioned Magnetizers; in a word, the infusion of the vital forces of a highly developed power of the Priests in the Ancient Temples into the organism of a correctly prepared, susceptible and receptive subject.

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MAGNETIC OR ALCHEMICAL HEALING

Paracelsus (who in late years has been given proper recognition by the medical profession), Von

Helmont and most Occult Masters of the Middle Ages thoroughly understood the virtue of magnetic forces. In our citation we shall have occasion to refer to these magical (magnetic) formulas in which it will be seen that these Initiates recognized magnetism and Soul Science as two important supporters of the Temple of Occultism.

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THE INSTRUCTIONS OF A MAGI

"Assuming that the Neophyte who desires to exercise magical powers has faithfully prepared himself by the methods prescribed and has subjected himself to fasting, ablutions and temperance, observed periods of seclusion, and disciplined his Spirit by silent communings with Deity, the spirit of Nature and his own inner Consciousness, all that remains for him to do is to select a harmoniously disposed Initiate who, with pure aims and high aspirations, will join with him in the search of light and knowledge. Let him lay his hands, illuminated by the Soul's Light, on the Acolyte's head. Let manipulation of magnetic power, accompanied by the infusion of a strong aspirational Will, be practiced at stated periods of time. Let these exercises be conducted uninterruptedly, steadily, firmly and with high and noble intentions, and they cannot fail to perform the last great work of converting the Acolyte into a passive subject, and from a passive subject into an active operator."

When the great Essenian Teacher, known to us as the Nazarene, assured his Disciples that if they had faith as a grain of mustard seed, they could move mountains and cast them into the sea, he uttered no myth. Although he spoke in parables, he enunciated a truth which the Priest Initiates of every age can fully confirm.

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THE PATH TO GODHOOD

The power of Faith, combined with the fully developed Will, is the essence of the soul; and the Soul's action in producing forms, external manifestations, emulates the creative functions of the Divine Will, only in a lesser form. When this is understood by the Neophyte, he will glimpse the power possessed by those who succeeded in the development of their threefold nature, and will make every effort to activate the Will.

"Every Sage, Initiate and Occult Master, aye, every sincere student of ancient lore, arranges the power of the human Will in the category of supreme intelligence and attributes to its exercise the highest achievements of the true Master. Regrettably, our present system of abject subservience - in matters of religion, moral and social problems - to our fellow men, who are usually far more ignorant of all such subjects than are we, and our slavish dependence on precedent, popularity and custom utterly neutralize this all triumphant and truly magical power of the developed human Will, which, through the process of 'Spiritual unfoldment,' has become allied with the Divine Will. Once this truth is fully understood, it would, as indicated by the Nazarene, make every such person a god."

In our present condition of civilization the complete expansion of the Will with all its functions and powers is well-nigh impossible except by the few wholly self-dedicated. Several generations of culture and patient experience are required ere it can attain its true proportions and become the executive power it ought to be - and may be - in human life. As conditions are, and because of our weakness in permitting ourselves to become the virtual slaves of others who are less Spiritual but much more carnal and brutal, reincarnation offers most of us the only means to attain the highest

degree of perfection and the greatest measure of freedom which, once gained, will defy brutalism in all ages to come.

We must not trust to the possibilities of miraculous changes in our own nature or the world at large - that would be failure - but work for these changes and industriously, scientifically and patiently pave the way for their achievement. The culture of the Will for the execution of "supernatural" acts of power is to be attained by a regular series of mental processes, all tending to the subjugation of the senses and the exaltation of the Spirit. The generalities of the process involve physiological and Spiritual changes, making all things possible.

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IS THE STUDY OF OCCULT SCIENCE WORTH WHILE?

The discouragements that frequently follow the first steps taken on the Path result from an insufficient study of the philosophy and science and are but the first tests of that stupendous Will power, the full exercise of which the Initiate's success in all ramifications of life depends. Is life as it is today, with all its slavery, inhibitions and brutalism, worth while? If not, then another way must be found, and the only means left open is through the full development of man's threefold nature, by which he can free himself from all earthly bondage and yet make of himself a thoroughly sane, reasonable, practical human being.

So desirable has such a development been considered throughout all ages that there have been many men who for a period of time withdrew altogether from the labors and pleasures of the world, and in solitary places devoted themselves to this development. This temporary, lonely existence on silent mountains or amid the darkness of forests helped those of certain temperaments to silence the clamor of the selfish self and awaken the silent voice of the Soul. The human Soul, unsatisfied in its environment of finite limitation, is always, except in those Soulfully dead, aspiring after the constructive and lasting; always eagerly hoping for contact with the Hierarchical realm and the powers of the Infinite.

Thus, it came about that these saintly men, Adepts and Masters, Healers and inculcators of Wisdom, came to be objects of veneration among the people and Immortals after the flesh was cast off. Men traveled far to be taught by them, to learn how sins might be expiated or disease eliminated; for it was rightly believed that in thus devoting themselves to a life beyond the tumult of the passions, and occupied solely with self-development and the transmutation of the gross self, they approached very near to God and received direct revelations of His Wisdom. That which men have been able to do in the past, men may do now, only in a more practical form and for a greater purpose.

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THE ÆTH FIRE

The Initiates of the Ancient Schools have always believed and were taught that there existed in the Universe a pure, all-pervading force or element, invisible, fiery, radiant, wholly free from the taint of defilement; purer than ether; stronger than the loadstone; mightier than the thunderbolt; swifter than winged lightning; at once heat, light, motion and force; the Spiritual principle of being - not Soul - but capable of transmuting into Soul-Fire, connecting the gods and men, heaven and earth. It is the strength or cohesive element in minerals, the growing power of plants, the life of man and animal; it has been known under many names, such as magnetism, Virile force, the life-principle. It is all of these, and much more than these; yet, none of these. In its primitive elements, it is the physical life-force of all living things; in its attractive element it is the all-creative, all-consuming,

all-powerful Æth Fire.

The more the Soul frees itself from sensuous habits and undesirable earthly conditions, the greater becomes its power to use and direct this all-powerful force, and to attract to itself the Divine principles which exist concurrently with the destructive elements. Thus, the action of the Soul, employing the highest Æth as its instrument, becomes freed from the entanglements of materiality, while attracting more and more of the quality, power and essence of the Spiritual entity of strength, Wisdom and power - the keys to success on all planes of activity. A Soul thus brought to Consciousness and having at its command an earthly vehicle such as a normal, natural body in which to direct matter, by the subjugation of matter and the exaltation of the Spiritual self, is at once a man and a Spirit - god.

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THE DIVINE TRAGEDY

Laws, stern and immutable; principles, strict and unvarying, underlie a scheme in which millions of worlds are in action; yet, the whole drama is conducted in the most unbroken system of harmony and power. To arrive at any just idea of causation, it must be accepted as a truth that well-defined mathematical qualities and geometrical proportions must be the underlying principles of this stupendous chain of being, all-moving, living and acting, severally and singly in the most unbroken power and perfection.

"Every sound in the universe must conform to the harmonic rule; every shade of color must combine to produce the totality of pure white light; every creature must be a definite part; everything an organ belonging to the vast whole. As the sun rises in the east and sets in the west, governed by a law so absolute and perfect that there is not a moment's deviation year in and year out, so is governed this vast universe and all that is in it, save man alone, who, given Free Will, abuses his Divine legacy, ignores all the Laws and, instead of becoming a god as he was destined from the beginning, succeeds in nothing more than in destroying himself. This is the Divine Tragedy. To accept the Law, apply it in his own behalf, attain to his inheritance, become one of the gods, is the Divine Harmony. Initiation has as its aim and object this high Ideal."

THE FOUR-SQUARE PLANE OF EXPRESSION

"I am that I am to Be"

In the profound analysis of "Ehye Asher Ehyse" (I am that I am),(12) the source of self-consciousness is contrasted with the Consciousness of the Soul, Divinity to God, the objective I, or I objectified or made manifest with the I subjectified. The former is subject to limitation by time, space and the necessity of expression; the latter is unconditional, free - a "god." In the one, the ego, which may become the Conscious Soul, is spoken of by God, unaware and unconscious of its Divinity; in the other, it is conscious of it.

(12) This Hebrew expression of phrase has always been translated to mean or say: "I am that I am." If this were the direct translation, it would indicate that all progress had ceased, that there is a standstill or petrification of all that exists. This would be a defiance, a nullification of another Law

which we know exists: the law of constant change and progress. Moreover, if this could be accepted as even a half-truth, truly those who use the "I am expression would be a sorry example of deification of super development, since a moment's examination or analysis of them and their acts - without judgment but as example - show that they are most often the weakest and the most inert human creatures; they use the expression to bolster up their own courage and hide a deeply, perhaps morbidly, seated inferiority complex. Furthermore, it would indicate that since the godhead had first cast the expression into the void of time and space, He, the Creative Energy, the source of advancement, the evolution of all things, had ceased to function.

The interpretation is in error, has always been in error. God did not say: "I am that I am," but "I am that I am to be"; i.e., everything is in process of evolvement and development on the cycle leading to perfection. Thus understood, it is a mighty Law leading Obedient man onward and upward, and never permitting him to stand still lest he retrograde and be buried permitting him to stand still lest he retrograde and be buried in forgotten time.

In the philosophy of the Secret Schools, it is taught that there are four elements as well as four principles; likewise four manifestations and expressions of life. The four elements, necessary to organism or manifestation, are fire (oxygen), water (Hydrogen), air (nitrogen) and earth (carbon), and the four principles necessary to full expression are Divine or Spiritual, mental, physical and Soular.

Spirit, Soul, mind and body constitute the four cornerstones of life, and have reference to the four points of the compass on which, broadly speaking, the foundation of the universe - often materially represented by Solomon's Temple - is built or established. This was implied in the plan of Solomon's Temple: the outer court for the Gentiles (physical self), the nest court for the Jews (mental self) and the Holy of Holies for the High Priest, i.e., the Initiate, where the fourth or Soul Consciousness must be realized. The physical, mental and Spiritual, depending upon the Divine, complete the circle around the square of existence.

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AS IT IS WITHIN, SO IS IT WITHOUT

Fire, among the Alchemists and Initiates, has always been symbolized by the sun, as water has been by the moon; the one masculine, having the rose for its floral emblem; the other feminine, having the lily - especially the lotus - for its floral emblem.

Fire, in the lesser sense, has its metaphysical correspondence and symbolizes the active mind, the senses, the objective life, while water symbolizes the passive mind, the affections, the subjective life. In the Occult sense, however, Fire is symbolic of the Awakened, Conscious Soul; while mind is the Awakened (in this sense) builder, as well as the architect of the Soul.

The sun germinates and generates life in the seed by transforming the seed germ into its living, potential form; thus, it is a destroyer and a "bringer into life." But the seed does not germinate until it is moistened (humidified) by water. And so the moon, ruling the water, the tides and woman, preserves the life in a form peculiar to its kind.

Manifestation is outer and physical, while expression is inner and mental, Spiritual and Soulful, so that it can be truthfully said that the expression of the Soul is to the sphere what the manifestation is to the plane of life. This must be continuously kept in mind if the Neophyte hopes to master the science of the Initiates, which is also the secret doctrine annunciated in the Bible by the Nazarene in

his statement: "Unto you it is given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God: but to others in parables." Otherwise how is he to understand that other Occult and Arcane saying attributed to Hermes: "As it is above, so is it below; as it is within, so is it without," and further: "Whatever exists upon the earth in an earthly form exists in the heavens in a heavenly (Spiritual) form."

The Soul, in fact, all life essentially spirit, functions on the four planes and in the four spheres designated by the terms physical, mental, spiritual and Soular, and is one of essence in all forms of expression and manifestation though different in degree.

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DIVINITY IS CENTERED IN THE SOUL

Neither Soul nor spirit creates matter, but uses it. The spirit vitalizes cells, attracts and arranges atoms, determines and disposes of the quality of the physical substances; and the mind, by its thoughts, feeling and character, employs or destroys form and transforms the body into images it idealizes.

There is a Divine technique taught by the Secret Schools, both concealed and revealed in the Bible, which the great Initiate, the Nazarene, taught in the parables of the five talents and the five wise virgins, and which Paul hinted at in I Corinthians 11:15, Divinity, centered in the Soul, can illuminate the mind and life, enlighten the senses, add a Divine range of sight and hearing, and so permeate the Soul with its radiant and pure Light as to transform *ecce homo* (Lo, the human) at once into *ecce deus* (Lo, the god). This is to be accepted, not merely theoretically, but as Spiritually demonstrable.

To prove one's Divinity and make it a Conscious, activating principle of one's life is the intent of Spiritual Initiation and the foundation of revealed religion. The survival of the individual after the change called death, the innate potential Divinity of the Soul is not a gift from God to a few, neither is it a miracle of salvation, but a universal fact which may be demonstrated by all who accept the Law and apply it in life's activities.

The sophist, who attempts to prove that God - who is no respecter of persons - favors one class with blessings of wealth and disfavors another class with the curse of poverty, has an effete, tribal conception of God. Money, prosperity, wealth and their opposites are largely matters of our desires, labor and ingenuity; and the Scriptural justification of the prosperity of the righteous is in the fact that they employ righteous and correct business methods to obtain, accumulate and spend riches.

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GOD HELPS THOSE WHO HELP THEMSELVES

The rich are not necessarily rich or prosperous only because of their righteousness, nor the poor lacking only because of their wickedness; but because the business of acquiring wealth even as a gift demands of us certain social and economic qualities which, if we obey or disobey, produce certain results. This is endorsed by the teachings of the Nazarene, and we have a luminous exposition of it in the parable of the five talents when He emphasized the Law of thrift and work in the accumulation on money, five talents bringing five more; and He actually condemned the man who hid his one talent in the earth, and as a result of his indolence and stupidity even that one was taken from him.

No one denies that justice, kindness, fair dealing and correct thinking are a part of the business of

becoming righteously prosperous. But one may be all this, and if trusting only in God and seldom or never working to be prosperous expecting prosperity to come miraculously as a result of his trust - or some force or power without effort - he will remain where he is the rest of his natural life. He forgets the eternal Law - "By the sweat of thy brow shalt thou live" - obtain possessions, gain power, become strong and finally, achieve Godhood.

Many foolishly imagine that righteousness is in itself a sort of hocus-pocus or magic wand by which one is favored and blessed. As it is with a seed before and after it is put into good soil, so is it with our ideals, desires and thoughts. Unless we "plant" them, make effort accordingly, there will be no return, no fruition. God helps us through conditions; He helps those who help themselves. No sophistry is more heretical of truth, more insidious and destructive in our lives that the assumption that God is a respecter of persons and disregards His own Divine Law, that He can and does favor one who disobeys the Law in practice and denies another who obeys in theory only. God is the Divine Law, or change this to the Divine Law is God.

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GOD'S WILL IS EXPRESSED IN UNIVERSAL LAWS

Occult Science first of all establishes the reign of Divine Law on all planes of life, and our attainments and obtainments result from a strict compliance with Spiritual as well as scientific requirements as established by the Law; in such a relationship between cause and effect, and their resultant causes and effects, the Law of Justice and Compensation is never evaded, each Soul reaping whatever it sows, not alone in the sense of rewards or punishments but, also, in the deeper sense of Spiritual and natural consequences.

Occult Science begins with the human and ends with the Divine Order of Will, intelligence, feeling and Life. Gods Will is expressed in the Universe as Law, not caprice; Order, not chaos; Intelligence, not chance or accident; Love not hate; Life, not death. The application of willing, thinking and feeling as each one Wills, thinks and feels is registered in the character of that person's life. Thus, the Law not only governs and finds its supreme justification in one's Divinity, whence it originates, but in humanity, not only in the Spiritual, but also in the natural world.

Our Divinity is expressed or manifested in our humanity, and the character of humanity is a negative or positive result of the expression of our Divinity. Occult Science bases its technique on Spiritual facts and knowledge; it proves its proposition by supersensuous or Spiritual evidences. These evidences to the natural man, who has not yet found enlightenment or been initiated into Hermetic Science, are no more than foolishness. But facts are stubborn things and persist until properly tabulated in the category of Spiritual realities.

What is needed by the soul is the idealist's vision when centralized within the Soul, that the Spirit of God and our Spirit are harmonized and the Consciousness reveals the unmistakable difference between the objective power and the life of man; and the same power and life when governed by, and proceeding from, this inner or Soul Consciousness become a part of Divinity individualized.

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COMMUNION WITH THE SOUL

Occult Science affords a near-vision and realization of the essential self, one's Divinity, Arcanely uniting the Soul through its becoming Conscious of God, the Supreme and Absolute Intelligence. What is lawfully fixed as matter in time and space, but lawfully free as in Spirit, can be transformed

or transmuted and made to manifest the higher through the use of Will and power, co-ordinating with the lower mental faculties and powers to reveal the Occult and Divine ends which the physical and chemical laws of matter subserve. This explains how alleged miracles and supposed supernaturalisms are not suspensions of natural law, but the clear and undeniable evidence of law under the Soul's own Divine sovereignty.

This Arcane communion between one's higher self, the Soul, and God concerns the entire self in the Divine life in the superconsciousness, rather than in one's application of supernormal power on the normal or supernormal plane. Spiritual, not phenomenal, experiences must be and are universal, yet unique. These experiences are classed as religious because they concern the Soul and God, but they should never be confused with merely supernormal experiences. While they are encouraging and inevitable in the attainment of Spiritual realizations, they are not directly and integrally of God-consciousness.

These experiences are individual and concrete, inasmuch as they relate both to Divine guidance and to human needs. They are distinctly Spiritual in that they are part of the Soul's experience. Singular as such experiences are, they are of the universal Spirit, and, whether in the form of "voice" or vision, they are associated with the Soul only when the Soul is either consciously awakened or when the time has come for the Soul to end its futile search after temporal powers relegate its life from the standpoint of Divine conviction and interior Illumination.

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THE ARCANE LEADS TO ILLUMINATION

It is not astonishing that the terms "mystery" and "mysticism" should be derived from the same root. He who incredulously and blindly permits the ego, his inner self, to function on only the sensuous, objective plane of consciousness - ignorantly inhibiting the Soul's larger and deeper expression of life and power in the sphere of its supersensuous, transcendent, subjective and subliminal consciousness - will deny the reality of Occult and Spiritual experience. The moment the Soul is disenthralled from the dominion of the senses and liberated from the self-imposed obsessions of its carnal desires, these very desires being transmuted, that Soul is free to that degree to enjoy consciously the reveries, ecstasies, visions and the "voice" - not voices as generally understood which may be illusions and generally are - of the Soul as of the angels, and of the ministering Spirits as sent of God and as part of the Divinity and destiny.

The Occult, as part of the Arcanum, leads to Divine realization and Illumination. Its supreme purpose is to clear the consciousness of all veils, shadows, mists, obsessions, inhibitions, complexes, prejudices and obstructions which deflect but do not reflect. The realization of one's own Soul Consciousness is tantamount to the attainment of God's Consciousness and is frequently spoken of as superconsciousness.

This science would be neither secret nor sacred were it open or comprehensible to those not properly prepared. This is the Biblical double doctrine as written in the Scriptures: "To you who are prepared, it is given to understand." Therein lies its safeguard and peculiarity. All unlawful use of supernormal powers employed for personal or selfish purposes is possible, but it leads to the blind alleys of Spiritual occultation. Such use is discouraged because it may lead to dementia and is never a part of the teachings of the Occult or Arcanum. The Neophytes who are not fully prepared and ignore the warnings of the Masters who teach the sacred and Arcane Science, defying to obey conditions, "rushing in where angels fear to tread," have none to blame but themselves if disaster overtakes them. Occult Science is exact and severe in demanding the enlightened life as of paramount importance. Such a life alone can be the foundation on which is built the conscious

perception of Spiritual revelation, inner realization and Illumination.

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SUPERNORMALISM AND SUPERNATURALISM

Soul Consciousness is not any sense allied to mediumship. It affirms self-possession, freedom and conscious sovereignty against control and unconscious possession. The phrase "Spiritual gifts," as employed by Paul in I Corinthians, chapter 14, refers to supernormalism, not mediumship or supernaturalism. Supernaturalism, a term used by theologians, implies accidental or sporadic happenings impossible under natural and Spiritual Law, traceable to an alleged - utterly impossible under the Law - fiat of God, to whom spontaneity of action is accredited a privilege in explicable to human reason, even in the absolute perfection of the Divine Will. Evolution implies involution, but does not deny the innate, potential, ultimate perfection of the human or individual Soul, which we know is a possibility.

Creation suggests recreation; as generation, REgeneration; as death, the resurrection. Supernormalism signifies no accidental fiat of God because His eternal plan failed or because the soul from birth in matter could, but would not, save itself from ignorance, weakness, sin and sickness, as does the term supernaturalism; but, it affirms the infolded, involved potentialities of Divine Being; when expressed, it proves one's Divinity through the attainment of Soul Consciousness - and by no other means. There can be no mistake in either scientific or Spiritual definitions. The unselfish, Divine use of powers, whether normal or supernormal, makes the degree of difference between the one word and the other which the word "supernaturalism" does not convey, except to make confusion more confounded.

Supernaturalism implies miracles, while supernormalism implies mystery, which science is unable to explain because it will not acknowledge the Spiritual. Man can be schooled to see, hear or feel Spiritually; function on the Soul Conscious - sometimes called the Astral - plane; hear the "voice" of the Soul, known as intuition' commune with the Hierarchies of the Great White Brotherhood; receive inspiration and revelation consciously; interpret the law which is Wisdom and know the deeper things of God.

To be able to do these things may seem mysterious because the modus operandi is not understood by the novice and profane, but these things are not miraculous, as knowledge of Soul Science taught by the Secret Schools will readily explain. Ignorance alone makes supernormal attainments seem miraculous; knowledge dissolves the mystery. It is, therefore, desirable that the Neophyte eliminate the terms "supernormal" and "supernatural" from his vocabulary.

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THE INEFFABLE LIGHT

The connecting link between man and God, the lost "key," the stone which the builders rejected, was metaphysically conceived. The Science which was lost and then rediscovered - cabalistically mixed with chimera, fantasy, parables, myths, symbolism, conceits of all kinds - is the Arcane Science of the August Fraternity which furnishes the true foundation on which Spiritual (Soul) realization is founded.

The Divinity, personified as the Holy Spirit or the Holy Grail, selected by Solomon above all other desirable things, is indwelling within every human Soul; and it is preparing for its highest order to be a perpetual Initiate Priest at the Divine altar wherein the Holy of Holies, the pure white Spirit -

the Ineffable Light, burns with an unquenchable and inextinguishable glory. The lamp may become useless, the oil consumed, the wick burned down to a bit of carbon, but the Soul, with its radiant, eternal Light, will shine on forever.

This Science of the Soul is as a lamp to man's feet. It causes man's mind to function according to the Cosmic scheme and tunes his heart to celestial vibrations. It reveals his destiny and the infinity in his own Divinity. It explains the reason of Law and the Law of Order and reason. It is the Science whereby man finds life and Immortality, unity and oneness with God in whom he now lives ignorantly, moves and has his being unconsciously. It is the science of eternal (continuous) life. Mere existence - life as most men know it - is illusion. Divine realization is the ne plus ultra of everything. The conscious knowledge that in the sovereign power of inner Love the Soul discovers God, while in the gross passion of profane love it may lose God is a sublime and perpetual revelation of revealed religion. This the Arcanum of the Occult explains as the immaculate and immediate conception of the incarnation of a Divine Spark from God in the human race and this the same science reveals as the inhibition and exhibition of Soul or superconsciousness wherein our own Soul Consciousness bears witness of God and our own godhood.

Man, as it so often said, is the microcosm, and God or His world is the macrocosm. the Soul's mastery over the carnal flesh and mortal (because it is limited) mind demonstrates its celestial origin and destiny. This is the Great Work.

A COMPENDIUM OF OCCULT LAWS

Chapter VI

OCCULT INITIATION

Occult Initiation Is the Process of Interior Development
Which Leads Man from Bondage to Circumstances and Environments
to Self-Mastery and Freedom from the Shackles
Which Have Enslaved Humanity Throughout the Ages

INITIATION LEADS TO GODHOOD - MAN'S ULTIMATE

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The Thesis of Initiation

The entire range of Occult forces is not easily attainable by all Initiates. There are some powers which Solomon hath sealed with his triple seal and are only for those who are above the temptations of earth. Initiates know this. As for others, what matters it to science or to us whether men laugh, believe or doubt? These, in fact, are the triumphs of Occult philosophy, and its votaries have the strength and hardihood to brave accusations of folly or the suspicion of charlatanry when they assert that all these privileges are real. Aye, even promised by Sacred Writ: "For he who overcometh shall inherit the earth." And again: "If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall remove mountains."

Among the rights, privileges and powers of the Initiate or the Adept are these:

1. To triumph over adversities.
2. To conquer love and hate. This is the beginning of all Wisdom and attainment.
3. To possess the secrets of wealth; to be always its master and never its slave; to know how to enjoy even poverty.
4. To be at peace and never fall into abjectness and wretchedness.

5. To be able to be in "heaven" while passing through "hell."

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SUCCESS AND FAILURE ARE UNDER THE LAW OF LIFE

Good fortune and failure are equally necessary to man - especially to him who seeks to attain the ultimate - to prepare him to meet the ever-changing contingencies of life.

Success and failure, fortune and misfortune, are actually interrelated. The misfortune of today may bring the success of tomorrow; the success of today, the misfortune of tomorrow. It all depends on the way we prepare for and accept these things, and the use we make of opportunity; and let it be understood that misfortune may be an opportunity which, accepted as a challenge, will lead us on to fame and fortune.

If failure stalks our every effort, it is because of one of two things. First, we have earned failure; therefore, we are paying a just debt. The more willing and ready we are to pay, the quicker we will be free from it and come into our own. Secondly, if we are paying for something we have not received and which we do not owe, then we have reason to rejoice. It is then that (seemingly) we are for the moment the plaything of fate and are being tested. In the payments we are making, we are laying up "treasures in heaven," providing we are making every effort to free ourselves and profiting by the experience. We are "making deposits" which will return to us many-fold in good time.

The seeker for Initiation quickly learns to appreciate the fact that there is no ultimate injustice. There is a cause for ALL that occurs. We are or have been the cause of the good or ill that is accruing and for which we are responsible. Justice is being meted out to us. In the majority of instances we are, for the moment, "creatures of circumstances or of the machinations of the unjust." In each instance the ultimate reaction of the Law will exact justice from the guilty; will bring peace for our sorrows, and profits and honor for our losses and suffering. The Neophyte quickly appreciates that there is no effect without a cause. He seeks the cause and when it is found, removes it; if hidden and not revealed, he proceeds as though all were as it should be, knowing that, whatever the cause, he will ultimately benefit. In the meantime he will gain strength, knowledge and understanding toward greater achievement. The novice on the Path does not expect immediate results, or good fortune; even though he works wholeheartedly and whole-Souledly toward that end. He is willing to be faithful over small things, being assured that he will then have reason to rejoice when he becomes capable of grasping the unexpected results to which they are related.

Misfortune, at least for a time, may be far more essential to the ultimate success of the Neophyte than immediate good fortune. Misfortune will test the Novice and prove his worth. It will impel him to seek the Cause and to find the inducing factor which is highly important, no matter what his interest. However, the Neophyte should not supinely accept either injustice or loss merely because it may be a reaction of his own past, his own weakness or an evil tendency inherent in him. On the contrary, it may be a test to see whether he is of the material which will impel him to make every effort to see that justice is done. "Seek to know the cause of all things; rectify it if you can; if that is impossible, find a way to surmount that which is undesirable."

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EXPERIENCE, THE GREATEST OF ALL TEACHERS

"Seek not to learn from books that which may be learned from Life."

The lessons we are able to learn from books are helpful in outlining a path for us, but they rest on faith. That which we learn from life is the result of experience. Feeling, suffering, sorrow and losses are things which we know. If we ourselves have these experiences, then we know. It is Wisdom gained, and through that Wisdom we are competent to chart our own course and guide others.

The wise man, as also the Neophyte, seeks to gain knowledge by taking careful note of the experiences of others and thereby avoid many of the unpleasant events of life. But in essentials, in all things which concern the principles of basic truths, it is necessary to experience that one may feel, aye, both suffer and enjoy and thus know. This is Wisdom which cannot be controverted by the sophistry of intellect or the shallow findings of pseudoscience.

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THE HEART-BORN DESIRE IS MOST EASILY BROUGHT TO REALIZATION

"Whatever a man ardently desires in life, a monitor within him assures him that it may be achieved if his Will be strong and his efforts co-ordinated with the wish."

Nature, God or the Law of Causation so constituted man that it is not possible for him to think of, imagine (construct in his Spiritual workshop) of desire that which he cannot attain or obtain if he is willing to:

- (1) Make the necessary effort.
- (2) Make the necessary sacrifices.

All the great geniuses the world has known did not become such because Nature, one way or another, made life easy for them. They were endowed with a vivid imagination, clear-sightedness as to the needs of humanity and a willingness to work, to actually slave and to sacrifice whatever was necessary in order that the vision created in the laboratory of their imagination might be made manifest in the world of sense and matter.

The first necessity, possibly that which brought them more actual suffering than all else, was their readiness to be laughed at, sneered at and derided by friends and foes alike. Nature, God or the Law repaid them well. Not only did they gain fame and honor, empty as that may be, but they greatly and eternally benefitted mankind. What man has done, man continues to be able to do, provided he is willing to undergo similar ordeals. Birth, construction and reconstruction must begin in the heart. The heart-born desire is far more certain to reach maturity than a thought-born desire of the mind or intellect.

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ALL THE FORCES OF HADES CANNOT RETARD THE MAN WHO TRULY DESIRES

"Men would be gods if they desired (loved) their own enlightenment and advancement as they do women."

Carnal man's ideals, the end and aim of his life to which all his energies are bent, the dream of his existence, the satisfaction of his joy and pleasure, are centered in his desire - the basis of love. Desire and love are frequently synonymous. To gain such love, however shallow it may be, man has for countless ages been willing, as he is today, to suffer all things, make all sacrifices, undergo all degradations and commit all the crimes in the catalog of lofty endeavor, or great achievement, just

as in reverse, it has been the causative factor of much of the degradation and misery from which mankind has suffered in the past - and continues to suffer.

If man can arouse within himself an equally keen desire, not based on carnal passion, for the accomplishment of any idea or ideal and is willing to sacrifice, to labor and to suffer the sneers of his fellow man, then whatever dream the mind conceives, whatever picture the imagination portrays, whatever advancement the heart desires, can be brought into manifestation and all the powers and forces of the Adept will be at the command of such a one.

Likewise, the man who is capable of such dreams and who has the strength and the depth of heart and Soul to fully and completely love a woman, and if that woman so loved has the inborn character to first urge and then stand by the man she loves and his dreams, then, a superman and a saint are in the making, and the world will shortly honor another genius.

The hope of the world, as of the great Arcane Fraternity, is in the greater achievement of real men, although all the inimical forces of Hades are banded together to nullify the Law, to establish a profound inertia and cause man to be less active and productive, therefore a prey to self-weakness and final annihilation.

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TO KNOW - TO WILL - TO DARE - TO KEEP SILENT

"Those sciences (hidden, Arcane, Occult) which are remote from one another cannot be extended without bringing them nearer and forming points of contact between them."

Now, as always, mankind in general, although there are exceptions, has placed its faith in material science, in the things it can see and feel; and has condemned and derided the forces, energies and influences which the human mind and material senses could not feel, sense or appreciate. This has been a weakness and a loss to the race.

Because the most potent forces in the universe are hidden, i.e., Occult - unknown, men have either shunned or condemned them, accursed them as evil and undesirable, selfish and destructive, forgetful or unmindful of the fact that all human achievement or advancement has had its inception in the mind as thought, and that almost universally the first idea or motive was by nature selfish.

Unfortunately this has been true as regards the votaries of the Occult. Selfishness in this field, when within lawful limits, is no more to be denounced than selfishness in any other branch of human activity. All advancement begins in the desire to advance or to improve the self. It is only as the personal self does advance that others may be guided or helped. The world in general advances only as the individual improves himself and by example points the way to others, and such efforts are not made unless there is a prospect of self-benefit.

Selfishness is undesirable and should be condemned when it attempts to benefit the self at the expense or the loss or detriment of others, but not when it promotes self-improvement in order that others may be helped.

The Secret Schools recognize that the pursuit of happiness is the Divine right of all mankind and animates even the most Spiritual (religious) devotee at the very shrine of his devotion. Correctly understood, there is probably no such thing as pure disinterestedness on earth(1) or in heaven, because it would be a thing without equilibrium and in itself contrary to all laws and all analogy.

(1) One of the most notable examples of unselfishness is seen in the mother who willingly and probably without a second thought sacrifices her health and her future welfare to nurse a sick child. Noble as this is, it is not altogether disinterestedness, because it is based on the love inherent for the child and the desire to keep that loved one from passing on, although it might be the eternal welfare of the child to leave the mortal plane. The suffering of the mother, if the child does not recover, is proof of the self involved, yet is not to be condemned because it is natural.

The Occult recognizes this freely and, while condemning selfishness which seeks to benefit in one way or another to the loss or at the expense of another, does inculcate and incite toward self-improvement and self-benefit, and by methods unknown or misunderstood in material science.

It commands the Neophyte:

To Know.

To Will.

To Dare.

To Keep Silent.

This embraces, first, the knowledge of the ways and means to accomplish; secondly, the intention to perform and the willingness to forswear, if necessary, all else but moral responsibility and personal liability; thirdly, the courage, in defiance of all objection, to execute. In silence is typified not the mere habitual absence of expression, not alone the concealing of dangerous secrets from the unworthy, but also the complete shutting out of all extraneous things that would interfere with the purpose and intent of the operation, and especially the refraining from all boasting as the results. Silence is, in fact, a cardinal principle with the Hermetic philosopher and his art, and is enjoined by all Secret Schools. To mention or to speak of an operation before its consummation may result in its failure, where otherwise there might have resulted complete success.

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TO FEEL IS TO BE - AND TO BE IS TO BECOME

"It is a universal law that assurance of success keeps pace with ability; and the fear of miscarriage or failure which hinders our first attempt is gradually dissipated as our skill advances toward the certainty of success."

Knowledge, at least in part, is the result of observation. Wisdom is possible only as a result of applying that which we believe to be true and as a result, feel and experience. We can also prepare for the application of certain accepted facts by close and careful observation. We actually go through the world and most of life with our eyes shut in regard to many of the most common things.

Courage and confidence are born as we gain the information which is essential to application. Skill comes to us by repeated efforts. No man (or woman) can become an Initiate or attain to Adeptship who first does not understand the Law; who, secondly, is unwilling to give his entire being without reservation to the things to be accomplished; and thirdly, fails to imagine himself that which he assumes to become. To feel is to be, at least momentarily. But if we know, if we act, if we apply our knowledge and feel that which we seek to be, then we become that which has been gradually constructing within us by our constant physical and mental efforts.

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CULTIVATING THE FACULTY OF OBSERVATION

"The observing man becomes a part of all he has seen and felt [experienced]."

In seeking Initiation it becomes the duty of the Neophyte to awaken his every faculty of observation. In every act of man and woman there is a lesson to be learned, because behind every act there is a cause, and it is cause which is of prime importance in the gaining of Wisdom. In doing this, criticism and judgment must be assiduously avoided.

The Neophyte must become saturated with his desire to master all things, and this mastery includes the subjugation or direction of those emotions and passions which lead the mass more often to failure and dishonor than to success and leadership.

In observing the actions of men and seeking the incentive for the action, the Neophyte must necessarily become a separate entity, and in no wise be influenced either by the actions of men, nor yet by the reactions which result. Should he permit himself to be influenced one way or the other, his own passions or emotions would become aroused, certain weakness would result, folly instead of Wisdom would follow, and he might in some instances take on the Karma of the actor. Shakespeare was right when he voiced the sentiment that "all the world's a stage," and, naturally, all the people are actors, very few capable of dictating their own part, though primarily responsible for it. He who seeks Wisdom must separate himself from the actors and look upon the world as a stage, and be no more influenced than he is when witnessing a drama or hearing an opera.

Observe, analyze and feel only when something is to be learned which will be of interest to the self or of benefit to mankind. If experience can be gained by such observation then, by all means take advantage of it, store it in the memory as important papers are filed for future reference; but do not be influenced except to benefit thereby.

Through this method of observation or blending(2), the Neophyte will not only be able to learn the character and capacity of those he meets, but in time he will be able to so blend with them as to be able to read their very thoughts; even more, to trace their thoughts by means of mental reflection back into the domain of retrospection and so learn of acts in their past life and find the causative incentive of the passion, emotion, misfortune or even ailment from which they suffer. All this must be done in a wholly impersonal manner without prejudgment or condemnation of anything that is revealed.

(2) The term "blending" was first used by Dr. P.B. Randolph, the Supreme grand Master of the Rosy Cross and appendant Orders; and later by Peter Davidson, the world's greatest authority on the ancient Druids and their philosophy.

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A POSITIVE IMAGINATION FOR HEALING MENTAL ILLS

"Deceit, idle curiosity, indiscretion, unwholesome desire, negative thoughts are the creation of the imagination which enslave the Soul or higher self of man and incline the person toward weakness and disease, failure and sorrow. The power or force for the elimination of these undesirable qualities also lies in the same abused imagination."

Much of sickness and weakness have their beginning in a negative imagination which - instead of

picturing radiant health, strength, energy and joy in life - permits visions of weakness, loss and suffering to usurp the constructive power of the mind; and this is repeated so frequently that finally these negative pictures become reflected in the subconscious perceptions. The Initiate fully comprehends this Law and is aware that by the power of his suggestion and the force of his Will, he may eliminate the mind- pictures of disease and weakness from the mind of the victim - the self-sufferer, and replace them with pictures of health, strength and happiness. There are only a few ailments, except those of an organic or undernourished nature, which will not yield if such a course is persistently followed. The Occult Master may proceed far beyond this in cases demanding it. He may even enter a realm unknown to medical science in the elimination of diseases especially those in the category of nervous and neurotic afflictions so prevalent today, most of which are the result of reflex mental distortions, and become so strong as to govern conscious mental activity and physical response in the form of disease, weakness and even distortions.

These come within the realm of the human magnetic field or mental, material science known as hypnotism; a procedure first practiced and made known by the Occult Initiates, derided by science and medicine and then grudgingly accepted - now widely practiced.

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MAGNETISM, MESMERISM AND HYPNOTISM

Numerous Initiates have maintained that magnetism - human electricity - is the real key to "magical" operations and contains in itself the explanation of almost all the achievements and marvelous feats attributed to the Magi of all ages. It is the common ground between materialism and Spiritual Consciousness where the natural and the so-called supernatural may meet and harmonize. It is the physical base upon which is reared the whole grand superstructure of Occultism, at least in its primary degrees. It involves in its operation matter, mind and Soul. Its foundation is deep in physical science, but its superstructure reaches to the very cloud heights of speculation and conjecture, and it promises to serve as a tower connecting earth and heaven.

This science of physical energy and mental forces was well known to the ancient Magi Initiates; but its secrets were studiously concealed from all but the very Initiates, and nearly lost to the world by the burning of the Alexandrian Library in the fourth century.

It remained for Mesmer to recover, by the most natural and commonplace means and without the aid of extensive Occult knowledge, this universal agent of life, and to introduce it with all its possibilities into the domain of science and research; and later, Moll unveiled another branch of the same art, i.e., hypnotism or hypnosis, which starts with the conscious mind, placing it in abeyance and, then, reaches into the Subconsciousness. There it eliminates or eradicates the mental picture of weakness, disease and failure which had been projected into the Subconsciousness by the conscious, though of a negative mind, and substitutes in its place a picture of health, strength and well-being - or whatever the desire of the operator or physician.

Thus, that class of mental, neurotic or psychopathic sufferers who cannot be influenced by mere suggestion or mental force or medication may be influenced by a fixity of look, sometimes supplemented by a slight, soothing undulating movement of the hands; others only by a slight or profound magnetic sleep. This magnetic sleep has been divided into four stages: the primary, which is but a partial subjection; the secondary, which is a controlled somnambulism; the tertiary, which is a state of absolute unconsciousness of pain as well as a complete subjection to the Will of the operator. In the last stage the subject can be made to believe anything the operator desires to impress upon the mind, however improbable or inconsistent. The subject may be impelled to any action in obedience to the Will of the superior mind, provided it is not against the moral instinct of

the subject. This last state is not always attainable with all subjects, although in general any subject who will succumb to the first operation can, by repeated experiment, be brought to the highest degree of subjection(3).

(3) Due to charlatanry, hypnotism was for a time relegated to oblivion. However, science has not permitted it to be permanently buried merely because it was grossly abused and exploited. Men such as Dr. Thomas Garrett, Alfred J. Fox, M.D., Dr Alexander Cannon, and Dr. Walter Bromberg gave it serious consideration, acknowledging its vast possibility in the field on mental hygiene, the correction of wrong mental attitudes and the results following constrictive thinking.

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ALL THINGS BEGIN IN FAITH

"Knowledge is gained, and Wisdom attained by degrees. During the earlier stages of the search for truth, it is but natural that the mind is beclouded, and comprehension at a loss. It is during this period that the Neophyte must remember the command: Go forward, have faith and knowledge will unveil itself."

Irrespective of man's station in life, he enters the Occult Path in blindness, but with a purpose. It is at the very threshold where there is the greatest need of faith. It has been well said that "all things begin in faith," and this is especially true in the search for Wisdom, enlightenment, and the attainment of the powers promised those who are faithful and overcome.

With a deep desire and but little faith, we may begin the search and enter on the Path. As we proceed and progress, we begin to see that every effort has a purpose and to the degree of our application further light is revealed to us. Our faith increases in perfect ratio as we apply ourselves and open our inner self to the reception of truth and understanding. Thus, we proceed step by step on the climb toward the ultimate. Every grain of additional faith is an incentive to greater effort. Every effort brings greater enlightenment and the capability to receive and comprehend that which is seen and experienced, also the Wisdom to apply that which has come to us as a result of effort and understanding. It is a continuous, progressive process of becoming and wholly dependent upon capability and the application of knowledge as it is unrolled to our mental vision before us. Have faith! is the command. as we have a little faith and apply it, greater faith is given us. the beclouded vision becomes clear, doubts are dispelled, power is felt throughout the entire being, and we proceed toward the ultimate of Initiation or Soul Consciousness.

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MAN'S FIRST DUTY IS TO BECOME MASTER OVER HIS OWN KINGDOM

"He who would be superior to external influences must become superior to his own passions."

No man is greater than the control he is able to exercise over his passions! This is a law in all the realms of physical life. Man's greatest field of attack, the most vulnerable spot, the personal aspect which permits easiest defeat, is the weakness within himself which he has failed to control and which is not at all times subject to his direction.

One of the first and most important steps to be taken in the search for Wisdom, the gaining of power and the attainment of Self- mastery and Initiation, is to make a thorough search, a most careful analysis of the self and its carnal passions and to judge with a harsh and impartial judgment. It is

not a disgrace to be possessed of strong passions; but it is ignoble to be governed by them. The weaker passions must be strengthened by right direction so that no outside force or influence, coercion or flattery can mislead or misdirect them while the stronger passions must be correctly directed. The temptations of the world are strong and all-powerful; to give way to them is not only weakness but is to fail in the Great Work that is to be accomplished.

It is a Magical axiom: "If thou wouldst be loved by fairy queens, by sylphs and undines and the beautiful damsels of light, be chaste as the moon and without encumbrances, for the elemental spirits are oftentimes jealous of the affairs of men."

Which is merely to say that in seeking for Mastership and all it embraces man must be his own master and must not dissipate any of his forces, nor by any means permit himself to be misled or to deviate from the Path or obedience to the law which governs the higher attainment. It is, of course, equally true that no man can command the elemental spirits or forces, as can be done in the higher Occult, unless he has complete command of his desires, passions and native forces. "Thy God is a jealous God" merely decrees that he who is to command forces outside of himself must first exercise mastery of those within himself; the Law is jealous of its application and permits none to choose and to be subject to carnal desires before it.

"The Initiate, above all men, must hold the reins of passion with a firm hand and Will, guided by reason. It is always a trial of strength. He who yields to the first temptation may not aspire after the precious gifts of 'heaven' which are reserved only for the wise and the strong."

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"GOD GRANT I MAY SO ACT AND DIRECT MYSELF
THAT THERE MAY NOT BE HEREAFTER CAUSE TO REGRET"

"The man of yesterday is not the man of today, nor will he be the same tomorrow."

Nothing is stationary in nature. Man either advances or he retrogrades. This is one of the great Laws recognized by the Initiate, and it is by reason of its recognition that constant advancement is possible.

Yesterday is not to be condemned or entirely forgotten, but is to be an example. If that which was committed did not benefit the self or another, it should serve as a warning for us not to repeat. It is past; it belongs to God; "the dead must bury its dead"; but the lesson learned is to be applied in the affairs of today and thus help prepare for a better tomorrow.

Yesterday left us either wiser and stronger, or weaker and more beclouded. Whatever the experience, we are today or we started the day as we were yesterday, and it is either to be our guide or act as a warning in all we undertake today. Tomorrow will be a continuance of today; thus, we advance according to our ability to adsorb the lessons and experiences as we pass through them.

The Neophyte on the Path does not fail to give special attention to this activating Law, knowing as he does that by taking advantage of it he learns one or more lessons each day, and he applies them to the day that follows, thereby advancing himself step by step, day by day. In all his efforts his heartfelt prayer must be:

"God grant I may so act and direct myself that there may not hereafter be cause to regret."

In this manner does the Initiate harmonize himself with the Law and thus wise will the Law protect him, guide him and help him to attain Mastery.

The common mass is governed by only one incentive - self- interest, and because of this, one day follows the other in rhythm-like manner with seldom a change. Life ebbs, strength wastes, mind dulls and death ends it. The Neophyte who would be a Magus must become superior to the mass, rise above their weaknesses and attain superior knowledge. He differs from the mass in that he denies himself the unessentials, he controls his natural and carnal desires; and he has no expectation for immediate self-benefit, fully comprehending that only in this wise can strength for even greater things be gained.

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ENTHUSIASTS ARE THE AMBASSADORS OF GOD

"All available means, all requisite agencies for acquiring knowledge, will come to the Neophyte whenever these become indispensable to his progress. This dogma is an article of faith to all Neophytes on the Path and must be accepted in full confidence."

No knowledge or achievement is beyond the reach of any Aspirant who is possessed with the requisite personal qualities of the Magus; these are enthusiasm, courage, indomitable Will, patience, industry, perseverance and silence. Properly understood and applied, these qualities compel success.

Dr. P. B. Randolph has said that "enthusiasts are the Ambassadors of God." Without enthusiasm the desire, the incentive and the Will to make the necessary effort are lacking. Enthusiasm for an object to be attained is like love for a woman; it is the guiding, drawing attractive power surmounting all obstacles.

Courage is essential in that it holds the seeker steadfast to a charted course. It helps him defy all opposition, ignore opinion, welcome criticism and find incentive in the skepticism of others.

The Indomitable Will is like steam to an engine. It is the driving force of the human mechanism. It brooks no opposition, recognizes no defiance; it challenges fate and wins it to its side. It is the power which lifts man to the throne of God and makes him as one of the gods.

Patience is as important as the Will. Without patience, the strongest Will is of no greater value than a simple wish. Patience recognizes even the necessity of failure; that failures rightly accepted are stepping stones to success; and that each failure is simply to be considered as an incentive to greater effort. It is the patience in Nature which permits the seed to germinate and the sprout to grow into a tree, the tree to bear fruit. Patience is the cement which holds stone to stone until the structure is complete.

What is Industry? To wish is weakness; but to turn a wish into a keen desire is Alchemy; and to make that desire so strong as to be willing to labor, to deny, to sacrifice in order to achieve - that is the need in the Great Work. Enthusiasm, Courage, Will, patience, all these must fail where effort is lacking.

Perseverance is akin to patience. To be patient is to persevere until success has been attained. Stick-to-itiveness is the greatest need of our modern, impatient age. Without it, all must fail and man return to his earliest estate.

Silence is recognized by Initiates and Occultists as not alone the habitual refraining from useless

speech and frivolous discussions, but also the shutting out of sight and mind all ulterior interests.

As Nature crushes a man who stands in her way as readily as she would crush an apple, so must the devotee to science stop at no petty scruples in casting aside the little obstacles which tend to obstruct the way. He must crush out from his heart all the ordinary weaknesses of human nature which contribute to molding the character and destination of common men. One sentiment he, indeed, acknowledges and never ignores - the sense of justice, one's feeling and affection.

The Magus, like other men, more so than other men, must keep himself innocent if he would be happy and successful. Selfishness becomes the serpent in his Eden and destroys his hope of Immortality.

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THE WHITE BROTHERHOOD

"And since he kept his mind on one sole aim,
Nor ever touched fierce wine, nor tasted flesh,
Nor owned a sensual wish - to him the wall
That sunders ghosts and shadow - casting men
Became a crystal, and he saw them thro' it
And heard their voices talk behind the wall,
And learned their elemental secrets, powers and forces."

_____ Tennyson, in "Vivian."

The transcendent powers possessed by the Magus are never imparted to those who prove unworthy. The Initiatory Schools teach as a fundamental that the Soul of man passes through many phases of existence, and in every successive stage may be improved and refined. Following death and after proper rest - as the body does from its labor sleep nightly - the Soul takes possession of a new earthly tenement and is reincarnated in the body of an infant whose opportune arrival is instantly taken advantage of for the purpose; then, the incarnating Soul at once enters upon another earthly pilgrimage during which new trials must be passed through, and new opportunities afforded for improvement. Under proper culture and direction, great strides may be made in one lifetime; but it may take several incarnations or, in other words, several different life-experiences to work out a moral taint. Sometimes, in consequence of very strong hereditary taint, transmitted through a line of ancestors noted for their selfishness and the undue ascendancy of evil passions in their nature, the Soul struggles long in the depths of error and moral degradation before there is aroused even a tendency toward the right direction and then a gradual improvement. Unless overcome and set back by some great temptation of a train of evils too strong to be successfully opposed, the Soul is destined to become in time thoroughly free from the moral defects imposed upon it and it becomes worthy of fellowship with the Hierarchy of the true and good who by the grace of God are in charge of the invisible Brotherhood.(4)

(4) Some of these statements may appear cryptic. The Soul itself does not sin and is not actually contaminated by evil. By its acceptance of responsibility for whatever the medium - the body in which it incarnated - it must pay for its Spiritual identity, and by the power of such consciousness it is capable of influencing the personality - the physical self, the house it inhabits - to gradually come within the Divine Law.

This might be comparable to one born into an unfavorable condition and who continues to live therein and is seemingly unconscious of his conditions by reason of one cause or another becomes conscious of the undesirability of his habitation and gradually, to the degree of his consciousness,

he begins to repair his house until it becomes a desirable place to live in from every point of view.

Thus, the Brotherhood of Magi are as guardians of such Souls who seek to free themselves from the taint of selfishness, which is weakness, instruct them in the nature of the Spiritual life and ultimately initiate them into the visible Brotherhood. This Fraternity is always governed by a High and Secret Council composed of Initiates who act under the inspiration of the unseen Powers of Hierarchies who direct the affairs of the Fraternity through the Supreme Grand Master.

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THE MYSTERY OF MAGIC*

"The art of magic consists in employing invisible or so-called Spiritual agencies, the Hierarchies or Principalities of Light, to obtain visible results."

*The term "Magic" as here used is not to be confused with the general meaning or usage of the word. In the Occult or spiritual application of the word, it indicates the direction of a force in Nature generally unknown.

He who in sincerity enters the study of the Great Work, at once begins to live a double life. One life he lives in the imitation spirit, as do all men, but he also lives another life in the conscious Spirit which through his efforts is being developed. The conscious Spirit is the fruit of years of study and training. Man is unknown to himself until he begins to consciously make an effort to find the real self within himself and which allies him to the invisible Spiritual Hierarchies.

Gradually, after studying and long training, he begins to sense the other, the hidden self, and to comprehend the part he plays in the great drama of life. Man cannot know God of the Spiritual things until he becomes a child of the Light. Then, and then only, is his relationship with God established. While man lives only in the imitation spirit, he does not truly live; he exists as the plaything of fate and characters stronger than himself. He is a pawn in the game of life. When he establishes the conscious life, then, the Light gives life. He will see life as it is, and irrespective of where he may be, there will be the Spiritual forces to command. Like David of old, he can no longer hide from God, for God is everywhere.

Almost from the very beginning, the Neophyte is engaged in seeking this Light and in connecting with the Hierarchies or Principalities of Light, because therein alone is to be found that which is above the human equation. This does not make him less human or less practical. It enhances his understanding of the self and his usefulness to his fellow creatures.

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THE REALM OF THE SOUL*

The Kingdom of heaven is compared not to any great kernel or nut, but to a grain of mustard seed, which is one of the least grains, but has in it a property and spirit hastily to get up and spread. So there are states great in territory and yet not apt to enlarge or command; and some that have but a small dimension of stem, and yet apt to be the foundations of great monarchies." - Bacon.

Man as a whole may be compared to a sovereign country which is made up of an aggregation of independent states, small and large, all united in a rather loose confederation for the purpose of common defense and the furtherance of mutual interests. Man's passions, emotions and desires are

these independent units of his being. They are all more or less selfish, jealous of their existence and power, and ready to unite in a common defense against any usurpation. Within this sovereign country or universe of man there is hidden the "grain of mustard seed," small but potent if permitted to spring into life. In general, in fact almost universally so, the independent states, the passions, emotions and desires of selfish interests will continue to hold control during his life; and, as in most instances in national life where selfish interests predominate, they will ultimately destroy the composite whole; however, there are exceptions. It is then that the mind of the composite individual begins to sense there is something far greater than this conglomeration of selfishness and weakness, and begins his search to unravel the mystery.

This "mustard seed," least among "seeds," is then awakened and husbanded into life and given the opportunity to become the greatest in the personal kingdom. This "mustard seed" is the Soul which has been allowed to remain dormant for ages, yet which contains within itself all that has ever existed, the Light which allies it to God and when unfolded contains within itself all the powers ever possessed by man. This little "seed," native to all normal human creatures, is in truth the Winged Globe(5) wherein man finds his heaven.

(5) This Winged Globe is the Rosicrucian's symbol of the Illuminated Soul, the Initiate.

Initiation is the process of subduing the clamors of the principalities of selfish passions, emotions and desires; of transmuting or changing the very nature of them; of harmonizing them with the Great Work to bring this "grain of mustard seed," the Soul, to conscious life and into touch with the invisible or Spiritual entities. Yet, this Work, great as it is, is no more than the development of the whole man to harmonize with the Universal Law and Order.

* In this age of usurpation, the Neophyte who demands privileges is not entitled to them, and should study this quotation until its precepts and Spiritual Law ARE BURNED into the Consciousness so that not even in thought may he be guilty of this evil which is really a part of avarice - a MOST IGNOBLE human trait. Any Neophyte guilty of this weakens would eliminate himself from the ranks of the August Fraternity.

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"THE DILIGENT MAN SHALL STAND BEFORE KINGS"

"Would you be among the great? Then remember this: "The great are great only because we are on our knees. Let us rise!" ___Pridhomme.

A man is only a human creature, but he may become a whole man. The instincts of a gentleman will prompt him to do the proper thing under any and all circumstances. Therefore, it is the duty of man to develop the character of a gentleman and the capability to govern himself. Ignorance and vice are the conditions of which man should be ashamed, that can properly exclude him from any society on earth to which he has gained the entree. Solomon's precept: "The diligent man shall stand before kings," is the watchword which activates the August Fraternity as it does the Neophyte and makes all progress possible. (6)

(6) The Neophyte or any self-respecting, responsible man will not demand acceptance into any phase of Society for which he has not prepared himself so as to be acceptable. DEMAND BY COMPULSION IN PLACE OF WORTH, PROVES UNFITNESS.

The true Neophyte is never a snob. He recognizes that rank, heredity and good breeding do count for much; that generations of greatness, of gentle breeding and refined living all leave their mark. Man, lacking good breeding, if he will it, may develop it to the highest degree. The laws of heredity are recognized by the fraternity, and every effort is made by those on the Path to free themselves of weaknesses and taints of whatever nature, so that their descendants shall have greater possibilities, with less to overcome and be better able to carry forward the traditions of the Great Work. In the ultimate, greatness, whether of birth or of self-development, manifests itself in simplicity, in gentleness and in the refinement of behavior. The truly great are never boastful and never attempt to impress their refinement or birthrights upon anyone, nor do they ever demand rights and privileges which do not belong to them. In truth, the gently-born, who are also gentle-minded, are unconscious of their status in the ranks of man. The Neophyte at all times makes effort to attain this distinction, and to be unconscious of it as he achieves it.

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RECREATION IS NECESSARY IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF MIND, BODY AND SOUL

"Whoever hopes to employ any part of his time with efficacy and vigor must allow some of it to pass in trifles." _____Locke.

In modern parlance: A little foolishness now and then is relished by the best (and greatest) of men.

It is an acknowledged fact that there is no more irrational being, no more radical person, than the one just converted from one religion to another, one political party to another, or one system of living and thinking to another.

This is equally true in the realm of Occult and Arcane. It is regrettable that this is so and that reason is ignored. It has been the thought and theme of many that, once they change from the material and carnal and accept the teachings and rules of the Ancient and Secret Schools and the August Fraternity, all things they formerly were part of and all thoughts and ideas they subscribed to, must not only be discontinued but are, in toto, to be condemned. The cruelest men of all ages, the most blood-thirsty and the most unreasonable, have been those converted from one form of religion to another.

The line of demarcation between the things of the world and the Spirit is not that sharply drawn. That which is generally, aye, universally, employed for carnal, even evil purpose is the same thing and the identical material which is used in the attainment of the higher life; it is merely changed - transmuted - and differently applied; correct use takes the place of misuse. This requires time and effort.

Pleasures and recreations are hardly ever in themselves evil, the cause of evil or direct means of weakness or degradation. It is their abuse that is evil. It is the same with worldly possessions, with associations and with various activities. The Neophyte is, therefore, warned what he, above all others, must avoid becoming either irrational, radical or prone to condemn; but instead, must constantly seek to be more reasonable and tolerant, willing to give the benefit of the doubt in all things where he is uncertain of lack actual knowledge.

Foolishness or trifles, as Locke states, do have their part in life, just as recreation is necessary in the development and rationalizing of mind and body. Moreover, frequently recreation in one form or another is the ideal means toward gaining friendships, knowledge or even the entree to a society otherwise impossible and which will work toward the advantage and benefit of the one wise enough to seize the opportunity. The Neophyte, above all other men, should constantly seek to improve

himself, his position in life and his Spiritual or higher self by every means approved by a just and higher Law, and by such legitimate means become the master of self, of the forces of nature, both within and outside of himself. No opportunity is to be considered too insignificant and no benefit so great as to induce him to be unjust or take unfair advantage of a fellow man.

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THE INITIATE, MASTER OR ADEPT IS A BALANCED MAN

"Study has something cloudy and melancholy in it which, in not carefully guarded against, may spoil that natural cheerfulness; it may deprive a man of that readiness of wit and freedom of fancy which are required toward a polite conversation. Meditation has still worse effects in civil society; wherefore, let me advise you to take care that you lose not by it with your friends what you think to gain with yourself." ___ St. Everemond.

The Initiate, Master or Adept is a balanced man. Nothing except meanness and smallness of mankind is of too little importance to him to receive his attention. It is an axiom in the Occult that Life success and Immortality itself are made up by weaving the little things into one great web. If man must lose something precious, such as friendship and the entree to civil society whereby to gain some power, whether occult or otherwise, then he has lost in the exchange. The secret of life is not to lose or destroy anything, but to turn it to good account. No good thing need be given up, no true pleasure denied, no friendship repudiated, in the search for enlightenment and Spiritualization. All these things have their purpose and use. Some of them it is true, are misdirected, but the Initiate redirects them, and they become of benefit to himself and to others.

Study may have a tendency to make the mind heavy and to eliminate natural cheerfulness; therefore, all the more need to woo friendship and engage in innocent pastime and constructive recreation; nor will this interfere one whit with the desired advancement and development. All good things in the universe belong to the scheme of life, whether these fit into the category of the tot's prattle or the Master Teacher's inculcations.

It is well for the Neophyte to be enthusiastic about his Occult study and training, but he must at all times make every effort to remain free from a melancholy which is natural to one who sees and feels the cause of suffering of the human family - causes which he soon learned are self created, yet denied and placed upon the shoulders of others. He must become grandly simple in his self-possession, unconventional as good society allows or demands, always free to give but never extravagant, endowed with the natural freshness and exuberance of youth; yet, never guilty of foolish action. All this appears involved, yet is simple and easily attained by those who seek the truth and who refuse to become the victims of self-righteousness.

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ALL LASTING CHANGES ARE GRADUAL CHANGES

"An extreme rigor is sure to arm everything against it and at length to relax into a supine neglect."
_____ Burke.

In the transition from the worldly and carnal life into the Path of the Occult and the Secret Schools, the Acolyte is very apt to reverse himself completely. In doing this he will be prone to condemn all things of his former life and all concerned or associated with it. He will be ready to accept, endorse and even force upon others that which he imagines is to be a part of his new life. This is both undesirable and potent enough to turn all his former associates against him, to cause much

unpleasantness and sorrow to former friends and loved ones - not enumerating other losses in one form or another.

If there were a possibility of gain or advancement in such revulsion and action, it might, in a sense, be condoned but there is no advantage whatever in such a repudiation of all that formerly was held dear. It is, therefore, to be considered a loss, a disadvantage, in every respect and certain to bring the condemnation of all concerned upon the philosophy and activity the Novice now engages in. Moreover, all such former associates are justified in their judgment since it must necessarily be based on what they see and in the change which has taken place in an associate who once had been one of them.

There is never any need to bring such scorn and ill opinion upon a noble science and exaltedness of life. There is no reason why the Neophyte should not be among other men - though not like them - nor must he be a partaker of the things which are not good, any more than there is reason for an abrupt change, or a dispositioned inclination to condemn all that was formerly considered desirable. In silent action (change) there is strength and no offense. All lasting changes are gradual changes, so imperceptible as to pass unnoticed. Change is made step by step so as to shock neither the self nor one's associates. Only where there is imminent evil or destructive conduct is there cause for immediate action.

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DESIRE IS ONE OF THE LAWS OF LIFE - ACHIEVEMENT

"Every desire, however innocent, may grow dangerous, as by long indulgence it becomes ascendant in the mind. When we have been much accustomed to consider anything as capable of giving happiness, it is not easy to refrain our ardor or to forbear some precipitation in our advances and irregularity in our pursuits." _____ Dr. Johnson.

This is unquestionable a law of life, and it may be safe to conclude that desire, satisfied, becomes a habit, and in time desire and habit will control and induce the person to do anything necessary to fulfill that desire.

Every Law is dual. As it operates on the material, carnal or self plane, so likewise is it operative on the Spiritual or Soul Plane or sphere. This is especially applicable to the Neophyte on the Path. It is the first principle of the Law that there must be a supreme desire; that every avenue to the accomplishment of that desire must be opened; that every effort to attain the desire must be followed and all forces concentrated toward that end. From the Spiritual point of view, such a desire does not become dangerous; instead, it becomes the attracting "star," the focal point, toward which all the forces of the man, material, mental and Spiritual, are directed. In the process, the desire becomes concentrated and centralized. The Law protects against misuse, because only good is sought, and no harm or loss to anyone is intended. Every force, every power, every energy within the threefold being is called upon and directed toward the given end. Fusion of all forces ultimately results, and the end is achieved.

All Nature tends toward a given end: it is only man who is inimical or antagonistic to the Law, and because of his erroneously directed self-will retards his own progress and brings upon himself all the misery and the woes to which human mind and flesh are heir.

The Neophyte must draw a clearly defined line of demarcation between desire which is unselfish and elevating, and what which is selfish and in its accomplishment a detriment to others. While it is true that he may seek self-benefit and self-advancement, it must not ever be to the loss or hurt of

another. He is perfectly justified, as a Neophyte, in his attempts to attain the highest in every avenue of life: but it must be through the legitimate means of self-development, self-improvement and the husbanding and direction of natural forces - all of which are his by Divine Right to develop, use and direct.

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ONE OF THE LAWS OF MATERIAL SUCCESS

"The Neophyte must constantly be conscious that there is a Spiritual power or force which, when he has once fully formed a plan or purpose in mind, should cause him to hold to it firmly and without doubt, and not be led, swayed, influenced, cajoled, tempted, jeered or ridiculed out of it by others. Once he has resolved to be something different and greater in art, science or business, it will be an incentive to greater effort. The man or woman who is to succeed must always in desire and imagination, live, move, think and act as if he had already gained that success, or he will never gain it. That attitude is the Occult drawing force that makes achievement possible."

Initiate Masters, in the empire of mind, think as highly of themselves and value themselves as much when compelled temporarily to take what the world calls a humble place, as though they were active in their rightful sphere. Honest labor does not disgrace the laborer, although the worker may be reduced to the task in hand. Those about them feeling this thought of self-appreciation, which is by no means false vanity, will always pay them the respect due them. Such men and women, because they do not permit honest labor to degrade them, will always by the force of their Spiritual attainment gravitate to whatever station they belong. They do this naturally by vibrations created by thoughts, desires, knowledge and the silent forces of the mind - under the Occult Law by which they are governed and live.

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MAN BECOMES WHAT HE MOST LIVES IN HIS THOUGHTS

The Occult Initiate is what he most lives in thought, since it is thought which draws its material correspondence to him. If in mind he abases himself in feeling before others' power or talent, their grander manner of living, or is over awed by their pretentiousness into a sort of envious humiliation, or into that sinful self-deprecation which is ever whispering, "I can never be as they, " the lower vibrations resulting from such thoughts and feelings at once place barriers in his Path such as will be difficult to surmount. He must learn to think expectantly of the best things the world has to offer, and as though they already were his own; not that he for a moment lowers himself to the plane of envy, desiring their position or possessions, but is stimulated to earn by his own efforts the things desired. This is the basis of manhood, the foundation for Mastership.

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THE DESIRE FOR THE BEST THE EARTH HAS TO OFFER IS NOT AN EVIL AND SHOULD BE AN INCENTIVE

The merest tyro in the Occult should quickly appreciate that it is not wrong either to own or to enjoy the best things this earth affords. It is a necessity and a benefit that all his finer tastes be supplied with their needs. But it is to be remembered that there are methods both just and unjust for obtaining the best the earth affords. There are wise as well as unwise methods of obtaining necessities as well as the things to enjoy.

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"FAINT HEART NEVER WON FAIR LADY"

This maxim applies to all activities in life. The fainthearted should never enter the Occult Path. Immediate results, except insofar as health and mental clarity are concerned, should not be expected. It is a very common failing of the many to become easily dissatisfied and discouraged after a short period of study and preliminary training. Initiation requires sufficient time for the Soul to come into the realization of its own powers and to unfold its wings. Necessarily there must be failures before there can be success. But when once the Occult powers have been developed and confidence is established, the Neophyte will nevermore be content to crawl upon the earth - like the serpent on its belly - but will arise and soar into new realms, although, if wise, his feet will always remain on the ground.

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"GOD HELPS THOSE WHO HELP THEMSELVES"

All men should desire success, and many of them actually endeavor to attain it, with more or less energy and perseverance. The universal desire to better one's condition is both natural and laudable; a morbid discontent and querulous repining at one's lot in life is to be deprecated and is never part of the mental attitude of the real Neophyte. The invalid has a perfect right to pray for health, the hungry man for food, the naked for clothing, the poor for a competence, the ignorant for instruction and guidance; but, under the Divine Law, all these supplicants, in order that their petitions be fruitful, must in conjunction with their prayer begin to make every effort to obtain or attain for themselves that for which they pray, otherwise theirs is "a foolish virgin's prayer" and lacks potency and attracting power.

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WEALTH, POWER AND POSSESSIONS ARE MAN'S RIGHTFUL PORTION IF HONESTLY OBTAINED

Success in life implies not merely freedom from want and privation, but the actual possession of comforts and conveniences, providing these do not have the tendency to cause mental or physical weakness, fatal inertia or actual laziness. All men, no doubt, sincerely join in the one part of the prayer of Agus, the son of Jakeh: "Give me not poverty"; but few are there to be found who sincerely complete the rest of the sentence: "neither give me riches." Practically all men feel poverty is in itself an evil, despite the fact that the world has known many great and noble men who have been universal benefactors, yet lived their lives in comparative poverty - even in exile. These were inherently great and noble, and in many instances their poverty was the result of deprivation.

The Neophyte seeks for the fulfillment of that other passage in the Book of Proverbs which exhorts men to get Wisdom, because, among other things, "Length of days is in her right hand; and in her left hand is riches and honor." Wealth - power and possessions - is a good thing to desire and to strive for, but it should be obtained with honor and in fair dealing, otherwise, sooner or later, it is liable to change to gall.

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SELFISHNESS DESTROYS THE SPIRITUAL NATURE

Unless one of the wisest men who ever lived was greatly in error, there is no incompatibility between the strictest care for one's material interests and the highest Spiritual life. He exhorted all to be "in diligence, not slothful," no less earnestly than to be "serving the Lord."

A man's merit is to a great degree rightly estimated by his success as well as by his influence for good. It is the reverse of a compliment to a man to call him idle, improvident, negligent, careless or shiftless; it is not a compliment to call him poor. In a thoroughly selfish world it has come to be considered a kind of misdemeanor for any other man to be rich or, at least, to be much richer than his neighbor. But on looking into the matter we will be almost certain to find that the censor really inveighs only against those who possess more than he; the reason for his complaint is degrading envy. His conscience is not disturbed should he find himself richer than someone else. The real grievance with such a man is that anyone should be richer than he himself is. The Divine Law recognizes the difference between reason and selfishness and inveighs against selfishness and inertia because these are diseases that destroy the Spiritual nature.

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MAN IS HIMSELF THE IMPLEMENT THROUGH WHICH HE MAY ACHIEVE SUCCESS

No man has a right to success unless he shall avail himself of all the opportunities which lie before him; then, door after door will open to him as he proceeds. These opportunities, in the first instance, are based on the development of capabilities and talents with which he is endowed. These are capable of continual improvement and development as he progresses. A man is himself the implement with which he is to work. Hand and brain, eye and ear, mind and imagination, thought and desire, should be trained to the utmost extent of their capabilities for the work in which he is to be engaged. A man must, before all things, endeavor to make the most of himself. Probably no man ever did this to the ultimate afforded him. (7) The most successful man, other than the Initiate, will feel that he has only partially succeeded in his self-education and self-development. If, perchance, he has not done many things which he ought to have done, his sin is one of omission more than of commission.

(7) It is well to bear in mind such men as Michelangelo, and in our time Burbank, Edison, Steinmetz, Lincoln and a few others, some of whom were not Initiates but men of "stature."

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SUCCESS EMBRACES THE DEVELOPMENT AND PROPER USE OF ALL OF MAN'S CAPABILITIES

The Neophyte's opportunities lie greatly in the circumstances and conditions by which he is surrounded. No man can do all things, but many men can do more than one thing. If a man cannot find the work which he would like best to do, he must learn to like that which he can find to do until such time as he has properly prepared himself for the work he really wants to do or the profession he desires to follow. Thus, harmonizing himself and willingly doing that which is given him to do, he will attract to himself that which he desires and seeks. This is the great but little appreciated Occult Law of Success. Favorable opportunities sometimes do come without the seeking, but more often they must be sought. When a promising opportunity presents itself or is found, it must be seized. More men fail to reach success from hesitancy than from rashness, and still more from a lack of fitness for making good use of the opportunity when presented.

The aim of the Occult in its practical aspect is to make a comprehensive survey of those elements of

character which lead to success in the affairs of men, and point out the sure and certain means by which it may be won. Success, in the true significance of the word, means attaining to the place in life for which each individual is fitted - is fitting himself; it embraces the development and proper use of all man's abilities. It includes the living of a peaceful and useful, though not always happy, life without injury to any fellow creature, and which benefits everyone who comes within the influence of such a life.

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"DO UNTO OTHERS AS YOU WOULD HAVE THEM DO UNTO YOU"

There is no power on earth or in heaven which can be known to man or directed by man which is potent for good and not equally potent for evil when diverted from its proper and legitimate purpose. The stream which turns millions of wheels to do the work of our complex civilization becomes a destroying agent of tremendous force when it bursts the barriers which confine it and constrain it to work in useful avenues. The electricity, which conveys messages under the ocean and becomes the obedient servant at man's direction when controlled, will also rend, burn and destroy life and property when it is set free in a thunderbolt. It is identically the same with occult forces. There is no safety from the action of the forces of nature in the hands of unscrupulous men, only in the cultivation of a knowledge of the directing and activating Law. He who knows the certain and terrible results of a course of wrong thought and action would not willfully use the power to inflict loss or injury in another. Men become aware of the fact that by so doing they injure themselves most of all and rob themselves of power. He who injures another willfully and knowingly commits both moral and Spiritual suicide. These are the Laws the Higher Occult inculcates. |Top|

TO PREPARE TO WALK ON THE PATH

Before the Neophyte is prepared to walk in the Path of the Initiate, he must thoroughly purge himself of pride, of purely selfish ambitions and of avarice, which most frequently manifest themselves in jealousies. He must be willing, even anxious, to relinquish every error, irrespective of how sacred it may, at one time, have appeared to him, and be ready to accept and defend every truth, however unpopular it may be at the moment.

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MAN IS A POTENTIAL HEIR TO INFINITE POWER

The Neophyte must come to the full knowledge that every human being like himself is a repository of infinite possibilities, an agent free to accept or to refuse and, thereby remain a semi-slave. All are the creatures of God and the potential heirs to his infinite power. This thought must be assiduously cultivated until it actually becomes a part of the Consciousness and gradually brings into activity the latent power within, a power which is potent to overcome all adverse conditions, whether these be weakness, disease or failure in life's mission.

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THE LAWS OF NATURE MUST BE OBEYED

Nature is arbitrary; her fiat is inexorable, especially so far as the physical, material and mental man is concerned. She lays down the Law dogmatically, and she must be obeyed. The Occult realm is no exception. Having learned that our motives are lawful, that we seek truth and Light above all things,

that we seek Light because we desire to follow it, a certain amount of both knowledge and faith is also necessary to enable us to proceed, for without these we cannot succeed.

If the Neophyte's mind is filled with doubts and dogmatism, if his Spiritual nature is not yet stirred into life, he will naturally refuse to accept these assertions and will consider them no concern of his and ignore them.

But if by good fortune he has caught but the faintest glimpse of the Divine possibilities of the majesty and possibilities residing within his own Soul, he will never again know a moment's satisfaction until he has realized the full measure of his own God- given powers and capabilities, and begins to direct them to the benefit, first, of himself and, then, of his fellow man.

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A GUIDE AND TEACHER IS NECESSARY ON THE PATH OF TRUTH AND ENLIGHTENMENT

The Neophyte is in need of a guide from the very beginning of his acceptance of these truths. He will need the help and instructions of one who has passed along this same road and has overcome the obstructions which are always in the Path of those who leave the beaten highway.

The neophyte must remember that the results which he seeks are only attainable by a strict compliance with the unvarying Divine Law, and that it is wise for him to seek and to accept the guidance of those who know and to follow instructions implicitly - without doubt or question.

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ADDENDUM

The purpose of the present text has in view the positive inculcation of the Divinely given Laws which, if obeyed assures the welfare of man in every aspect of his manifold life, and is equally positive in the assertion that every dormant capability, both physical and Spiritual, can be developed to the fullest extent by those who are truly interested in obtaining all that is good in life and within the Law.

The various terms used so frequently throughout the text, such as the Arcane Science, Soul Science, Philosophic Initiation are frequently used interchangeably and have reference to the means, the method, the way to the attainment of Soul Consciousness, Illumination, Mastership and finally become the "selected," or "accepted."

To the many interested in the more advanced studies of the Arcane as taught in the Great Work, the opportunity is offered them to obtain gratis several Monographs: The Secret Schools, having for its subject the authentic Rosicrucians, or Fraternalis Rosæ Crucis, their work of instructions and guidance, and The Confederation of Initiates, devoted to the Æth Priesthood and Priests of Melchizadek. These Monographs provide a means of contact by the sincere seeker with those capable of directing him along the Path of Attainment.