

ILLUMINE THE
PRESENT

CONTEMPLATE
THE FUTURE

SURVEY
THE PAST

New Age Interpreter

A magazine issued quarterly devoted to studies designed to aid the modern seeker to a spiritual reorientation in the light of the Ageless Wisdom. Seven issues, \$1.50—Four issues, \$1.00—25c a copy. Theodore Helme, Editor

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GOOD THROUGH SEEMING ILL

We often hear it said that things are not always what they seem and that we are apt to err when we judge solely by appearance. With world conditions what they are at present, it is important to bear this in mind. Despite all that is tumbling down about us, there is vast good in the making.

The twentieth century marks the division between an historical era being left behind and a new era that lies immediately ahead. Such a transition period is inevitably fraught with deep disturbances, with revolutionary changes and catastrophic upheavals. At a time like this it is difficult to travel the middle path; hence, the conflict between those who cling to a dead past and those grasping for a future not yet clearly formed.

No one is immune from the effects of a distraught world. Everything is unsettled. We move from one crisis to another. It is difficult to know what to believe, what to support, what to do. It seems as though the easing of a critical situation here, the removal of a war threat there, and the quelling of a revolt somewhere else, do not establish a better order and greater stability; instead they only open the door to doubled trouble.

The world's experience is like that of Hercules in his encounter with the nine-headed hydra: for each head he slew, two immediately sprang up to take its place. And so the task of overcoming the monster appeared to him to be interminable—just as continuing crises and shattering world events give little or no sign of coming to an end. But Hercules' battle with the hydra was not interminable.

It ended in a victory for him. We cannot believe it will be otherwise in the case of humanity's present grappling with apparently insoluble problems and devastating eventualities. The discernable forces of idealism, of righteousness, of construction are too formidable to be crushed by the opposing powers, however all-conquering they may appear for a time. But these forces must become yet stronger, yet more manifest.

To this end it will be necessary for humanity to give to its labors what Hercules brought to his, namely, the conjoined powers of body and spirit. Therein lay the secret of Hercules' attainment; and therein lies the magic formula by which humanity can rise above the terrifying turbulence of our times and enter upon a more peaceful, stable and productive era.

All heart-rendering tragedies and soul-searing experiences to which countless millions have been subjected in the past few decades, have in them more than meets the eye. Dark clouds overhanging humanity do have a silver lining. In the grand and glorious order of things a limit has been placed upon operations of the forces of evil and powers of destruction. They may go only so far as they can serve divine purpose and universal good. This aspect of the present world situation needs to be borne in mind. It is important that it be viewed, not just in the light of a brief passing moment but in relation to periods of historical development and more extended cycles of human evolution.

The world conception to be brought forth must transcend material and mechanistic interpretations on which action is largely based, especially in the Western World. Until moral law is respected no less than natural law, and spiritual principles are recognized as the ultimate governing powers in every sphere of human life, we will go on floundering from one baffling situation to another. Only when these more inclusive concepts take hold, only as life is viewed in its wholeness, will it be possible to discern the deeper meaning of current events, to live with them in a spirit of reasonable equanimity, and to deal with them in a positive, constructive manner.

The foregoing considerations are of major importance, not only to leaders in positions of authority and on whom rest final decisions in matters of national and international concern, but to every thinking person. It is easy for people to conclude that the average person counts for very little in shaping world affairs. But here again things are not what they seem. While the average citizen in any land exercises far less influence on public affairs than lies within his powers, he nevertheless shares, unconsciously if not consciously,

in creating conditions under which he lives and events that occur about him—even to those upheavals of nature designated as “acts of God,” with which he supposedly has no connection whatsoever.

Leaders of men do not themselves possess power to make or unmake states of freedom or bondage, of disruption or order, of enmity or friendliness. They do not stand detached from the people they represent. Inwardly and karmically, they are linked to the collective units for whom they speak. There is always, in some degree, distributed responsibility among the many for the deeds of any one individual. Hence, for better leadership those who are led must lay a foundation of the right quality on which to base it. That foundation is provided, not only by intelligent, constructive action on whatever level the many are functioning, but also by their cultivating orderly thoughts and feelings of a positive, upbuilding nature. “If there be any virtue, think on these things” is no mere pious injunction of St. Paul’s. As members one of another, our thoughts and feelings are, in the words of Rudolf Steiner, “cosmically as important as our actions.”

To return to the Grecian myth of Hercules and his Twelve Labors. Each of his trials is representative of a certain phase of development that humanity undergoes as it comes under the successive tutelage of the twelve zodiacal Hierarchies. Slaying the hydra, the serpent monster, is the Scorpio Labor. Scorpio has two pictorial symbols: one, a scorpion, a creature crawling in the dust and administering the sting of death; the other, an eagle, a bird that can soar into the heavens beyond the range of human sight. The Labor of Scorpio is the transmutation of the divine powers from a bestial expression, as represented by the scorpion, to a spiritual manifestation, symbolized by the eagle.

The eagle state is not attained by destroying the scorpion but by sublimating its powers. The crawling serpent that was destroying the Israelites in their wandering through the wilderness became the source of their healing when uplifted by Moses and looked upon by the afflicted.

So it was with Hercules. His Scorpio Labor was not performed by physical might alone. It succeeded only after he linked it to spiritual activity. So long as Hercules did no more than cut off one head after another, the heads increased in number. But when he recognized that the serpent had powers he could not destroy, he found a way to employ the creature to his use. He took the middle head, the focal center of the hydra’s life force, and placed it under his feet, or, in the language of the myth, buried it under a stone.

On this stone he took his stand and drew into himself by the process of transmutation the life power of the monster, thus transferring an energy that had been directed into destructive ways into constructive channels. The hydra then became his helper rather than his destroyer.

Here is a truth that men and nations have yet to learn and practice. The powers of life are in themselves divine. Whether they manifest constructively or destructively depends upon the character of the instrument through which they flow. The problem, therefore, is not the nullification of energies employed to evil ends—if that were possible in the ultimate, which it is not—but their redirection.

Merely defeating militarism in the first World War did not result in disarmament. It multiplied armaments. Czarist repression of the peasants' uprising in 1905 did not dispose of proletarian grievances. It only served to bring them back in 1917 with a violence many times magnified. Four hundred thousand Frenchmen may hold at bay a handful of Algerian rebels, but they will never be able to establish lasting peace by the imposition of force. The Israelis defeated the Arabs less than a decade ago, but today the same foe faces them with deeper hatred and a greater determination to work their destruction. Something more is necessary than the imposition of force by a stronger upon a weaker nation if two evil "heads" are not to appear where there was only one before. Conflicts of whatever nature will not cease until brought under the operation of spiritual law.

There is a righteous impulse underlying today's restlessness, dissatisfactions and rebellions, be they against social conventions, established moral codes, religious dogmas, economic systems or political ideologies. A divine discontent incites the spirit of revolt in modern man. Such discontent may, and often does, express itself in evil ways. This being so, the problem is to divert the divine energies from a badly directed manifestation and harness them to useful ends. Wherever discontent comes to the surface, the remedy is not to drive it under cover again but to give it re-direction through meeting it with sympathy and understanding. "Weakness oppressed," writes Annie Besant, "is said to be the most fatal enemy of kings; the tears of the weak sap the foundation of thrones, and the suffering of the nation destroys the ruler."

The French, for example, will never keep under their heel any part of Northern Africa. Their attempt to do so, if persisted in long enough, will destroy France. A people's subjection to enforced

alien domination is a thing of the past. Any nation that ignores the fundamental demands of the times—among which are freedom from exploitation; unmolested pursuit of life, liberty and happiness; establishment of right relations in terms of human brotherhood—will bring about its own undoing.

Britain's grant of independence to its African colony, now the State of Ghana, was an act freely taken in accord with the spirit of the age. By that act Britain increased her national assets, assets of a kind no one can take away. If the Western World as a whole could meet the peoples of Asia and Africa after the manner and spirit exhibited by Britain in her dealing with the all-negro nation of Ghana, the greatest peril now confronting the world (short of suicidal atomic war between western nations themselves) would disappear. The problem of establishing right relations on a sound fraternal basis between the white and colored races is one of life and death. In the opinion of a member of the British Parliament, as voiced over an American radio while he was on a visit to this country, the colored peoples, now awake and on the march, far out-number the whites and could, in another twenty-five to fifty years, rule the world. Whether they will then be our friend or foe, he observed further, rests with the people of the West.

Britain's treatment of Ghana was cited as based on the policy of building bridges of understanding between peoples now divided by culture and color, chiefly the latter. If such treatment be regarded as premature, as too idealistic and impractical, if the existing barriers of prejudice and discrimination are not progressively removed, and if western attitudes based on a master-race philosophy are not genuinely eradicated, the gulf between the white and colored races will widen, animosities will sharpen, and in the end, declares Rudolf Steiner, "the East will make war upon the West."

The new life that is stirring in the less developed peoples of the world will not, cannot, be denied expression. It is the manifestation of an irresistible elemental urge to take action that will bring them into a higher state of being. That urge emanates from our planetary power center. It is the Will of God in action. The problem is to better understand the *divine intent* in all that is happening globally and to learn how to work in harmony with it instead of in futile opposition to it. In the discord and distress, the pain and sorrow that accompany transition from one era into another, it is not powers of evil that call the tune, but a loving Father who is at work establishing His kingdom on earth.

A world-wide karmic reaping takes place when one age gives way

to another. Since the twentieth century is such a transition period, humanity is liquidating a heavy karmic debt. The four fixed signs of the zodiac, Taurus-Scorpio and Leo-Aquarius, are the chief arbiters of human destiny. Taurus is the karmic bookkeeper; Scorpio the sign under which the debts are paid. Scorpio holds the mystery of both life and death. An early Egyptian glyph portraying the deeper meaning of this sign is a human figure lying prone in a casket. Above the lifeless figure stretches a rainbow, symbol of promise and the bridge that joins heaven and earth, life and death. In this symbolism is depicted the purpose that lies behind the current devastating operations of Scorpio. The old is being destroyed that the new may take form. Martyrdom today pressages resurrection tomorrow.

Taurus-Scorpio are cleansing and purifying mankind through sorrow and suffering in preparation for the advent of the New Age under Aquarius-Leo, when good will, right relations and harmonious cooperation will characterize human manifestation. The painful operations of Taurus-Scorpio are designed to advance the day when a reawakened and regenerated humanity will bring into fuller realization the brotherhood of man and the Fatherhood of God.

Things are not what they seem. Evils now rampant in the world are the Father's agents. They are *not* His superiors. They cannot cross the boundaries He has set for them. They are permitted to operate only to the extent and in the areas where they can serve His ultimate purpose. The gates of hell shall not prevail.

Returning yet again to the Grecian hero, Hercules typifies the disciple who has embarked upon the straight and narrow path that leads to Illumination, and also collective humanity as it struggles forward on the long and winding evolutionary path leading to life's summit. Both the lone disciple and mankind as a whole encounter adversaries on the way. They appear in varied forms but are always alike in nature and purpose. In the immediate that purpose is to obstruct; in the ultimate it is to develop qualities of character and attributes of soul that result only from meeting resistance and overcoming obstacles.

So it is "When Nature Wants a Man," as Angela Morgan has phrased this verity in a poem referred to elsewhere in this issue. Conjured up in the reader's mind by the rhythmic beat of her inspired composition is an image of the onward roll of mighty elements set into motion to pound out and round out an imperfect, undeveloped human into a being showing forth the attributes of perfected man.

In the biblical drama of Job the theme is presented in its cosmic setting. It is simple and sublime. It is pertinent to humanity's present experience, for Job is *Everyman*. His many and varied troubles, his doubts, perplexities and questionings, are echoed and re-echoed by citizens of the world today. In the story Satan is the Adversary. Yet he is numbered among the Sons of God. His services are accepted by the Lord who grants him permission to go forth and try Job, His good and faithful servant. Satan does so. As one tragedy after another overtakes Job, each more severe than the preceding one, this just man wonders if the end will not be his destruction. But to that extremity the Adversary is not permitted to go.

The outcome is on record. Satan, who to all appearances was progressively reducing Job to nought, was in fact deepening his nature, enhancing his powers and increasing his awareness of the Eternal. He came through his ordeals, not impoverished and defeated but enriched and victorious. "The Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before...and blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning." In the end Job came to realize that an ever good and divine purpose had been wrought out in his life through the agency of the Adversary. And so, without fully understanding the mystery of evil, he could say: "I know that my Redeemer liveth..." "Though he slay me, yet will I praise him."

In Goethe's *Faust*, a modern dramatic counterpart of the ancient Book of Job, Mephistopheles does for Faust what Satan did for Job; he advances the weary seeker after knowledge on his upward journey. After passing through temptations to which he is subjected by Mephistopheles, Faust comes to recognize the truth of a claim made by the Adversary about himself when he asserts that he is in reality

*The power that still
Works for good through seeming ill.*

There is a glorious heritage in store for humanity. This lies at the other end of its "Job's trials." It is awaiting man in the incoming cycle of time. In the meantime preparation for the *New Order of the Ages* is under way.. This preparation proceeds with intensity. Changes come about swiftly, drastically, catastrophically. Developments brought about almost imperceptibly in former centuries and over long periods of time are now being compressed into years and even days. To hold steady, to maintain poise, to keep faith, and to exercise sound judgment under present conditions is more

than some individuals can manage. A greater number of persons are now suffering from mental imbalance than from physical ailments. This too will pass, but not until we draw closer to the true "tranquilizer" to be found only in our innermost being.

Problems that confront humanity will not be solved until the spiritual nature of man is taken into fuller account. They cannot be settled solely on political and economic grounds. In the past nations have been traveling the path of pursuit. On this road they can go no farther. Henceforth they can advance only by following the path of renunciation. It is no different for a world disciple than it is for an individual.

In earlier stages of development the concept of a separate personality had to be built up; each individual had to come into a realization of his own unique selfhood. In that process emphasis fell on his own ego, not on his alter ego. His chief objective has been to get, not to give. This phase of development has been right and good up to a certain point. Pursued beyond that point it has led to the undoing of that which has come into expression. For instance, the recent military invasion of Suez by England and France was to take and to hold. These nations came out poorer than they went in. They incurred both material and moral liabilities. The action was one after the manner of times past, and it prospers no longer. Instead, it impoverishes. Another and higher principle must now become operative. Acquisition must yield to renunciation, getting to giving. A nation's approach to a less developed people must be motivated by the desire to help; by what elder brother can do for a younger one. This must become the attitude of those more fortunately situated toward their less fortunate brothers.

Energies of a new type and of increased potency are coming into play in the life of humanity. The planet is enveloped in a new kind of force-field that impinges upon individuals, nations and races. It sets our whole global structure vibrating with unfamiliar and often unmanageable forces. How did this new power-field come about? What is the source of its energy radiations? What is its true nature? To what purpose has it entered our planetary environment?

The source of this transforming energy is traced to Shamballa, the power center for this earth. In nature it is the Will aspect of the Triune God. Its purpose is the removal of barriers that stand in the way of mutual understanding, cooperation, unification and brotherhood.

The world of the past was made up of more or less isolated communities. This stage of separateness became more and more

pronounced following a much earlier epoch when human egos were literally imbedded in an almost undifferentiated state of unity. The point of sharpest division passed long since and the process of reunification then commenced. But the resulting unity will not be what it was previously. It will not be a collective entity composed of undifferentiated spirits as in the remote past, but a collectivity of egos that have achieved individualization and now seek to enhance their selfhood through union and association with all other egos.

The direction toward larger grouping, federations and unifications has increased slowly throughout the whole period of recorded history. But what has hitherto been a trend, a more or less unconscious urge, has become a definitely conscious and planned objective. More than that, it has become an evolutionary necessity for man's further progress.

Perhaps the strongest incentive yet given, and not improbably the one that will prove decisive in bringing the nations of Europe into a federal union, is the reverses suffered by France and England in their recent invasion of Suez. Their greatest defeat may prove to be their greatest victory. With seeming finality these nations learned through pain and humiliation that they could no longer "go it alone." The days when they could do so are irrevocably ended. No longer can they successfully conduct themselves as they did in the nineteenth century and before. Then it was each for self, and the self waxed stronger. Not so now. That is one lesson the twentieth century is teaching men and nations—a lesson being learned the hard way, but taking hold. After having come halfway through the present century of transition from one era into another, the peoples of the world are beginning to realize that in union lies their strength. The direction is toward a state where it will be *all for one and one for all*.

"Above the nations stands humanity." These words will be remembered as Woodrow Wilson's. The ideal of a united humanity is everywhere accepted. To actualize it, therein lies the stress of labor. It is a Herculean task, but not an impossible one. The Grecian disciple achieved his objective. He did it by wresting good out of every opposing evil. The world disciple, humanity, is traveling the same path. It is challenged by similar adversaries and perils. Like Hercules, it is set to win its way to victory. For the Grecian hero this meant Illumination and elevation to a higher state of being. For humanity the goal is establishment of a wholly just, harmonious and peaceful world order.

MYSTIC MASONRY

I

ESOTERIC ARCHITECTURE

By Corinne Heline

The architecture of a country is a concrete picture of the mass consciousness of its people. A national consciousness centered in idealism and pregnant with the powers of spirit—if such could be found—would express idealistic fineness in equally beautiful and inspiring architectural forms. We have only to observe the irregular and inharmonious lines of “buildings adorning the main street” of any average modern town to realize how slight and vague are the appreciation of, and the quest for beauty among its inhabitants.

One of the most disillusioning factors connected with procedures of the United Nations Organization is the design of its buildings. Unattractive from every angle, they embody nothing of the New Age idealism which must become the heart and soul of that organization if it is to endure and to accomplish even a small part of that to which illumined pioneers aspire. They present no sense of the breadth, expansion or unity which must characterize a unified world—though it was to establish basic ideals for such a world that the United Nations was founded.

Frank Lloyd Wright, an architect of exceptional vision, takes “a dim view of the ‘new’ architecture” as exemplified in United Nations structures: “The building for the United Nations is a glorification of negation,” he declares. “How can this be seen? In the building being a deadpan box with no expression of the nature of what transpires within the building. It is a box on stilts, the human element having been purposely destroyed . . . How purposely? Because that is the creed of what has been called internationalism in architecture. The United Nations building is undemocratic. It is a curious irony. We try to tell the world how to live. We have to put something behind this arrogance of ours. We have got to build before we can tell people how to live.”

Only a country addicted at heart to frivolous and superficial living will produce this style of architecture. The Golden Age of Greece, an era of beauty and culture unequalled in world history, gave expression to the most perfect pre-Christian architecture. The Parthenon still lives for artists as a perfect memory of style, outline and harmonious assemblage. All the high idealism of a

people steeped in dreams of beauty found full, consecrated expression in the exquisite and meticulously planned details of this Temple about and within which their lives centered.

Modern skyscrapers, unlovely in proportion, dominant and arrogant in perspective, are apt symbols of nations recently and quickly risen to power, and eager to attract attention to themselves. It is interesting to note that the large cities of North America, South America and Soviet Russia are those in which skyscrapers predominate. They are an altogether unnatural type of building belonging exclusively to this materialistic era of superficialities, and as such have been dubbed "Cathedrals of Commerce."

Rome has been descriptively termed the "heavyweight champion of builders." The very expression "Romanesque architecture" brings to mind pictures of massive structures suggesting power and might, but utterly lacking in the grace, delicacy and symmetry of Grecian architecture—just as the civilization of the Roman era was practically devoid of the idealistic qualities of Grecian culture. The Roman motto of 'might is right' conditioned the people's thinking and thus set an ineradicable mark upon the buildings they erected.

At the height of the Roman orgy of might and power, when the entire civilized world practically lay at her feet and morality reached its lowest ebb tide, when the darkness of materiality was rampant and the light of spirit seemed completely obliterated, occurred the most momentous event of all time, the incarnation of the Light of the World!

Gothic architecture came as an expression of the Christ message. Roman law was to be superseded by His grace. All the sweetness and tenderness of His ministry, all the depth and force of His love, all the poignancy of His sacrifice for humanity, were enshrined in the consecrated structures of the Cathedral Age.

Gothic architecture, the "Quest for Christ immortalized in stone," attained ultimate perfection in the cathedrals of France. The signature of their Mystic Builder's art was left in the "lost secret" of stained glass. One who has entered or even stood enraptured before these magnificent creations retains a life-long memory of the deep soul joy occasioned by the experience. The buildings captured a *living light* and imprisoned it in the glass prisms of the windows. Thus does a writer describe the priceless beauty of the windows of Sainte Chapell in Paris: "There, with the great expanse of glass, they seem to have turned the whole stone shell into a heavenly garden of violets clambering up on delicately made trellises."

How true it is that with the passing of these holy builders—

Initiates they were, dedicated to the highest ideals and purposes of life—architecture lost its exalted place as one of the seven arts, so designated by the ancients, and descended to its present role as just another financially compensated profession. The general run of modern architects have truly “lost the light.” So the glory that shimmers in and through cathedral windows remains a secret until a day when artists dedicate and consecrate themselves and their abilities to things of the spirit.

St. Thomas Aquinas, called by reason of his great wisdom the doctor of angelic philosophy, said that God never left himself without a witness. Among the architectural witnesses of the centuries, those who lifted turrets, domes and columns against the sky, were representatives of many creeds, cults and faiths, but each and all proclaimed the triumphant message that *God Is*. Another writer graphically describes his impressions of that inspiring miracle, the Chartres Cathedral: “If you drive down to the plain of La Banco from Orleans, there in that illimitable expanse of vanishing green and gold, floats the shadowy cathedral, vast, vague, like a great ship far out at sea; never shall I forget that first vision of it.” It is claimed that a Druid Temple once stood on the site of this cathedral, and that an ancient altar dedicated to a virgin-mother goddess was found there. Also, that this gem of the ancient builders’ royal art, which bears the dedication “The bed of the Virgin” was erected to perpetuate worship of this goddess.

It was in the 13th century that the building of French cathedrals came to its perfect flowering. Into them went the bravery and renunciation of the crusaders while the spiritual dedication of the Grail Knights was engraven in their immortal beauty. Five or more churches and cathedrals were erected, chief of which is the glorious Notre Dame de Paris. In his *Biography of a Cathedral*, Robert Gordon Anderson writes: “This cathedral’s body should be a delight to the sculptor as well as to the architect, indeed to everyone with a spark of poetry in his soul. It has a body perfect in form, function, articulation. Even without its chaplet ring, its corona, its glorious windows, it would be breath-takingly beautiful for its admirable fitness, for its objective, its resilience, integrity, purity and simplicity through perfect union of all complexities and its sheer beauty of line.

“The Cathedral is a magnificent gesture, the noblest, perhaps, ever made by man. It is flung in pride in himself, entreaty to the unknown, in fear and delight, and arrested forever against the sky. Were man and his chemicals to destroy it, even then there will

(Continued on page 22)

TRANSITION

ANGELA MORGAN

Angela Morgan, poet, author and lecturer, has moved on into a sphere of light more in harmony with her radiant spirit than the shadowed earth to which her beauty-laden soul ministered so prodigally for four score years and three. Much as she will be missed by countless numbers who came to know and love her for her winged words it would be selfish to bemoan her well-earned release into the freedom of the ampler space she knew so well.

Miss Morgan functioned consistently throughout the whole of her life on a high plateau of consciousness. She had a vivid awareness of sharing creatively and joyously in the universal creative process. The throbbing, pulsating life that is ever weaving and interweaving throughout all nature, and of which man is a part, fairly reverberates in the whole of her poetic works. Recall but such familiar and oft quoted poems as, for example, "When Nature Wants a Man," or "God Prays." In such are the very elements of immortality.

Miss Morgan commenced her career as a newspaper writer. Her first volume of verse, *The Hour Has Struck*, appeared in 1914; her last was *Gold On Your Pillow* in 1953. There were many volumes in the years between.

Her poem, *The Unknown Soldier*, was read over the bier of America's unknown warrior while it rested in the Capitol before being placed in Arlington National Cemetery after World War I. Another poem was broadcast at the dedication of Will Roger Memorial Shrine, Claremont, Okla. There were other notable occasions of similar nature which were high-lighted by her inspired song.

Miss Morgan was a valued friend of the *Interpreter* and contributed twice to its pages. The last offering was a poem entitled *Celestial Stairway* written in honor of the heroic conquest of Mount Everest and expressly for the August, 1953, issue which featured this inspiring and spiritually significant event.

The buoyance of Angela Morgan's spirit, the firmness of her grasp on eternal verities and the flow of her creative imagination could be impressively illustrated by any one of scores of poems taken from the many volumes of her published work. But listen to this, apropos of her own on-going. It is titled "Flight," and was read on the occasion of the final rites performed in her honored memory at Saugerties, New York, Jan.28, 1957.

You shall go out on a wave of strength
Beautiful, blithe and long,
(None shall be able to measure its length
And few shall hear your song).
They who are standing beside your bier
Shall weep and call it dying,
But you who are soaring far and clear
Shall know it is flying—flying!

Then there is a longer poem by this same flaming spirit that falls into perfect place at this point. It is called

AFTERWHERE

It was all there when I got to heaven——
It was all there!
Deep down where the clay was dank and cold,
The dearest dream escaped my hold;
My lost enchantment mocked and cried:
"I left you and your spirit died."

"The spirit cannot die!" I said,
Then mightily I raised my head.
I panted up to find the air;
Gasping, I reached the topmost stair;
My tortured flesh was bruised and bare;
But oh, the Dream was shining there—
It was all there!

The noble deed I strove to do
But could not greatly carry through,
The love I lost through being blind,
The dream I held for humankind,
The goals I did not reach at all,
Pausing to heed some human call,
I saw them swinging high and bold
In autumn's treasure land of gold—
Rich grapes in bright October air—
They were all there!

"But nay! Who wrought this task for me?
I toiled and toiled, all fruitlessly."
The angel smiled: "I did your chores.
You did my work, so I did yours.
Those larger deeds you left undone,
Behold them finished, every one.
Forever were they in my care."
They were all there.
I looked at God, God looked at me,
And we were happy as happy could be.
Not a single thing was left undone!
I saw my failures, every one,
Stand bravely forth from sea to shore—
They were not failures any more.

The load I carried in my breast
Flew forth, a bird in plumage drest;
My anguish, sharper than a stone,
The hurt that shattered to the bone,
The disappointments and the stings,
All, all had wings.

I saw the crude, unfinished days
Swing grandly forth to fill my gaze;
Perfected in a sight new-found
And I was free who had been bound.
The grief I thought too black to bear,
Lifted into astounding light,
Was like a seraph robed in white—
Arcturus blazing in the night.

Here is a secret for your soul,
You who would have life rich and whole.
Only a part of us blooms below,
But up, high up, our angels go
With beautiful, enchanted feet,
To crown the task left incomplete.

"And why do mortals groan of sin?"
God said, as His kind hand let me in;
Said God, as His kingly heart forgave,
"My human folk are wondrous brave."
And lo, the love I put aside
Had waited for me like a bride;
My beautiful, unanswered prayer
Was answered in that Afterwhere!

What could be more fitting as a memorial to this valiant singing soul, this bearer of beauty and believer in good, than this poem with its ringing, rising phrases that mount to a glorious finale? This hymn of life that testifies so eloquently to her faith, her experience of the eternal, her vision of the unbounded future, her exultant joy in life that is limitless and unending and her unbounding gratitude for the triumphant consummation of her highest and noblest dreams and aspirations as the gates swing wide for her entrance into the world of spirit.

What Next—A Book Review

WHAT NEXT? by C. N. DeVorss & Co., 520 W. 9th St., Los Angeles 15.
Paper—127 pp—\$1.00

It is said there is a time for everything. Certainly NOW is the time for such a book as **What Next?** So very many are suddenly, unexpectedly making the transition, leaving behind "those who mourn"; and the point is, they mourn without cause. Their grief serves no good purpose; in fact, it is a disservice to the "dear departed," to borrow an expression from formalized funeral ritual.

NOW is the time to look upon so-called death for what it is: **birth otherwheres.** The unknown author of **What Next**, a "practical" person who could not reconcile himself to fanciful ideas about heaven and life hereafter, woke up "over there." What a surprise it was to him to discover that he was still alive!

His experiences are narrated in a simple, straightforward manner that is most convincing, making this an ideal gift for those who must adjust to the passing of a loved one; also, it's excellent preparation for what should be the glorious climax of a life well lived and lessons well learned.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

The currently running biblical drama, *The Ten Commandments*, makes motion picture history. It is a spectacle to see, a production to promote. It gets a "family" rating, domestically and internationally.

Speaking before an academic convocation at the University of Southern California, Cecile B. deMille, producer of the picture, stated that comments from eminent leaders of the Protestant, Catholic and Jewish faiths were unanimous in their conviction that here was a production that could "increase the understanding of God among all the peoples of the earth and bring them together in a greater understanding of each other."

Mr. deMille also said a high statesman of a Moslem country urged him to make this picture with the definite objective of bringing about a better understanding between Christians, Jews and Moslems, since these faiths all sprang from a common source, have a binding tie in Moses, and in the Decalogue, a universal law of brotherhood.

"I believe that the Ten Commandments given on Mount Sinai," said Mr. deMille, "are not laws, they are **The Law**. They are the expression of the mind of God for his creatures. They are the charter and guide of human liberty, for there can be no liberty without law." And again: "The Ten Commandments are not rules to obey as a personal favor to God; they are the fundamental principles without which mankind cannot live together."

Mr. deMille expressed it as his earnest hope that all who would see his production would come from the theatre "filled with the spirit of truth"—and that it would give to its audience "a better understanding of the real meaning of this pattern of life that God has set down for us to follow and that it will make vivid to the human mind its close relationship to the Mind of God."

Mr. deMille takes no financial profit from his production. This has been assigned to a trust for religious, educational and charitable purposes. He states that his prime motive in screening "the second greatest story ever told" is to have it come to life in the hearts of man as a vital, meaningful, transforming experience. It is to contribute to the forces that make for greater tolerance, understanding, freedom, law and order in the world. "We tried," said the producer, "not to make a 'movie,' but a living experience, as real humanly and spiritually as it is accurate historically."

Here is a Hollywood product that atones for much that comes from moviedom that had better been left undone. When eternal truths like those uttered on Mount Sinai three thousand years ago can be recaptured in something of their awesome might and majesty by a popular art form, as they have been in *The Ten Commandments*, which millions will witness with reverent and absorbing interest, it is an achievement meriting grateful recognition and unstinted support. It is indeed a notable contribution to the resurrectional forces that are at work behind the religious revival and spiritual quickening that is taking place in the world today, the rampant evils, conflicts and upheavals notwithstanding. It is, in fact, the surfacing of the latter that is drawing forth in greater measure the conquering Forces of Light, of Love, and of Law.

BIOGRAPHICAL FILMS

It is interesting to note that there are three notable biographical films now showing—four, if the occasional presentations still being given of Martin Luther be included in the count.

We refer, of course, in the first instance to **The Ten Commandments** which is built around Moses, the Lawgiver, whose towering moral grandeur dominates the magnificent screen production. Secondly, Jerome Hill's superb portrayal of "one of the most spiritually dramatic lives of this generation," Albert Schweitzer. While the stature of this great humanitarian has won world-wide recognition the full impact of his character and sacrificial service to his kind on the cultural and spiritual life of our period lies beyond present computation.

Next, we have **The Spirit of St. Louis** in which James Stewart as Charles Lindberg revives the memories of that heroic exploit of the Lone Eagle crossing the Atlantic, firing the imagination and raising the spirits of hundreds of millions the world over. Then lastly, **Martin Luther**, a non-commercial production that actually took on a commercial rating by virtue of the artistry and authenticity with which the film projected the fearless, challenging character of this fifteenth century reformer.

"Lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime..."

THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS

The Essenian Forerunners of Christ

By Theodore Heline

The last issue of the **Interpreter** carried an article on the Forerunners of Christ. As therein announced, the subject was being amplified for publication in booklet form. The eight page article in the **Interpreter** has been extended to more than six times its magazine length and, dependent upon our printer's schedule, should now be ready for release early in April.

To the esoteric Christian, the Dead Sea Scrolls open up a subject of engrossing interest. This is no dusty-dry matter for mere antiquarian examination. The recovered parchments are not just museum pieces belonging to the past. They are still charged with life and with significance. The discovery of important portions of the long concealed library of the Essenes has served to bring this saintly community into clearer light than ever before. It has stimulated interest in its way of life and the purpose to which it dedicated its all.

We have something to learn from the Essenes. We can draw inspiration from the purpose they fulfilled. They made straight the paths for the Messiah's advent.

A like task develops upon our age. It rests with awakened souls of our time to again prepare the world for receiving the Christ on His promised return.

"The most important teaching man has received to aid him in the understanding of the Christ Event had its source in these (Theraputae

and Essene) communities," declares Dr. Rudolf Steiner. Accepting this as true, the importance of drawing closer to these ancient "children of grace," these "Covenanters of the New Testament," is not to be lightly dismissed.

The Essenes sought to rescue the spiritual life from materialism, formalism and legal technicalities to which the religions of their day had succumbed. A similar task falls to the spiritual pioneers of our day. The Mystery Wisdom that has been long lost to the Church needs to be restored and the deadening effect of a materialistic science removed by proclaiming the life-giving truths of the science of the soul.

The Dead Sea Community functioned in the century before Christ when the Old Dispensation was giving way to the New. It was a transition period with all the trials and turmoils that accompany such change. Such, too, is the twentieth century in which we live when the Piscean Age is giving way to the Aquarian.

A close relationship exists between the Essenes who were the esotericists of their time and those who occupy a like position in the world of our time. It is, in fact, a reincarnational link, for many souls that congregated in the Essenian community have recongregated today, although not as a compact community in any one land or practicing an identical mode of life, but now constituting a global fraternity, outwardly scattered, but subjectively linked and jointly dedicated to again serve as forerunners of the returning Light of the World.

When considering these correspondences between history's most eventful time in the past and the fateful character of the present, together with the bond existing between the pioneer Essenes of two millennia ago and New Age forerunners of today, the contents of the Scrolls begin to glow with a living light. Thoughtfully considered, they not only deepen our understanding of the Mystery of Palestine but they serve to draw us caressingly close to the moment when Christ walked the earth and when responsive souls cradled the Christian Faith.

Here are a few of the thirty-six topics treated in the brochure: **Scroll Studies; Judaism's Three Sects; Transcending the Blood Bond; Essene Universalism; Religion's Historical Continuity; Christianity's Uniqueness; The Essenes and the Early Christians; The Scrolls Severally Considered; Manual of Discipline; Holding All Things in Common; The Prophetic Function; Rules and Regulations; Social Organization; Teacher of Righteousness; Jesus ben Pandira; and Preparing for Christ's First and Second Coming.**

It is no mere academic interest in ancient documents that has prompted the preparation of this booklet; it is to stimulate the modern seeker after truth and the lover of light to emulate the Essenes of long ago in helping men to find the way to the Christ, the Light of the World and the Redeemer of Mankind.

One dollar a copy.

Address: New Age Press, 1544 Cerro Gordo St., Los Angeles 26, Calif.

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Interpretating both the music and drama of all of Wagner's incomparable stage creations. So far as we know, no other interpretation of the kind is available in book form.

Postpaid \$3.50

THE BOOK OF BOOKS

The Mystery Wisdom of the Ages is embodied in the Old and New Testaments of our Christian Bible. The keys to unlock that wisdom were long since lost to the custodians of the "established" faith. When the priesthood ceased to be recruited from Temples of Initiation centuries ago, the inner light went out. Since then, organized Christianity has survived on the reflected light to be found in the external structure making up its Holy Scriptures.

Many souls are now at a point of development where this reflected light does not penetrate to the depths of their spiritual needs. Convinced that there must exist, in the very nature of things, that which can adequately minister to the need of natural growth, they have sought, and in seeking found, the source of the light they had hitherto beheld only from without. They have found it within their own inner center, within nature's outer garment and within the textual matter of the Scriptures. Here are the three source books of life of which Paracelsus speaks: Man, Nature and the Bible.

NEW AGE BIBLE INTERPRETATION

It is to meet the needs of soul seekers for the hidden wisdom that such works have been issued in our day as Corinne Helene's series of interpretations of the Old and New Testaments. They deal with the inner realities concealed beneath parable and allegory, history and personalities, symbols and cyphers. They are not infallible works—for that matter, nothing human is—but whatever their limitation, they bear the unmistakable stamp of authentic contact with the inner structure of the Ageless Mysteries. Based as they are on the ground of sound spiritual science, they present a rational system of interpretation satisfying to the inquiring intellect and nourishing to the groping, hungry spirit within.

The series of six volumes now available, three on the Old Testament and three on the New, will be increased by another and final volume as soon as the necessary funds for publication become available. It will, as previously announced, bring to a focus the Christ Light that illuminates the pages of all the other six volumes. It will belong, therefore, not exclusively to either the Old or the New Testaments, but to both. It will be titled **The Mystery of the Christos**.

CORRESPONDENCE COURSES IN BIBLE INTERPRETATION

A major development in the project of reinterpreting the Bible for the modern seeker is the creation of a Correspondence School in which students can turn for systematic instruction in esoteric Christianity. The courses are based on Corinne Helene's Bible Interpretations, and the work is carried out under the supervision of a group of trained teachers and highly qualified associates.

Every student receives individual attention from an assigned guide and counselor, who may or may not be resident at headquarters. Thus the School beomes also a Movement. Students and teachers are woven into a world-wide, subjectively-linked network through which there can flow an invigorating stream of spiritual energies. Such inner sustainment comes as an automatic response to the aspirational invocation that rises heaven-

ward when an individual or group focusses attention on truths that place consciousness on a higher level of being.

A study of the Bible in the light of its inner symbolical rendering is of the greatest importance at a time like this when old orthodoxies are breaking down and a spiritually scientific formulation of eternal scriptural truths are not readily available. In view of this pressing need, those to whom the opportunity comes to undertake a study of the ageless Mystery teachings may rightly consider it a privilege bestowed upon them under the law of grace. Hence, for those who are in a position to undertake such studies comes a call not to be lightly put aside. It carries with it a responsibility.

The world is in peril. It has lost its way. Materialism is dominant. People are mentally perplexed and morally confused. Dogmatic religion neither holds the guiding light nor provides the needed answers. Nor does academic science do so, for all its wonder-workings.

But there is a light to follow, a philosophy to trust, a faith to build upon, a science that is revelatory of spiritual realities. These are all to be found in the Mystery Teachings, in the Ageless Wisdom, in the Science of the Soul, in Esoteric Christianity. These must be made more widely known. They must be brought to the attention of waiting, eager, hungry souls that are to be found here, there and everywhere. The saving force must go forth in increasing volume and power. The perils of the time demand it.

It is on such grounds that we urge all to whom the door opens to study spiritual science in any of its legitimate presentations. Our particular offering consists of courses given locally in classes and afield by correspondence in Rosicrucian Philosophy based on Max Heindel's **Rosicrucian Cosmo-Conception**, and Esoteric Christianity based on Corinne Helene's **New Age Bible Interpretations**. These studies open doors that lead to deeper insight, to clearer vision, to greater service. Such goals are not to be attained by pursuing them at odd times in leisure hours. Like everything else that is worthwhile, serious, systematic application is a prerequisite for their realization. They are to be recognized as central to the main business of living creatively and productively for values that endure.

There is no dogmatism in the courses offered. They are not aimed at enrolling recruits for any particular institution or formalized creed. The basic aim is to assist the student to contact his own higher spiritual self and to live and serve in accordance with its divinely endowed light. All courses are offered on the free-will offering plan. -

For more specific information drop a card to the New Age Bible and Philosophy Center, 1139 Lincoln Blvd., Santa Monica, Calif.

WANTED

A few more back numbers for both ourselves and customers who wish to complete files or secure some special issue or issues. Subscription extended according to returns, and with thanks. Issues needed: March, '43; December, '43; November, '45; April, '46; May, '46; August-September, '49; January-February, '51; May, '53; August, '53; May-June, '54; November-October, '54; January, '56.

BOOK REVIEWS

By ELIZABETH HILL

CONSCIOUS LIVING, Thayne deBaun Westfall. Christopher Pub. House, 1140 Columbus Ave., Boston 20. Cloth—106 pp—\$2.25

Herein is a vivid picture of human functioning under the necessity of fear-inspired obedience to Mosaic law, and the present state of chaos as man throws off the shackles of such obedience as a transitional step toward the New Order of love-inspired harmony with Universal Law. She writes: "We have before us the progress and development of physical science in all its diversity; but it does not yet attest Man's supremacy . . . He is like the Sorcerer's Apprentice who has set certain forces in motion and finds that he cannot stop them . . . When dissatisfaction arises within the consciousness of Man it is a good sign; for it portends the awakening of Man's Will toward conscious effort. This dissatisfaction will be his salvation." A hopeful philosophy! She finally leaves the reader with this New Age trilogy: "The only equality of Man is in Christ; the only freedom of Man is **through** Christ; the only purpose of Man is **unto** Christ . . . We are like stars in the making; each star moves in its own orbit in established harmony with all other stars. This is the ultimate pattern for all humanity.

THE FRENCH FAUST, Henri de Saint-Simon—Mathurin Dondo. Philosophical Publishing Co., 15 E. 40th St., N. Y. 16. Cloth—253pp—Index—\$3.75

Saint-Simon, though practically unknown in the U. S., has been described thus: "The first American was a Frenchman. His name was Saint-Simon." Due to his many activities he was classified variously as capitalist, socialist, mystic, rationalist, etc. This volume, however, deals with his philosophies only as they contribute to his biography. Adventurer, philosopher, writer, dreamer, his life makes interesting reading. And the fact that he participated in our own Revolution should make it even more intriguing to Americans.

BEYOND OUR LIMITATIONS, Tracy H. Lay. Philosophical Library, 15 E. 40th St., N. Y. 16. Cloth—144pp—Index—\$3.00

Instantly alert, this reviewer read and re-read those first eight words of the authors introduction. Here was something different! A new approach; a fresh viewpoint! When she saw "You have now opened a foolish little book," she knew something worthwhile was to follow; and all because the writer wasn't taking himself and his ideas too seriously.

Under Limitations appeared this: "Why is the pansy not as tall as the oak? Why is a toad not as strong as an ox; a minnow as big as a whale? . . . What limits, stops and fixes their proportions. Even our boasted science is incapable of establishing any knowledge whatsoever of that factor in life . . . Thus on all sides and in every move and endeavor we find ourselves stopped and controlled at some point." But he does not leave us with a negative reaction. Far from it! Listen to a word from Values: "Nature, in doling out her gifts and assigning useful functions to all her creatures, has endowed man with just enough intelligence to do what she wants him to do, but without enough wisdom to understand the cause and the purpose of his behavior. Through this form of hidden control, it is scarcely necessary to observe that the top secrets of the universe are quite likely to remain secure."

A wholesome book to read and a delightful one.

Books reviewed in these pages available from The New Age Press, Inc., 1544 Cerro Gordo St., Los Angeles 26, California.

(Continued from page 12)

remain the universal feature, of which the Cathedral is shadow, of Him with outstretched arms upon the Cross."

Another structure in which the builders' art reached a climax is the stately mass that rises in harmonious crescendoes of harmony, its thousands of spires and turrets silhouetted against the blue of an Italian sky. This is the Cathedral of Milan. No one can view its splendour without coming into a deeper comprehension of the intimate relationship between music and architecture, and of the significance underlying words attributed to Friedrich von Schelling: "architecture in general is frozen music." This magnificent shrine serves as a fitting home for the holy St. Ambrose, father of much of the sacred music now in use.

England largely owes her famed architecture to two distinguished sons, both of whom belonged to the Guild of Mystic Builders. These were Sir Christopher Wren, a high Mason, and Bishop William of Wykeham, a high churchman. These "Brothers" pledged themselves to work for perpetuation of the eternal in architecture. St. Paul's Cathedral and Westminster Abbey are lasting memorials to the art which set its signature of eternal worth and beauty, specifically in the name of the Christ, across the face of Western Europe.

Next article in this Masonic series: "The Mystic Builders and Their Magic Rites."

SEASONAL BOOKLETS

EASTER MYSTERIES

LENTEN PEARLS

By Corinne Heline

Easter Mysteries is a study of the initiatory character and significance of the incidents that occurred, step by step, throughout Passion Week. The most sublime events in the whole course of human evolution—the crucifixion, death, and resurrection of Christ Jesus—are viewed in the light of the science of the soul.

Lenten Pearls is a booklet prepared specifically for the esoteric aspirant. It deals with the processes involved in purifying and regenerating the physical body and the influence of thoughts and prayers on man's inner vehicles. It is designed for use from year to year during the Lenten season. For each of forty days there is a bit of poetry, a Bible text, keywords for meditation, with appropriate comment. Full page frontispiece by Frances Raelian.

Both of these booklets have elicited words of appreciation and gratitude from readers, that have welled up spontaneously in response to the light and inspiration that have derived from them. The Easter booklet in particular makes an ideal seasonal gift to those receptive to its high and holy truths.

The price of each of these two foregoing booklets is Seventy-Five cents.

New Age Press Publications

BY CORINNE HELINE

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