

THE MYSTIC MAGAZINE

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O Holy Spirit, Most Perfect One, send Thy messengers of light to bless us in our daily toil to strengthen and guide us through the intricate paths of mortal life. Give us wisdom that we may speak words fraught with the living fire of Truth, that conveys not only sound but a divine significance. Let the Christ principle reign in our hearts. To heal the broken hearted and comfort the sick and weary should be our mission. Child-like faith that doubts not; Believes because it loves aright. Lead us O Blessed One that we may give of our strength to the needy. In Christ Love. Amen.

Now, and here, is the time and place for the children of God to walk with God and the Angels; to walk in love, righteousness and integrity is to be blessed.

Glory to the Eternal All-Father-Mother of the universe!

Let the whole earth with joy and goodness resound!—it is the festival time—it is the Christmas Season!

In this blessed season a Master came to earth to teach man the Way—to walk and talk with God here and now.

The blessed Jesus, as did the blessed Buddha before him, taught Love, universal love, Peace, universal peace, and the at-one-ment with God.

Now and here, say the Masters, in all ages, is the time and place to live in eternal and universal love; to live with God, and make the Earth a blessed abode of peace, Harmony and Melody.

Come, ye eternal children of an eternal loving All-Father-Mother, let us sing praises to God, the Son, the Holy Spirit, the Holy Angels, the blessed Archangels and the radiant Seraphim, that we may rejoice our souls and come nearer to God.

O ye blessed children of God, let us think only of Him and rejoice only in the Oneness of the All: it is thus we walk and talk with God: there is no other way.

O ye blessed children, now and here, is the time and place to rejoice in the Lord!

Precious in the sight of the great God are all men—Being.

Recognize and realize the blessed truth that God is the eternal loving All-Father-Mother to All, and thou hast come into that blessed state where you will walk and talk with God and the Angels here, now, and from everlasting to everlasting.

Blessed is he who knows: to love is to know and to know is to love.

The great God appeareth to those who love with eternal and universal love; the partial, the dualistic, or the carnal-minded cannot see God because they live in parts and not in

the Whole; the great God dwelleth within thine own soul, and all souls and all things.

All the day from the beginningless past to the endless future shall the God-lovers have Peace, Joy and Bliss: now, here, there, or anywhere, the God-lover is in Peace, Joy and Bliss.

The Lord shall give the Word to them that Love Him and the All: the Angels can only approach those who love All the time, with All their soul, heart and mind.

To love is to be good; and to be guided by God and the Angels: "The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord; and he delighteth in his way."

Unto Thee, great God, let us give all our love; and the best way to love Thee is to love All.

And always remember, beloved, God in His great love and wisdom has granted to each of us a holy angel for our guardian, and we ought ever to love, respect, revere and give our confidences to these blessed spirits who guard us.

"Angel of God, my guardian dear,
To whom His love commits me here,
Ever this day be at my side,
To light and guard, to rule and guide."

These Holy Angels of Love and Light are our guardians, protectors, consolers and advisers: in a while they lead us to the Most High.

The Angels help us much to be born to an interior and spiritual life: they help increase our sanctity, our love of purity and righteousness and help spread about us the pure, clear White Light in which we clearly see the emptiness and vanity of worldly grandeur: the blessed Angels help us to love only things that are simple, eternal and universal.

The blessed Angels help us to give up carnal and mortal mind and be vigorous in executing the orders of Divine Mind and Will.

The blessed Angels of Love and Light never tell man it is too late for him to come to the All-loving Father: at any time, any place. "He will be very gracious unto thee at the voice of thy cry; when He shall hear it, He will answer thee."

Oh, how great is God's love and tender mercy! Come, beloved, let us call upon His Name.

"To God I cried when troubles rose,
He heard me and subdued my foes;
He did my rising fears control,
And strength diffused through all my soul."

God is our only sustainer: He will sustain us when we are weakest and all else fails if we will but call upon Him: "My help cometh

from the Lord, who made heaven and earth." And beloved, "The same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon Him."

"O Thou, from whom all goodness flows,
I lift my heart to Thee;
In all my sorrows, conflicts, woes,
Dear Lord, remember me."

O Infinite Power, how little we call on Thee, when Thou art the only help in every woe, trouble or sorrow: O Infinite God! may we All call on Thee more and more, and now and here walk and talk with Thee and the blessed Angels.

O may the burning fire of Infinite Love melt our frozen hearts: may we become noble, generous, kind, simple, loving children of the All-Father-Mother. "I grieve for what is passed (hatred, anger, lust, selfishness and unrighteousness), not because I fear, but because I love."

"Nothing has succeeded with me, because I never consulted Thee as I ought."

No one can succeed without the help and grace of God!

Woe, misery, sadness, loneliness, unrest and all attitudes of mind that make for dire failures come to that mind which does not love, seek and recognize the great God: woe to the mind or will that sets itself up as great or more than God: the mental mind is only a mere instrument or servant of the Divine Mind: we suffer much because we walk and talk with our mortal minds instead of with the blessed God and the Angels.

The mind can only help thee as it leads thee to God: only God can help thee: "The Lord God will help me; therefore shall I not be confounded."

Man as he relies on his own mind and his own will-power is more or less confounded and made ashamed of his acts: "Therefore have I set my face like a flint (before God), and I know I shall not be ashamed."

God is our only Comforter: "I, even I, am He that comforteth you."

In the blessed Vedas and the blessed Holy Bible will be found all truth if thou dost but seek it with the Spirit and not with the Mind.

Seek the blessed Truth, and live it here and now, and thou wilt walk with God and the Angels in eternal bliss here and now. "Great peace have they which love thy law," and greater peace and bliss have they who obey and live the Eternal Law.

Great is God! I will sing his praises forever and forever: He is the only Sustainer and Restorer. Praise His Name through all Eternity!

THE FOLLY OF ANGER.

Agos ago before the dawn of the New Christianity, many believed in righteous wrath,

but with the advent of the new era in trend of thought and broadened consciousness, we no longer believe in a God of wrathful vengeance, hovering over us with a mighty power, meting out punishment for our wrong doing. Punishment for wrongs committed, be it through weakness of the moral nature, or through premeditated acts, or through impulse is self-imposed. "We are punished by our sins and not for them." The Infinite One has given to each and all that freedom of will to do according to his own volition, and at the same time implanting in every soul the seed of progression, bringing ultimate freedom and at-onement. When we allow the lower nature to manifest itself in anger and hatred, we envelop ourselves in elements that retard and obstruct the progress of our soul development—breaking down the moral and spiritual nature that may require ages to repair. When we allow anger over imaginary wrongs to take possession of our mental faculties, we not only befool the mental and spiritual vision to higher enlightenment, but we cast ourselves into the dominion of vibratory laws that must be overcome through added effort and greater sacrifice, than had we acted in accordance with our higher nature.

We cannot expect to rise into higher conditions until we have conquered Self. When we allow the mental or physical emotions to govern us, to lose our temper, to speak the hasty word that poisons the atmosphere and creates discord, wherein the soul might otherwise dwell in the serenity of peace and love, we place ourselves in complications from which it is often difficult to extricate ourselves.

The refining power of love is inherent in every soul, leading us into the realm of Peace and Contentment, if we will but give expression to it in its broadest sense. If we but turn our eyes and minds from wrongs committed against us, we lessen their potency for injury, and meeting these conditions with the redeeming element of Love, they adjust themselves in positive equity with Right and Justice.

WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS?

There are many deluded people in this world who think that the possession of certain animate or inanimate objects is what constitutes happiness.

"If I only had this, if I only had that, if I could only get the other," sigh these ones whenever they have a moment to spare, "I would be happy."

In some cases they attain the much-desired thing and lo! they are no happier or more content than they were before they got it. Before long they are at their old tricks, and, sighing to themselves, breathe the old refrain, "If I could have this or that, then I surely would be happy."

Whereas the truth of the matter is that it is our thoughts which make us happy or unhappy. These airy spinnings of the busy brain which are non-existent, not to be touched by any of the five senses, but which are the nearest thing to us after all; we cannot get away from them, night or day; they are with us as long as we live, a closer, more dominant

companion than our heart's beloved or the child of our bosom.

We say we cannot help our thoughts, but this is a fallacy. We can direct and train them resolutely, banish by perseverance and determination those which are unwise. We can be master in the house of our brain, if we will to be, and see that all the guests there are comely, cheerful and dignified.

Every time we think a doleful thought we are taking away from the sum of our rightful happiness.

This is a truth which all should learn and profit by.

Looking at it simply along the line of happiness, to say nothing of the wrong which do us real moral harm, and render us weak and unfit to withstand temptation.

But we all wish to be happy. To be happy we must think pleasant thoughts, hopeful, joyous and cheerful thoughts.

Instead of this, many spend every second they have for thinking, saying over and over how hard is their lot, how unfortunate they are, how much to be pitied, etc. "It is just my luck," is the favorite expression of the self-styled Jonah. He would have been much surprised had it turned out otherwise. He expects, hopes and looks for bad luck, and it is but the logical outcome that he generally gets it.

To have happiness we must think happiness. Think it all the time for all we are worth. We must put in our time adding up our blessings, rather than our misfortunes. Meditate upon the good friends we divine, the love which is ours, and upon such divine everyday comforts as the peaceful night, the sunny morning, the task of our hand, the rest which comes after labor.

There is not one of us, however poor or unfortunate, but has something in the way of a blessing. If it is only a right to live for awhile, and taste of the boon of life and the knowledge gathered by the way.

Put away the black thoughts, shut them all up in a box, and bury the box deep. Forget its grave and go to work cultivating sweet flowers of pleasant thought. It will not be long before you will thank the Giver of all Good for your bounteous harvest of fragrant blossoms.

MESSAGE OF THE PATRIARCH.

Freedom and Liberty

Names that have reverberated throughout the kingdoms of earth and echoed through far beyond these transitory realms. Brother man, ponder for a little season; where do we find one who has that nobility of soul to forget self, and stand alone. Chains are being forged daily, hourly, which bind mortals more securely than bands of steel or iron. Look within; weigh and measure thine own motives. Let not thy brother man or sister woman suffer for what thou hast done. Adjust the scales perfectly; solve these questions of right and wrong carefully, infinitesimally, for sometime, somewhere, it will confront us. We shall have to study fractions—a defining process—before refining, and more bitter than the cup of wormwood is the thought that we have wronged our brother man or sister woman.

We can not push it lightly aside. When that time comes that we see mirrored before our cleared vision—Self, in all its deformity, better be clothed in rags with an honest heart throbbing beneath them, and a willing hand to help and bless the toiling sons of earth by word and deed. The necessities of life are often the teachers. We gain freedom through much sorrow. That which is withheld may bring wisdom and strength to rise to glorious heights. To do and to have our will often leads us astray, where ungoverned forces make havoc with all our fair hopes. Better bear the burdens which are laid upon us unless they depleting our strength, degrade our souls.

CHRISTMAS EVE.

Sing to me, Star of the Evening,
Shining with radiant light;
Your notes will ring, though you voiceless sing
To my listening heart tonight.

Sing to me, unseen Angels,
Louder and clearer sing;
For my wondering heart hears only a part
Of the message you surely bring.

Then the star sent down from Heaven
A glorious hymn of praise
To the Master of all, the Father of all,
The Ruler of Nights and Days.

And louder the unseen Angels
Sang of His only Son;
Of Christ, who was born on that wonderful morn,
When the Darkness of Night was done.

And clear and ever clearer
Their message came to me,
For the star-notes rang, and the Angels sang,
And my soul was glad and free.

Sing it, O Star of the Evening,
Tell it, O Angels of Light;
For just as of old, by angels foretold,
He was born in my heart that night.

Ex.

ONE CAUSE OF POVERTY.

"Much poverty and distress results from one being cheated. The unwise gets 'taken in,' An adept says: Man in his foolishness and the illusions in his mind gets cheated much, and hard as it may appear to be, it is a truth that, 'Only those ever get cheated who deserve to be cheated.' A greedy, selfish, mean, small man is always a foolish man, and is always open to countless schemes whereby he is cheated. Indeed, his dark aura and psychic-mental vibrations draw and attract tricksters, schemers and robbers. There is a cause for every effect. Men are robbed and cheated because of a cause within their own being. Selfishness, a lack of love, a lack of faith and hope, and pessimism all deaden intuition and keep a man unwise, and a man who lacks inner light does not know and is not wise and is over-credulous. Credulous people are usually selfish people. Wisdom from the God within one's soul never permits one to be cheated, robbed or wronged."

Unselfishness is one of the cardinal requirements of Success.—John De Witt Warner.

COMMUNION.

"I rest in Thy arms, O my Master;
Thy Presence pervadeth my form;
Held close in this holy communion,
I hear not the voice of the storm.

The love that once filled my horizon
And flooded my being with bliss
Was naught but a far-distant echo,
To lead me on, upward, to this.

Are trials behind or before me?
I know not; Thou only art here.
Thy strength, thro' my weakness made perfect,
Doth blot out the picture of fear.

Thou knowest my frame, its temptations.
Thou knowest. O joy! Thou dost know!
I rest in the love of Thy bosom.
Where else can a wayfarer go?

Beatitude, this is thy mountain!
Lost in love, in Thy love I am found.
Thine image imprint on my forehead,
Unspeakable peace, without bound."

Ariel.

YOU GET AS YOU GIVE.

Look for goodness, look for gladness,
You will find them all the while;
If you bring a smiling visage
To the glass, you meet a smile.
Do not look for wrong and evil,
You will find them if you do;
As you measure for your neighbor
He will measure back to you.

Alice Cary.

GOLDEN SEEDS.

"Hope and hustle."

Every boy must fight a battle within himself. Which shall win—his worse or better self? As goes this battle, so goes life.

Thy friend hath a friend, and that friend hath a friend; wherefore be discreet.—Talmud.

Do not dare to live without some clear intention toward which your living shall be bent. Mean to be something with all your might.—Phillips Brooks.

Access to books is an open door to wide knowledge, to a disciplined mind, and to immense extension and variety of interests.

Put a seal upon your lips and forget what you have done. After you have been kind, after love has stolen forth into the world and done its beautiful work, go back into the shade again and say nothing about it. Love hides even from itself.—Prof. Drummond.

MYSTIC WORDS CONCERNING SUCCESS.

Beware of an ambition that breeds impatience.—F. D. Underwood.

"Realize the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Humanity and all blessings are yours."

Of all truest successes, purity of thought

and life is an essential element.—Bishop W. T. Sabine.

The greater the heart, the greater the man, and the greater his success.—Ananda.

"Success lies in co-operation and not in competition. This blessed truth applies to all human industry."

Success does not lie in trying to build yourself up by pulling your brother down; that is, cheap principle leads to failure.—A Mystic.

Today a different spirit is abroad. We are less frequent. Civilization is more extended and more refined. There are still as many roads to success, just as many paths to fame and preferment. But they do not lie over the destruction and suffering of our fellow-men.—Melville E. Ingalls.

Warmth, moisture and a hospitable soil will turn an acorn into an oak; but the growth is from within, and any forcing from without would be fatal.—Henry Wood.

True success lies within thy own soul, brother.

We are all of us too much absorbed in the "outerness" of things.—John P. Cooke.

Success with honor is success indeed. Success attained by fraud is worse than failure.—Bishop Leighton Coleman.

The real successful man must combine in himself health, education, mental penetration and concentration, persistency, patience, energy, enthusiasm, cheerfulness of disposition, and politeness of demeanor. . . . The best prizes of life are for the upright man.—Rev. F. C. Inglehart, D.D., LL.D.

To be a man of success is to have "the divine will to do, the soul to dare." To know what is just, and not to practice, is cowardice. . . . Do not think what you would like to do, but what you ought to do. . . . The gem cannot be polished without friction, nor man be perfected without trial and suffering.—Rev. James B. Dunn, D.D.

Every man should steadfastly purpose to make of himself the finest specimen of man he is capable of becoming, spiritually, intellectually, physically; and to render a maximum of helpful service to his family, his friends, associates, to his community, his State, his nation and to the world.

A regular, blameless life is the very first foundation for success.—Stephen M. Griswold, Banker.

The world owes no man anything that he has not labored to secure. There is no such thing as a forced credit balance in a man's favor. That is children's talk. Reputation,

riches and fame are simply the accumulated result of daily work.—James B. Dill.

There can be no true success in life without purity of heart and mind, through love for God.—A Mystic.

There can be no purity, social or individual, without religion, without a close proximity to God, and if our young men of today will look back over the pages in the book of history they will see the most convincing proofs that the society which slighted religion will decay and perish.—Cardinal Gibbons.

The God-loving, righteous man proceeds from success to success, always on the ascending scale; and this is eternal—countless blessings, one succeeding the other.—The Blissful Prophet.

"The successful man or woman is a praying man and woman."

To have yourself in such training that you can make the mind and body do the very best; this is Success.—Edward Everett Hale, D.D.

"The habit of continually looking out for Number One is fatal to success. Nature is on her guard against such, and if by accident they get into a position of power their lease on the place is short."

PERFECT PEACE.

"O, for the peace of a perfect trust

My loving God, in Thee,
Unwavering faith, that questions not,
Thou chooseth best for me.

Best, though my plans be all upset,
And though the way be rough;
Best, though my earthly store be scant,
In Thee I have enough.

Best, though my health and strength be gone
And dreary days be mine;
Shut out from much that others have,
Not my will, Lord, but Thine.

And e'en though disappointments come,
They, too, are best for me,
To wean me from this changing world
And draw me nearer Thee.

O, for the peace of a perfect trust!
That looks away from all;
That sees Thy hand in everything,
In great events, and small:

That hears Thy voice—a Father's voice—
Directing for the best;
O, for the peace of a perfect peace,
And a heart with Thee at rest."

SERVICE.

The Son of man came not to be Ministered unto, but to Minister.—Mark 10-43-45.

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REMEMBERING THAT THE REVENUES OF
THESE STATES

ARE USED FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE
PEOPLE OF THESE STATES.

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REALIZATION

"I have made the requirements of the Master of Compassion;
I have put on the Yarnment of the Perfect Law;
I have entered the realm of the Great Reality;
Wandering is ended, for Duty is accomplished;
Pain and sorrow have ceased, for Peace is entered into;
Confusion is dissolved, for Unity is made manifest;
Error is vanquished, for Truth is revealed!"

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NECESSARY KNOWLEDGE AND POWER

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THE SOUL CANNOT DIE.

That the soul exists as a force we do not doubt, that it is one with the cerebral atom, the principle of organization, we may admit. That it thus survives the dissolution of the body we conceive.

But what becomes of it? Whither does it go?

The greatest number of souls are not even conscious of their existence. Of the sixteen hundred million human beings who people our planet ninety-nine hundredths do not think.

What use should they make of immortality? As the molecule of iron floats without being conscious of it in the blood which throbs beneath the brow of a Lamartine or a Victor Hugo, or remains for a time attached to the sword of a Caesar, as a molecule of hydrogen shines in the light of the foyer of the opera, or sinks in the drop of water swallowed by a fish into the dark abysses of the sea, so do the living atoms which have never thought slumber.

To the souls who think belongs the gift of intellectual life. They are the guardians of the inheritance of humanity and augment it for the ages which are yet to come.

Were it not that the human souls, who are conscious of their existence and live by the spirit, are immortal, the whole history of the earth would end in nothing, and the entire creation that of the greatest worlds, as well as our own insignificant planet, would be a specious absurdity more vile and senseless than the meanest worm that crawls. This has a *raison d'être*, and the universe should have none!

Can you picture to yourself myriads of worlds attaining to the utmost splendor of life and thought succeeding each other endlessly in the history of the sidereal universe for no other end than to give birth to hopes perpetually deceived, to grandeurs perpetually destroyed? It is in vain that we would humble ourselves, we cannot admit annihilation as the supreme end of progress, proved such by the whole history of nature. Souls are the seed of the planetary populations.

"Can souls then transport themselves from one planet to the other?" I hear some one ask.

Nothing is so difficult to comprehend as that we are ignorant of, while nothing is simpler than what we know.

Who wonders today at seeing human thoughts instantaneously transmitted across continents and oceans by telegraph wires and cables or even without these by wireless telegraphy?

Who wonders at seeing light transmitted from one star to another with a velocity of 300,000 kilometers a second? Besides, only philosophers would be able to appreciate these marvels, the vulgar herd is surprised at nothing.

If by means of some new discovery we were able tomorrow to send messages to the inhabitants of Mars, and to receive answers in return, three-fourths of mankind would have ceased to wonder at it the day after.

Yes, living principles of force can transport themselves from one world to the other, not always and not everywhere, assuredly not,

nor all of them. There are laws and conditions to be observed.

Certain spirits are incapable of any activity whatever; others have attained to transcendent powers.

Mozart, at six years of age, made all who heard him feel, the spell of his musical genius and published, at eighteen, his first two works of sonnets, while the greatest dramatist who has ever lived, Shakespeare, had written nothing worthy of his name before thirty.

We must not think the soul belongs to some supernatural world. There is nothing that is not in nature. It is scarcely more than a hundred thousand years since terrestrial humanity emerged from its chrysalis state of being.

During millions of years, during the primary, secondary and tertiary periods, there was not upon earth a single mind to appreciate the glorious spectacles it offered, not a single human glance to note them.

The progress of evolution gradually developed from plants and animals, souls of an inferior grade; man is of recent date upon the planet.

Nature is in unceasing process, the universe is a perpetual becoming, a never-ending ascent.—C. F.

FOR DUALISTS.

There is only what is. Time makes man miserable, the revolution of the earth has hypnotized people with the shadows it has cast. The sun does not make time. The shadows of the earth make time. The whirling world has put wheels of time in man's head. No wonder you don't recognize eternity. The religion that you worship, is fashioned after the earth. There is one thing certain, and that is, there will be no recognition, no realization, no generation, no resurrection come to your mind as long as the patchwork of history obstructs your view of eternity. You must

learn to recognize only One, eliminate from your mind the idea of beginning and ending, He who was, is He who is, and He who is, is He who is to come, the Almighty. How can I recognize this? Become simple! See the Oneness of all Life! Know that you and that which is, is one. You could not be and be something besides what is. Know that which is cannot be destroyed. Know that all things are incorruptible. Let the thoughts that have thought that there are corruptible things in the universe be swallowed up by the pure and harmonious thought that all things are incorruptible. Thus let the corruptible take on incorruption. There is no natural and supernatural. There is only the Universal. The Universal includes the personal. "I and the Father are one."—The Golden Rule.

ANGELS HELP US.

In all established Holy Books we find the seers, sages and prophets speak much of God placing holy angels about men to guide, lead and direct them.

"For He shall give His Angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways."—Psa., xci, 11.

One of the blessed privileges of angelhood is to help man on the earth-plane.

The angels continually minister to man; some men are conscious of this blessed truth, and others are not; all the great poets know it. Poetry, music, art, science, invention and education in their highest forms come from the Angel World.

The calmer, purer and more spiritual a man is the more power he has to attract and hold these blessed ministers of love, power, knowledge and wisdom.

The royal road to improvement, individually and collectively, is through soul-culture. Spiritual Science can cure all our ills and solve all our problems.

THE MYSTICS' TEXT BOOK

This book contains all the ancient teachings of the Mystics, which any mind can comprehend.

It is an inspiring and helpful book for the multitudes, as it is helpful to the learned and unlearned.

The Mystics' Text Book will help all who read it and live its simple teachings to come into oneness with the blessed One, and thus free one from disease, poverty, and all bondage.

It will help you to live a long, orderly, purposeful and useful life of blessedness to yourself and All.

It will help you to enter the eternal Kingdom of the Real and live a life of peace, harmony, and melody.

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The Eternal and Universal Brotherhood of Mystics

We ask you, dear brother or sister to come into fellowship with us. All are our brothers and sisters and no matter what your religion is, whether you are an agnostic, a sceptic, or an atheist, or what your nationality is, we know you are an eternal child of God, and an eternal brother or sister, and we want to have you join our blessed Brotherhood, and come into the radiant Light of Universal Truth and Love. We can help you, in the work of The Eternal and Universal Brotherhood of Mystics, to gain Peace, Power, Harmony and Perfect Health of Mind and Body.

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The work of the Brotherhood will do for you that which it has done for hundreds of others, and you will receive the indescribable joy and blessings of living the Mystic life, which is the life of Peace, Harmony and Melody.

Address all communications about the Brotherhood to **The Eternal and Universal Brotherhood of Mystics, Framingham, Mass., U. S. A.**

We print a few of the many blessed letters received from our Beloved Brothers and Sisters who have been helped through the work of the Eternal and Universal Brotherhood of Mystics.

GOOD TEMPER.

"Love is not easily provoked." Nothing could be more striking than to find this here. We are inclined to look upon bad temper as a very harmless weakness. We speak of it as mere infirmity of nature, a family failing, a matter of temperament, not a thing to take into very serious account in estimating a man's character. And yet here, right in the heart of this analysis of love, it finds a place; and the Bible again and again returns to condemn it as one of the most destructive elements in human nature.

The peculiarity of ill temper is that it is the vice of the virtuous. It is often the one blot on an otherwise noble character. You know men who are all perfect, and women who would be entirely perfect, but for an easily ruffled, quick-tempered, or "touchy" disposition. This compatibility of ill temper with high moral character is one of the strangest and saddest problems of ethics. The truth is there are two great classes of sins—sins of the Body, and sins of the Disposition. The Prodigal Son may be taken as a type of the first, the Elder Brother of the second. Now society has no doubt whatever as to which of these is the worse. Its brand falls, without a challenge, upon the Prodigal. But are we right? We have no balance to weigh one another's sins, and coarser and finer are but human words; but faults in the higher nature may be less venial than those in the lower, and to the eye of Him who is Love, a sin against Love may seem a hundred times more base. No form of vice, not worldliness, not

greed, not drunkenness itself, does more to un-Christianise society than evil temper. For embittering life, for breaking up communities, for destroying the most sacred relationships, for devastating homes, for withering up men and women, for taking the bloom of childhood, in short, for sheer gratuitous misery-producing power, this influence stands alone. Look at the Elder Brother, moral, hard-working, patient, dutiful—let him get all credit for his virtues—look at this man, this baby, sulking outside his own father's door. "He was angry," we read, "and would not go in." Look at the effect upon the father, upon the servants, upon the happiness of the guests. Judge of the effect upon the Prodigal—and how many prodigals are kept out of the Kingdom of God by the unlovely character of those who profess to be inside! Analyze, as a study in Temper, the thundercloud itself as it gathers upon the Elder Brother's brow. What is it made of? Jealousy, anger, pride, uncharity, cruelty, self-righteousness, touchiness, doggedness, sullenness—these are the ingredients of this dark and loveless soul. In varying proportions, also, these are the ingredients of all ill temper. Judge if such sins of the disposition are not worse to live in, and for others to live with, than sins of the body. Did Christ indeed not answer the question Himself when He said, "I say unto you, that the publicans and the harlots go into the Kingdom of Heaven before you." There is really no place in Heaven for a disposition like this. A man with such a mood could only make Heaven miserable for all the people in it. Except, therefore, such a

man be born again, he cannot, he simply cannot, enter the Kingdom of Heaven. For it is perfectly certain—and you will not misunderstand me—that to enter Heaven a man must take it with him.

You will see then why Temper is significant. It is not in what it is alone, but what it reveals. This is why I take the liberty now of speaking of it with such unusual plainness. It is a test for love, a symptom, a revelation of an unloving nature at bottom. It is the intermittent fever which bespeaks unintermittent disease within; the occasional bubble escaping to the surface which betrays some rottenness underneath; a sample of the most hidden products of the soul dropped involuntarily when off one's guard; in a word, the lightning form of a hundred hideous and un-Christian sins. For a want of patience, a want of kindness, a want of generosity, a want of courtesy, a want of unselfishness, are all instantaneously symbolised in one flash of Temper.

Hence it is not enough to deal with the Temper. We must go to the source, and change the inmost nature, and the angry humors will die away of themselves. Souls are made sweet not by taking the acid fluids out, but by putting something in—a great Love, a new Spirit, the Spirit of Christ. Christ, the Spirit of Christ, interpenetrating ours, sweetens, purifies, transforms all. This only can eradicate what is wrong, work a chemical change, renovate and regenerate, and rehabilitate the inner man. Will-power does not change men. Time does not change men. Christ does. Therefore "Let that mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus." Some of us have not much time to lose. Remember, once more, that this is a matter of life or death. I cannot help speaking urgently, for myself, for yourselves. "Whoso shall offend one of these little ones, which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea." That is to say, it is the deliberate verdict of the Lord Jesus that it is better not to live than not to love. It is better not to live than not to love.—Drummond.

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