

SEARCH

MAGAZINE

APRIL 1967

WISCO



WHAT IS PRAYER?

I AM A TEENAGED ATHEIST

JAPAN'S RELIGION OF "GAIN"

SEARCHING BY STARLIGHT

**THE LITTLE BOY WHO RAN AWAY TO JOIN
THE CIRCUS**

Ray Palmer's

FORUM

MAY 1, 1966
Volume 1, Number 9

25¢

For many years readers of Ray Palmer's magazines said their favorite sections of his magazines were the editorials and the readers' letters with his answers to those letters. Half in jest, some readers suggested he fill up the magazines with just editorials and letters. One day Ray "got the message", and the idea of a magazine called FORUM, containing exactly what these readers had suggested, drove him to making up just such a magazine, to see what would happen. What did happen? Nothing Ray Palmer ever published has gotten more praise than FORUM! It is useless to describe the magazine, except to say that in it Ray and his readers express themselves as never before--and if you don't get into the act, too, you are missing the greatest!

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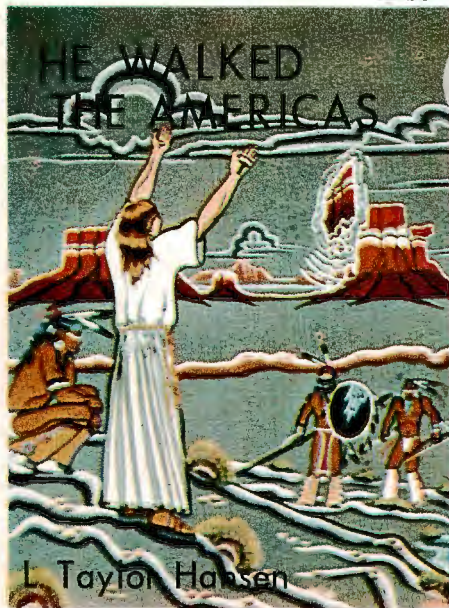
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MAGAZINE

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What SEARCH Means To You

The pages of SEARCH are open to all who have something important to say concerning the occult, the unknown, the metaphysical, the controversial, the suppressed and allied subjects.

It is the policy of this magazine to present both sides of any question, and to refrain from discrimination. However, the editor considers himself "one of the gang" and will slug it out with anyone who cares to enter a battle of words.

Manuscripts are NOT paid for, and nothing is solicited with any guarantee of publication if circumstances intervene. SEARCH assumes no responsibility for photos, drawings, manuscripts, and will not return unless sufficient return postage is furnished by contributor. Manuscripts should be typed, or written neatly, one side of paper.

EDITORIAL



ONCE MORE we sit down to write an editorial; but this time we are stumped. There are times when we don't have the foggiest idea of what to write when we sit down, but we just begin, and something comes out. Sometimes it is good, sometimes mediocre, sometimes bad. Today we can't risk that sort of procedure, because if we do, what comes out will be the bitterest words of a lifetime. Ray Palmer is a Leo. Leo people are never bitter. No matter what happens to them, they bounce right up off the floor with a grin, and start over. So, in order to keep astrologers from tearing out their hair, trying to figure out what malific planet is kicking up its heels in Ray's Moon or his Sun, we'll try to avoid this problem by being very careful of what we write.

Before beginning this editorial, it might be a good idea to learn what an editorial is. So, let's go to old faithful, the dictionary. Let's see: "Editorial - written or sanctioned

by an editor; as, editorial policy. An article in a newspaper or magazine giving the editor's views; or those of the person or persons in control of the paper."

For goodness sake! Is THAT what an editorial is?

For thirty years your editor has been writing editorials, and he has never really known what it was that he should have been writing! "Editorial policy." That must mean like "playing politics" and advising the readers to vote for Joe because the editor of the paper thinks he's the man for the job, and he writes an "editorial" to sway the judgment of the voter. Or maybe it's like saying to the reader: "We publish certain articles and reject others, because...." How about "giving the editor's views"? This editor's readers are always accusing him of keeping his REAL views to himself. Maybe he's never come out and spoken "editorially" about his views. Maybe he should? But no! Down that road today lies a

40-year cul-de-sac, a blind alley! Let's skip that definition!

Come to think of it, your editor has always wondered about other editors and why they wrote as they did. For instance, there is the editor (who apparently is in the great majority) who keeps a newspaper clipping file, and when it comes time to write his editorial, he selects a few timely and interesting bits of news and makes some kind of comment on them, possibly giving his opinion, or maybe merely putting a question mark after each of them. He sort of "picks the brains" of other people, and fills his portion of the magazine with "interesting material". Next there is the editor who believes that because he is the editor, his mission in life is to "sway the public" along specific roadways of "opinion". He tries to "mole" the thinking of his readers, pointing in a specific direction, often with a definite "axe to grind". He is really the enemy of free thinking, free speech, because he uses his position in a sort of power play. He is really taking unfair advantage, because he has the podium and it is unapproachable by the "opposition". Then there is the editor who is really looking at sales figures, and every word he says is designed to "sell" his product; so he acts as a sort of "contents page", and repeats item for item what is in this issue, and tells you how good it is, and why you are lucky to

have the opportunity to read it because he is such a wonderful procurer of the "things you should read". There is, lastly, the editor who never says anything that could be controversial, and is careful to offend no one. He sits on the fence, not in an editorial chair. He is a despicable coward. He contends that the customer is always right, and he will never disagree with him. He will weasel first one way, then the other - just so he cannot be criticized, and can always claim to be that wonderful "guiding light" who maintains true and honorable neutrality.

Are those the kind of editorials we must resort to, this time, to prevent that tremendous backlash that has been building up in this editor for nearly two years? It would seem so, but first, let's put into words what Ray Palmer has always thought an editorial was. First, he has believed that while the rest of the magazine belongs to the readers, these few pages in the front belong to him. They are where he can "get into the act", and be a part of the magazine, and "one of the gang". In the editorial, he can get up out of his "Editorial Chair" and leave his Lofty Sanctum Sanctorum, so as to put himself on even terms with the readers, who are his friends. In the editorial he can speak from his heart, make lasting friendships, mingle and learn by the wonderful opportunity he has to be

the recipient of the thoughts, opinions, learning, experience and good will of many thousands of people.

Let's go back to the dictionary and quote the final definition we neglected (purposefully) to mention. That definition is: "A leader". There we have the crux of Ray Palmer's entire conception of an "editorial". An editorial is not a "leading", it is a sharing! Because your editor happens to be in the "seat of authority" gives him no license to lead you! He would not "influence" you in spite of yourself. He would not attempt to "sway you, or your vote". He would not attempt to play god, and use the word editor as a "title". He would not "lord it over you". He WOULD share his magazine with you, and he WOULD use his portion of it to make friends with you, and to gain, with you, all the knowledge that can be gained by sharing experiences, theories, ideals, and ideas.

Do you know why Ray Palmer is editor of magazines like SEARCH, Flying Saucers, Forum, The Hidden World, Space World, Amazing Stories, Fantastic Adventures, Universe, Science Stories, Other Worlds, Mystic, Fate - and books like "Other Tongues, Other Flesh"; "He Walked The Americas"; "I Remember Lemuria"; "Beyond Tomorrow"; "Gods Or Spacemen?"; "The Ancient Atlantic"; "A Doctor Is Born"; "Coming Of The Saucers"; "Flying Saucer

Pilgrimage"; "The Advent Of The Cosmic Viewpoint"; and many others?

Because he believes in them!

Because Ray Palmer believes that a man must do what he thinks is important, and what he enjoys doing, and what will do the most good for the most people.

Ray Palmer believes that "truth" is important. But "truth" is placed in quotes, because "truth" is not always (or never?) definable. It usually means what we believe to be true, but can't really prove to be true. And here is where one of the initial problems comes up: everybody "believes" in one thing or another, or many things. And it is just that - belief. True, it is reinforced by "evidence", by "facts", by demonstrable and repeatable "laboratory" experiments. All of these things depend on "acceptance", of course, and this acceptance is guided by our "reason" and by "logic". But in the final analysis, what we arrive at as "truth" is really only "opinion". And it is acceptable to many of us to a degree of 100%, depending on how closed our minds are, or a lesser percentage, depending on whether we write the word like this: "truth"; or this: truth.

When it comes to the editorial "opinion" that the editor expresses, it generally turns out to be what that editor deems to be truth. The very connotation of the word editor-

ial means that this truth is written without quotation marks. It is "authority", editorial leadership.

Your editor has always stopped short of writing truthful editorials. He has preferred to be truthful in labeling his opinions "truth". He has, in fact, insisted that nothing he says be accepted, only considered! Because, more than anyone else, he knows that he is MORE THAN LIKELY, wrong! If not entirely wrong, possibly better than 50% wrong. If you must have a figure, he thinks that perhaps he MIGHT be 10% right. He hopes so, because he considers that a very good percentage!

But you, the readers, put quotes around "editor"! You don't really believe him when he says he is not using his high position to "lead" you. You strongly suspect that he might just be USING you, to make money! You say, because he charges a fee for his magazines and his books, that is actually his motive. He is out to make a buck. Just the other day a reader called on us - a man named Shanon. He makes a practice of going around speaking on the very subjects in this magazine. And, he told us, there was one thing he heard wherever he went - Ray Palmer must be very wealthy; so why is he always talking about his money troubles, and conning his readers for more and more money?

Psychometrist Dorothy Lauer

says we SHOULD be rich, but we let money slip through our fingers. Is that really what she means? Is she saying that Ray Palmer should NOT let money slip through his fingers, but should actually make himself rich by being more practical with his money?

Let's see what we would logically do, if we decided right now to "make money". First, we would discontinue SEARCH. It has NEVER made money! Now, this would be hard to do, because we happen to LOVE the magazine, and the people who read it. To give them up would be a hardship we would not like to endure. Another thing we would do is, NEVER, under any circumstances, publish ANYONE ELSE's books (such as Bryant Reeve and his two wonderful books) because paying an author royalty adds to the cost of the book, and in fact, in this particular case, was a matter of "letting money slip through our fingers", because while we took in thousands of dollars (the money Lauer is always predicting will come to us - and it does!), we paid it out! We should have kept it! We should have given Bryant and his lovely wife a "contract" with all the fine print that other publishers give to authors, so that they wind up with a pittance, because every conceivable cost is charged to the author: telephone calls, postage, picking up the tab at a restaurant when wining and

dining a critic, gasoline, wear and tear on tires, etc.

Did you know that we DON'T HAVE A CONTRACT with L. Taylor Hansen on "He Walked The Americas", and also copyrighted it in the AUTHOR'S name, so that it is legally the author's SOLE property, notwithstanding the months and months of work your editor put into the book which has resulted in it being acclaimed a "work of art" by several of the world's leading universities? But the author will receive a good income for the rest of the author's life! Actually, we will NOW give the author a contract, but it wasn't (and isn't) necessary, because we are FRIENDS, and we TRUST each other. But of course, it SHOULD be made legal.

If we wanted to make money, we would write our OWN books. Ray Palmer has a great talent for writing books. Also, he could be a clever thief - he could steal your idea, your book, paraphrase it, publish it under his own name, and you couldn't do a thing about it, because there would not be seven consecutive words identical to your manuscript (that's the legal definition of plagiarism). Or, considering that he was honest, and wrote his own books, he could save the "middle man" and the royalty. Oh, he could be so very business-like and practical, and never let a dime pass through his fingers.

Instead, however, he pours out these "books" in editorials, in answers to your letters, in articles in the magazine, all FREE. He WASTES his material in this way, instead of being canny, and putting it into a book and selling it to you.

Because your editor believes himself to be your friend, he has recently decided that he WILL tell you his opinions, and give you his "truths" as he sees them. One result of that decision was the formation of the new magazine, FORUM. In it, we are having an exchange of minds like nothing we've ever had before. And the results have been very encouraging (but NOT from a money standpoint! We realize now that THIS is one of the SURE losing propositions!). We are encouraged because a hard core of original subscribers swear by the magazine. It is a money loser because there are shockingly too many who REALLY DIDN'T WANT THE TRUTH! In fact, if you give them the truth, they will renounce their friendship. If you persist in giving them the truth, they will even go so far as to KILL YOU, if that is the only way to shut you up!

You don't believe that?

In this business, we have always run up against a certain percentage of "nuts", of people actually insane. They are a danger that we have always recognized. We have had some narrow escapes. And we have learned to detect the symptoms in-

stantly, and be on our guard. But an insane person can be dealt with. You KNOW the danger he represents. But you DO NOT KNOW the danger that exists in the act of a "friend"! He may not kill you, but he certainly will hurt you! In actuality, he has NEVER believed you. He has been the kind of a person who says (in effect): "I have an open mind. I will listen to your opinions and respect them. Until they disagree with mine - then it is YOU who has the closed mind! And this I will not tolerate!"

This editor could explain to you in detail the events of the past two years. But that would present us with a paradoxical "Leo". So we'll leave it all remain a mystery, and ask only one question: Is it really important that a man make money? Should he lock himself in a single room like a miser-hermit, and proceed to prostitute his talents for the almighty dollar?

Could it be that Ray Palmer has been wrong all along, and that there's no room in this world for a "slap happy" Martian? --Rap.

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The Little Boy Who Ran Away To Join The Circus



HE WAS only a little boy, about six. He didn't have any brothers or sisters; but he did have a place to play. It was in a little clearing in the woods behind his house, and it was just out of sight of the back door. Not too far away to hear his mother when she called him, but far enough so he could really feel he was all by himself on his imaginary adventures in the sunlit clearing. He had a game he played; an imaginative game. He imagined there was a circus in the clearing. Tents and sideshows, and cotton-candy booths - but best of all, an elephant, a giraffe, and a clown.

It was great fun there in that little private circus. The elephant danced in his delightful clumsy way, balanced on his head and trunk and forefeet, and sat on a brightly

striped barrel. The giraffe didn't do anything, really, but he was funny. Just the way he walked with his long front legs and short hind legs, and the way his long neck wobbled and made his head, so high up, go back and forth like a sort of up-side-down pendulum. It was like a trick, just to put that head down to the ground to eat grass - how would you manage if you had a neck that long! And the clown - how he made the little boy laugh! Even the giraffe laughed at him sometimes! Imagine a giraffe laughing; easier, at that, than imagining the elephant laughing - all he could do was to wave his trunk around and trumpet with it, a good loud trumpeting!

How the little boy wished he could ride on the elephant! That was a thought that gave him the most in-

teresting feeling. It must be great to sit up there, high over the ground, and survey the world around you like a great lord in a red turban! Somehow he never had the nerve to try it, even in imagination, but he wanted to!

It wasn't really surprising when it happened - but this particular day everything seemed very real. All at once the little boy realized it was real! The way it happened was when

the clown got down on one knee right in front of him and said: "How would you like to ride on the elephant?"

Just like that! A real circus, and a real elephant, and a real clown - and the giraffe reached up his long neck and got some leaves from the very top of a tree and began chewing on them, chomp, chomp, chomp. His lower jaw went up and down as though to keep the leaves from spilling out while he chewed them. So

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serious and satisfied about it, too!

The little boy looked up at the elephant and for a minute felt kind of funny in his stomach, but he said; "Oh, yes! I want to ride on the elephant!"

Quick as a wink the clown picked him up, lifted him high, and set him down on the elephant's head.

"Hold on to his ears!" he told the little boy. "Off you go!"

And off the elephant did go, around and around the circus grounds, with the clown dancing and tumbling gleefully ahead, and the giraffe rocking along in the rear like a great land schooner in a sea of grass. Oh what fun the little boy had! And it was real! A real circus, and a real elephant, and the nicest clown in the world.

When the little boy finally slid down the elephant's broad flank, to be caught in the arms of the clown, he was beaming.

"That was fun! Can I ride him again tomorrow?"

The clown almost turned a somersault nodding his head. "Of course you can. And to make sure you can buy a ticket, here's a dime. Just bring it with you and give it to the ticket man, and there you'll be, up on his head once more!"

The little boy took the dime, uttered a breathless thank-you over his shoulder, and ran for home. When he got to the back door, he burst into the kitchen and ran to his mother, pulling excitedly on her

apron.

"Mommy, Mommy! I had a ride on the elephant's head!"

Mommy looked down at him, a little frown on her face. "Elephant? What elephant?"

"The one in the circus - the circus in the clearing!"

"In the clearing? There's no circus in the clearing."

"But Mommy, there is, there is! The nice clown asked me if I wanted a ride, and he put me up on the elephant's head - it was wonderful! I almost fell off, but I hung onto his ears..."

"Johnny," said his mother, kneeling down and putting her hands on his shoulders, "you've got to stop telling lies like that!" Her face was very stern, and she held him tightly by the shoulders, making him look straight into her eyes. "There's no circus out there."

"But there is! And I can prove it!"

"Prove it?"

"Yes! The clown gave me a dime to buy my ticket to ride the elephant again tomorrow. Look!" He held out his clenched hand, opened it, and showed her the shiny dime in his palm.

"Where did you get that?" his mother asked sharply.

"From the clown..."

His mother stood up and looked down at him. "Johnny, you know you're not to go into Mother's purse. That's where you got the dime, isn't

it?"

"No, Mommy," said Johnny, a little frantically. He knew there was punishment for going into Mommy's purse. "I got it from the clown, honest I did!"

Mommy looked sad, and stern. She shook her head, then she took him by the hand. "You've been very bad, Johnny, and now you've added lying to it. I'm going to have to put you in your room until Daddy comes home, and I'm afraid you'd better make up your mind that you'll get a spanking. As for me, you aren't to go to the clearing to play for a whole week, until you make up your mind not to invent silly stories."

"But Mommy..." Johnny's voice quavered. "I'm telling the truth..."

She took him by the hand and led him up the stairs. "Perhaps you'd better lie down on the bed and take a nap before your father comes home..." Then she shut the door behind her when she went out.

Daddy didn't spank him after he heard the story, but he looked at the dime. "Son, if you really got the dime from the clown, you keep it. But if you didn't, I think the proper place for it would be in Mother's purse, don't you? Honesty is the best policy, even for little boys."

Johnny looked up at his father, then down at the dime in his hand. He didn't say anything, and after a moment his father said "Think it over" and turned and went out of

the bedroom.

The little boy didn't come down for supper. He was busy thinking. And not too remarkably, he found himself agreeing with his father - honesty was the best policy. But how could he convince his parents that it wouldn't be honest to put the dime in his mother's purse? That would be admitting he was disobedient and dishonest and untruthful - and he was none of these. The circus was real!

The next day he stayed in the house. A dozen times he tried to tell Mommy that it was true about the circus and the clown and the dime - but the look on her face halted him each time. It was a very obvious look, even to a little boy - she just wouldn't believe him; he felt sure of that. But eventually he tried anyway...

"Go to the clearing," he volunteered, "you'll see for yourself there is too a circus!"

His mother stamped her foot. "Go to your room immediately! That's about enough of this nonsense. And when you come down, I want to hear no more of this circus!"

When his father came home, he heard mommy's voice downstairs, speaking to his father. When footsteps came heavily up toward his bedroom, he didn't need to be told what was coming with them. He didn't cry during the spanking. Daddy seemed mad about that, but he

went back downstairs after saying: "Supper's ready. Come down to eat, and then go right to bed. And tomorrow, I don't want to hear anything more from your mother about circuses or clowns or elephants."

That night after the house was still, the little boy got out of bed, dressed silently, packed his whistling top, his marbles and his ball of short pieces of string tied together, into an extra shirt, tied the sleeves together and slung it over his shoulder and sneaked out of the house.

The moon was shining brightly, and when he got to the clearing it was almost as bright as day. The circus wasn't there, but he sat down to wait. "Please, clown," he whispered, "bring the circus back."

All at once, there was the clown. He turned a somersault, stuck his finger in his eye, and tripped over his own feet. The little boy laughed in spite of himself.

"Got your dime?" asked the clown.

"Oh!" said the little boy. "I forgot it!"

"Well, never mind. I've got a ticket...and here comes the elephant."

Lumbering through the moonlight like a battleship, the elephant came up beside them, and right behind him was the giraffe.

"Up you go," said the clown, giving him a boost. "We're off to join the circus!"

And off the little boy rode atop the elephant's head, his cheeks wet with tears. But he knew there was no turning back. Mommy and Daddy wouldn't believe there really was a circus, and they would punish him again if they knew he was running away.

Nobody ever saw the little boy again.

His mommy and daddy never forgave themselves. They blamed it on the purse. They realized they should never have been so hard on a little boy, just for stealing a dime. But it was too late. He was gone, and although they searched, and the police searched, they never found the little boy. He is listed today as "missing" on the files of the Missing Persons Bureau. Nobody ever gave a serious thought to the circus, and certainly nobody ever believed there had been one in the little clearing in the woods.

This story is true. I know, because the little boy's mother gave me the dime, and I still have it. A little boy's "proof", all he had to show - but it hadn't been enough. I believe him, though. Little boys don't just disappear into thin air, do they? If you want to see the dime, I can show it to you - I carry it with me all the time. It will remind me never to doubt my own son, if he should ever tell me about the time he had a ride on the elephant's head in that circus nobody but little boys can see.

SEARCHING BY STARLIGHT

THE SIGNS OF THE ZODIAC

By James Philip Morgan

NATAL ASTROLOGY, determining man's character and destiny from his correspondence to the stars, had its beginning in the oldest civilizations of the world. They knew that everything in nature is in a state of gradation, and as such, man, the highest physical intelligence, is a cosmos in miniature governed by the same laws observed in the predictable movement of the heavenly bodies.

The respected astrologers of that day did not, as some suppose, let their imaginations take flight to trace a lamb or lion in the sky; but instead kept records of the movement of planets through the heavens, and of the times of events and births concerning important

people, until they discovered bit by bit, over thousands of years, that the positions of the Sun and planets draw a definite picture of man's nature, and the probable happenings in his life.

When a person is said to be born under a certain sign, it means the sun was going through that section of the heavens at the moment of birth. However, regardless of this sun-sign, the most pronounced character of an individual depends upon the placement of all the planets, though everyone's individuality will be somewhat influenced by the sun's place when they are born.

Those born when the sun is passing under ARIES, the Ram (Mar. 21--Apr. 20), have a greater amount of vitality than any other sign. Like the sprouts that burst from the earth during this time of year, they are the pioneers of the

world's affairs; self-assertive and leaders in their fields, they dislike to obey others. Bismarck had his sun in Aries.

TAURUS, the Bull (Apr. 21--May 21), symbolizes people who are greatly determined, steadfast and patient in all their undertakings. Within them is the attention to detail and inflexible purpose that wins fame and fortune. U. S. Grant was born in this period.

The sign of GEMINI, the Twins (May 22--June 21), belongs to those who are extremely versatile. They are highly intellectual and therefore at their best when involved in mental activity. Their intuitive dexterity gives them capabilities in many lines. Schumann was a Gemini.

The ancients named the fourth section of the zodiac CANCER, the Crab (June 22--July 22), when they discovered that the natives of this sign are very fond of the comforts and security of the home (shell). All are quite sensitive to their environment (water), and some become mediums. Stephen Foster was born during this interval.

The king of the jungle, among man or beast, is LEO, the Lion (July 23--Aug. 23). His portrayal is obvious, showing the bravery and fierce affection of those born in his domain. This class gather large crowds. They love the attention and applause of admirers. Ethel Barrymore is among these.

Analytical is the word for VIRGO, the Virgin (Aug. 24-Sept. 22). This group can separate the wheat from the chaff, good from evil, and gold from dross. Virginity is a state of purity which leads to Virgo to be immediately cognizant of the smallest flaws, particularly within themselves. This is Hiram Johnson's sun-sign.

When the sun is in LIBRA, the Balance (Sept. 23--Oct. 23), those come to us who are understanding and companionable. They are constantly trying to balance their relationship with others, which makes them very affable. They love harmonious music, beauty and all the refining influences in life. Gandhi has his birth under this star cluster.

SCORPIO, the Eagle (Oct. 24--Nov. 22), announces the birthdays of the world's most resourceful people. They always know how to solve problems, and find their way out of difficulties. Their ideas of right and wrong are very severe. They fight, work and play with all their being. Theodore Roosevelt was an individual of this type.

A half-horse, half-man is SAGITTARIUS, the Centaur (Nov. 23--Dec. 21). He mythically depicts, with straight arrow, those of word and action who come directly to the point. These people are fond of both physical and mental exercise, sports and philosophy. Under these stars was the sun at Winston Chur-

chill's birth.

The mountain climbing CAPRICORN, Goat-Fish (Dec. 22--Jan. 20), shows well the social ambitions of those born under this sign. Organization and diplomacy, attributes which make head of industry and government, and Capricornian in nature. Woodrow Wilson is in this category.

AQUARIUS, the Waterman (Jan. 21--Feb. 18), pouring the liquid of altruistic endeavor over the thirsting needs of humanity, is the attitude of these people. They, better than anyone else, understand the need of others. They are natural psychologists, and their intuition is uncanny. Edison is among the many humanitarians who contribute their utmost.

Up to the fountainhead of spirituality, or down to the sea of society, swims PISCES, the Fishes (Feb. 19-Mar. 20). These natives are very sympathetic to their surroundings and to those in it. They are also sensitive to inner-plane influences which direct them to psychic accomplishment in their endeavors. Einstein was one of these.

Questions (not personal) or comments concerning your interests in astrology, or related occult science will be welcomed by this writer. Wherever possible, they will be answered in this column.

QUESTION: Wouldn't a person's zodiac sign be determined more ac-

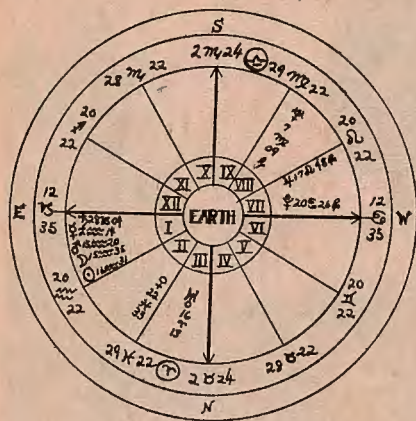
curately by the time of conception plus 9 months, rather than the moment of birth? In other words, if a mother has an accident causing her baby to be born two months prematurely, does this accident change the characteristics of the child, because he is now born under a different sign of the zodiac? E. M. P.

ANSWER: No, the exact time of independent life is when the baby takes its first breath, regardless of preconceived ideas of when it will be born. The character does not completely exist, in this new life form, until that time, and therefore cannot change. The soul, life force, unconscious energy, or whatever, of the child is of the type shown by the heavenly positions at the time of birth. This astral condition gives opportunity for the soul to become part of, and gain experience in, the new human life. Many happenings, from long standing accounts, or invisible causes, only seem like accidents.

QUESTION: What does the word "zodiac" mean? E.M.P.

ANSWER: The zodiac is the pathway of the sun, moon and planets as their movement appears from Earth. It begins with the first day of spring, or at the point where the sun apparently crosses the vernal equinox, at 0 degrees Aries. The zodiac (circle of animals) signs were so named because of the observed influence of the sun, moon and planets in this ecliptic path.

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I Am A Teenaged Atheist

Religion Has Nothing To Offer Me Or Any Other Young Person

By MARY JANE DE YOUNG

Reprinted from the NATIONAL INSIDER, September 11, 1966

RELIGION HAS nothing to offer me or any other young person, but, as a teenager, assistant editor of an outspoken atheist magazine and a concerned citizen of the "Great Society", I think it is time for my generation - the "Pepsi Generation" - to come alive.

We members of the "Pepsi Generation" pride ourselves on our sophistication.

Yet many of us are taken in by the medieval rituals found in most churches.

For instance, take the Catholic

Church. It has special clothes for the priest, a semi-secret language with odd signs made in the air.

It sounds to me more like the secret club my little brothers and sisters had, than a message of light. Except that the Church is not so reasonable, for when my brothers eat cookies and drink grape juice they don't call it flesh and blood!

I suppose this ceremony harks back to the days when our ancestors were cannibals. But really now, aren't we a little too mature for such nonsense?

And does anyone really believe that a little plastic statue of St.

Mary Jane De Young

Anthony on the dashboard of his car will save his life if that car crashes into a wall at 70 mph?

Well, it's easy to crack jokes about Catholicism and other Christian religions. They're such an easy and inviting target.

But the truth is there's nothing funny about the actual effect of religion on young people.

I believe it is the conflict between the hogwash of religion and the reality of the world's present mess that has so many teenagers in rebellion.

First, let's look at the teen image.

Some adults can't understand why high school and college kids engage in pot parties, promiscuity and a headlong search for reality through misbehavior.

"Such goings-on never happened when I was young!" they say. And it's true; such goings-on didn't used to be common.

Why are such problems so frequent now?

You might start by remembering that teens are expected to question ritual, custom and accepted doctrines. Parents, teachers and even clergymen encourage it.

The trouble is, teenagers are actually beginning to do this!

Many young people find it necessary to question the religion which has satisfied their less scientifically minded ancestors for ages.

And as soon as the Bible and the

religion of our fathers is explored, discussed and dissected they both fall to pieces, since neither is based on reason.

Yet many teens have been previously trained to accept the impossibilities set forth in the Bible.

Finding out the truth about religion is too great a threat to their security, so they try to forget their questions in alcohol, pep-pills, thrills or worst of all, apathy.

But it isn't all a matter of teens finding religion a fraud in its own right.

There is also the way it has been used to promote crimes against other peoples.

An index of the atrocities committed by Christians on non-believers throughout history would take all the space in this paper, so I won't try to list them here.

But do let me give two contemporary examples: the war in Viet Nam and racial segregation right here in America.

The American Christian supposedly believes in loving his enemies, turning the other cheek, fighting for truth and freedom, etc.

He makes a big issue out of passing a non-profanity rule in Army training camps, but sees nothing wrong in dropping napalm bombs on defenseless women and children in Viet Nam. After all, the Vietnamese are the "enemy", and the Christian forgets he's supposed to love them.

Then there is segregation.

It's a known fact that the most rabid segregationists are found in the "Bible Belt" which is most influenced by a literal interpretation of the Scriptures.

You might think that there's real schizophrenia here - that it's incomprehensible how the most avid Bible readers and the greatest Negro-haters are one and the same people.

But is it surprising. Hardly, when you consider that the Bible condones slavery despite its self-contradictory command to "love ye one another."

Teenagers are no fools. They see the things I've been writing about, and they see the cause: a smug, self-righteous religion.

The true result of Christianity is exemplified by the situation in my own home town in Minnesota.

Here, the Catholic priest has the best house in town, an expensive boat and a brand new Oldsmobile Toronado - despite the fact that many children in his parish are without shoes and adequate clothing.

How many other young people see in their towns what I see in mine? Very likely there are millions.

So, adding up all the abuses of religion and the ability of youth to see through the sham of it, no wonder the young are restless.

The trouble is that they express their rebellion too often in dissipa-

tion instead of constructive action.

It's time we teens of 1966, who will be running the country in another decade or two, began working to put the reins of power into the the hands of intelligent men instead of the puppets of religion.

Why? Because the 20th Century has seen more outstanding scientific advances than nearly any other era.

A bomb has been developed which is capable of sending every soul on earth to oblivion.

Man is fast on the road to discovering the innermost secrets of the human mind.

At such a time, it is reasonable to stick to the ancient rituals instituted by people so backward that they believed (and still believe) that a piece of wood in the shape of an instrument of execution is an object to be worshipped?

In the days when modern industry is making our life increasingly rich and good, is it rational to pay homage to a doctrine which worships death?

Can we, the youth of America, afford to let churches lead backward the civilization which has been thousands of years in the making, and which has progressed despite the dead weight of religion?

No, we can't. And it's up to the American teenager to see to it that we don't.

DOROTHY LAUER

REPLIES

TO RAY PALMER

WHEN I opened the pages of the November issue to your editorial, the more I read on the more angry I became, because I have in my file many instances where you have said that I had been proven 88 to 90 per cent correct. Do you think people who write to me over and over, send a fee to be fooled? I am sure they do not. I do feel you owe me a public apology via SEARCH.

Let's get right to the point where you say I have been helpful to you. The things that have not occurred in your analysis can still take place, because I've explained to everyone that anyone honest in this work, I defy them to come out and give a time element. Now you say I have failed to hit the mark, and have always failed to hit the mark in your money trouble, where I have said they would soon end. Well, Ray, I am going to be just as candid with you as you have

been about me -- and in my case unjustly so. I feel that you have had a great deal of money passed through your hands. You have had many sleepless nights, too, but remember, too, Ray, that many times it went through your fingers like water. I am positive that if the average person could have had the money passed through their fingers that you have, they definitely would be fairly well off. I am not trying to keep your spirits up. I can tell you that good is coming to you and that money will be placed in your hands, but it is how you manage it--as to that, I am not responsible.

Another thing, you say that I can deduce your future because I know the pattern of your past life. This is very untrue; I don't know you that well. How well I remember doing problems that you sent me. I notice that you say deduction--clever deduction, mind you--how well I remember telling

you in one of your employee's analysis to have them or someone near to them be careful of an exploding gas stove and you say that this person was a skeptic to my work. Well, I think this person was positively stupid as to ignore such a warning--and think that someone lost their life--imagine! Because a person did not pay attention to a warning. Now I don't pick these warnings out of the air, Ray; I don't sit here imagining a great many things. It would be pretty hard to imagine a gas stove exploding, wouldn't it? I felt very badly over this. You wonder how I can see such a thing - after being in this work 35 years, how can I see anything that occurs? I don't sit here conjuring these things up. I meditate daily so that I will be guided right in each instance with every analysis. I see, though, that you had the decency to urge strongly that the employee determine who had such a stove and check it. Indeed this warning was not heeded, or this could not have happened. It could have been avoided. Why wasn't it? Because the person did not pay attention to the prediction, that's what it is. What is the use of giving a prediction if it is not heeded? So that responsibility certainly does not lie upon my shoulders, I am happy to say.

Getting to Sharon, your young people's editor. You say she got

out her analysis and one was written for her boy friend and she read them both to a new employee and asked for a decision. Well, what an odd thing for Sharon to do, to ask a person who probably doesn't know a thing about the occult and then say it was full of generalities and anyone clever could make these generalities! Well, I never have been accused of being clever. I have been so interested in my work to guide people right, that I can't be bothered with mere generalities.

I know, Ray, that several times you, yourself, have written my column when one didn't come in, and you can rest assured that I got all kinds of letters saying how inaccurate you were. This is why I will not let anyone use a by-line or my name as their by-line. You say you used to be quite popular as the Man From Tomorrow. You say predicting the future is a haphazard thing and dangerous.

You say another thing. I do not fill up my page with impressions. Why should I give up my life with filling pages of so-called impressions and generalities? I think I am quite a direct person and I do not guess at my work.

You say what good are predictions if the events cannot be avoided? Well this person was forewarned a long time ago and as I say, I wouldn't want it on my

shoulders that I did not have sense enough to follow the prediction. It cannot cause mental anguish, because if the person had any sense, they would have looked into the situation. Just remember, Ray, this young girl could be alive today had the person followed that prediction. What is the use of these analyses if they don't point out the saving of a life, or the saving of money? But remember, it is not sadistic on my part when I predict such a thing. This gift is not dished out for sadistic usage, it is true, and there was no sadistic thought on my mind, Ray, when I gave that prediction. How horrible to think that I would be accused of such a thing. This is so unfair! I can't imagine anyone being so stupid as to not take the time out to look and see what is wrong with the stove.

Many times people ask me about signing important papers and I tell them not to do so under certain circumstances. So, therefore, these people are sensible enough to do so. If I tell a person to see a competent physician in regards to a symptom, I have hundreds of letters on file where people have said their life had actually been saved because they had taken my word.

These generalities you speak of--I give my important impressions to a person and each one is individually given. Remember,

the things that don't come true, I can again only say these are impressions I am given, and nine out of ten if you hold an analysis long enough, the day will come you can check off everything I have mentioned as having occurred - this is, of course, unless let us say a circumstance comes up and that prediction can no longer occur, and that sometimes happens.

I don't think that your editorial is going to be heeded by too many people. I have received many, many letters already wondering what on earth got into you, Ray, to berate me in such a way and to actually tear me apart. Now you say you give me 10 percent accuracy, 60 percent shrewd - well, I have never been accused of being shrewd. I notice that Sharon accused me of reading the paper a great deal and then going by that. Do you know there are days that go by that I don't even look at a newspaper! I am not interested what the newspaper says, when I give a prediction it is not according to the newspaper. I, myself, do not delve in stocks. Many people say if you know so much about the stock market and gambling, why aren't you a millionaire? Because I do not use my gift in my own life to make exorbitant sums of money. I could not do this and feel right. This was not meant for this, and I have implored people over and over not to ask me about the stock market.

I don't use this gift to make money. The only reason I have a fee for these analyses is because I have to pay people to type these analyses, I have to pay for paper, stamps - so you are not paying for my knowledge because there would be no price tag on knowledge that comes from a gift.

Five percent good generalities - well, that is generous of you, and 25 percent wrong. You say that 10 percent is worth it. Well, that is generous of you, too, Ray, because according to polls in other magazines, I have again been judged 88 to 90 percent correct. So how come I am so wrong all of a sudden, especially when you never mentioned this before? Don't worry about my gift leaving me because remember, I am using it right. I am not using it for horseracing, for making money in the stock market, or slot machines or anything like that. I wouldn't use it in that manner and I resent very much even when a person writes and asks me to predict the stock market. I don't like to do it and I may insist that nobody ask me to do this in the future. So you see, I don't use my gift wrong; therefore, it won't leave me. The only time this would leave a person is if they would use it wrong and are misguiding people which again I would never be guilty of.

Getting to Sharon's wording in regards to my article on her, I

don't believe in the dero that she talks about either. I think this a good excuse to do many things and place the blame on the dero and I would come right out and say - whether you want to print this or not, Ray - that I have always thought that you and Dick Shaver were one and the same person. However, I wonder if you are going to print this as my next editorial. For anyone to believe when you write them a letter and say that the dero has been located and is being punished, that these people are then secure, they get a job and their health returns. Well, you know, this is nothing more than working on your subconscious because your subconscious believes everything you tell and these people suddenly feel that because you have located this dero and it has been punished, that they are released, which in turn again shows the very powerful where Ray is concerned that causes these people to feel instantly healed. They wouldn't need Ray to tell them this if they were to turn inward to God for guidance, rather than think of deros. I will never believe in this!

Many times people have written to me in regards to Ray Palmer and told me some things that I wouldn't even print. I feel basically Ray is a very good person, but I think he is very wrong in giving the impression about these deros in that he can locate them and

punish them. I think Ray is very wrong here!

Now I see that Ray has also attacked Billy Graham. Billy Graham has done a great deal for the human race and when Ray says he can't deliver a single thing he promises he is very wrong. You say his believers are not stable - well, I contradict that, because I know many of his followers and they are very stable people. Also, I do not believe anyone can put an evil spell on you unless you allow them to. I still say God rules the universe and he is not going to sit by and let a curse be put on you by anyone. Anyone who believes this is under a form of hypnotism and until they release that thought from their mind, no one can help them.

Well, at least Ray gives me the credit of being a normal human being - How nice! He says I have no special powers. Well, I wonder why all these people are writing me for help. Thousands of letters of testimony come to my desk proving that I have helped them. I see Ray says I keep up with today's news more than most people - well, I don't have time to read a paper, Ray. Just remember, I wouldn't waste my time guessing about such important things as people's lives, people's future. When people ask me an important question, I simply couldn't guess! And you say that I did a few articles on you, Sharon,

which you termed to be normal dealings which anyone could have written, I suppose it was just normal, too, that I mentioned about this gas explosion. Now where would I have picked that out of - just guesswork? Then for you, Sharon, to ask a typist in the office who probably doesn't know a thing about the occult, she listened and guessed by a paragraph who the person was. You say anyone can sit down and write a paragraph like this - well you try it, Sharon. I just wish you would try to on ten people and if you did not have a gift bestowed upon you, you can rest assured those ten people would write in, not only wanting their fee back, but they would be very angry that you had misdirected them. I am happy to say that I have not as yet received one letter where a person had said I misdirected their life; in fact, many have said that I have led them to happiness, health and contentment. But you know, I do not take one iota of credit for this. I immediately send a thank you to God from which my information comes. I do not contact people who have passed away. I do not think they know one more thing after they pass away than when they were here. I think when we pass over to that plane, that we are assigned much more difficult tasks of helping others see the light, rather than just coming back and telling so and so

whether someone is going to call on them today. This I do not do. I do not believe in contacting Masters. The first rule of the Bible is to put God first in your life and before I do any analyses, I meditate that I will be guided only to the right information and I turn only to God - not Masters, not those who have passed away and this is one reason my analyses have proved accurate. I don't depend on newspapers or anything like that, you can rest assured!

Are you sure, Sharon, that I said you should beware of a "dirty-looking guy who was supposed to come into the office with the purpose of giving the editor everlasting life"? You say I said "if he gets behind her, she will be dead"! I remember well that I had a feeling of fear around you and that a person would offer you something that they could not guarantee, and you rest assured that if danger showed around you, you better heed this. Just don't be too sure that while you would not actually be killed, you could be hurt - have you stopped to think of that? Naturally anyone who would come to your town would have it in for Ray Palmer as well as you. If you have someone come in your office that does not look 100 percent all right, I would say be cordial and pleasant, but be sure that they get out of your office.

Many years ago, a very well known psychometrist who I will

not mention but whose name was in headlines and who was very well known, I had also told her to watch for her life, that danger lurked around her. That woman was found dead in her office. Again she did not heed my warning. I don't say that you are going to die, Sharon. But what I say is that you can still meet this person who can frighten you and cause you to feel very scared or they would threaten you in some way. And did I really say that Ray would be around and chase him away? Ray may use some of his well chosen words which would help the person realize that they should walk away in peace. My, you are very brave, Sharon, when you say that you wouldn't be frightened by his threat. Indeed you would be frightened, I am sorry to say I still have that feeling! Now if you are going to be silly enough to bypass the warning, then you take the consequences. But remember also that when you meet this person, you won't be so brave. This will be a young person and a person who will talk somewhat erratic and they seem to believe in the fact that only by death do we have everlasting life, but they seem to feel they want you to join a band of some type of angels that they believe in. This person is really a mental case who should be in an institution, it is true. But they also have a charming manner with them. They won't dress very nicely and truth-

fully I think Ray has met this person at some time in his own life; that person at some time came to Ray's home. I don't know if Ray detected this odd or strange manner of speaking and it could even be possible that this person at that time did not believe in these so-called band of people, that he was to bestow everlasting life on. So evidently, this person does not believe that every person has everlasting life. They believe it is only through his causing their death that they have everlasting life, and Ray has met that person and I defy him to say he hasn't.

Let us say that the last two people who had books published by Ray have died and could it be because Ray is a dero and that he sent a tribe of mean, cruel men to torture them? This is utter nonsense! This is not true! Ray could no more do this unless he gives the person the impression and then this would be a terrible thing for anyone to do and you can rest assured, having been in the occult for 35 years, if Ray did such a terrible thing, he never would have any luck anyway and he would get back exactly what he put out.

I think, Sharon, that you have a great deal of intelligence, but you certainly didn't use it when you berated me, because first of all, I told you exactly what I felt in your analysis, and remember, it won't be a dero who would harm you,

but a real, live person, nothing more or less!

I do feel that by putting doubt in people's minds, such as you, Sharon, and you, Ray, I don't think that people who have written to me over a period of time will sit by and say nothing to you about it. I hope they deluge you both with so many letters that you will see the error your ways in the berating of my gift. I didn't appreciate it at all. Since you are so anxious to print everything that is written to you, I would like to see every word of this printed as my editorial, but I wonder, will you do this, will you accept the challenge to print this?

I will not comment anything on the future in this editorial. And I do have a right to defend myself when I am accused of guessing, reading newspaper and filling analyses up with impressions. Each analysis varies in length as you people have noticed, so how can I just sit here filling up paper? For one thing, I am kept entirely too busy to waste time with this. There are too many people who really need help and need the information that I can supply them by my gift.

I have been offered many times by wealthy people in Hollywood to be taken to races, taken to Las Vegas and even where the stock market is concerned, enormous sums of money - and to tell them who will win the World Series or this or that; in other words, pure

gambling. But this I will not do, I will not use my gift this way, and I have told many very famous and wealthy people that they need not send their car for me in order to tell them things of this sort.

I shall anxiously look forward

to the next issue because I do want this in print. And if an issue is missed at any time, I don't want anyone else to put their impressions under my name. I shall look forward to seeing this in print.

Dear Dorothy:

Too late to get your reply to my editorial and to Sharon in last issue, but it will be in the next. Plus a few letters from some of your fans.

Now, why don't you sit down and ask for some psychometric information about me? For instance, you don't know why I wrote that editorial, do you? You don't know what sort of a problem has come up in the past year or so that has radically changed my attitude. But you should know, because it is important.

Yes, I know you are angry at me. I expected you to be. I wanted you to be, and I wanted your fans, and my readers to be. I expected them to be stirred up, and then I could make my point. Imagine my dismay and disappointment when nothing happened! It adds up to a wasted 40 years! All the time I thought I was being a goad to thinking--getting people out of the rut, by being a sort of prod, a devil's advocate, a deliberate target for people to shoot at. And all the time I was being pampered by people who said I was wonderful - because what I was saying agreed with them! They ALREADY knew how to

think, and they approved of my efforts to make OTHERS think. How stupid I was! I interpreted their statements as sincere - I believed they had been caused to think by me; I didn't suspect that they already had set themselves up in their minds as thinkers (very select class of thinkers), and had already walled their minds in with dogma. That dogma being something that set them aside as superior - they were THINKERS.

I finally found out I was just as big a fraud as they were--I had set myself up, in my mind, as a person capable of being clever enough to make people think, and that by thinking, they improved themselves, and that the credit was mine. I guess I'm just a crass egoist. Those who did think, did it in SPITE of me, not BECAUSE of me! Kind of embarrassing to discover, isn't it?

So I went a little further. I wanted to find out if EVERYBODY really thought I was a fraud, out for the buck, and a fool. I said to myself: that little old lady sitting in the front pew, setting a good example of

righteous living REALLY has a dagger up her sleeve, and if you were to suggest she wasn't sincere, she would rip you open like a sack of flour. So I tried it--and out came the dagger. It's really there!

So, where can I find people who have no dagger? I need to find them. The world is in a sad state if we are all frauds. I have a letter from a girl who says: "I am an atheist". She means it. She points to the frauds in the world, and asks what kind of a god it is that allows the horrors of Vietnam? She asks if that god inspires the lies of politicians? How can I answer her? How can I tell her I know there is a god? In my own magazine she can read what a fraud I am! My faithful readers of thirty years will be only too happy to tell her so! They will also add fuel to her fire, by making statements they can't back up, and then get angry with her because she doesn't know that what they are saying is true. I used Sharon as a "goat" to find out how many "nice" people would attack her if she showed herself "ignorant" of the spiritual and psychic truths they already know and have had proved to them. For instance, she said, when confronted with the word Buddhist--I haven't read that article. She (says her challenger) didn't know this was a religion, not an article. Such ignorance! But did this person try to explain to her, educate her? No, he said such stupidity had no place in

SEARCH, and she should be kicked out forthwith! And Ray Palmer should be condemned to failure because he was so stupid as to bring this "gem of assinity" into the magazine. And to make sure Ray Palmer failed, he canceled his subscription.

Because the girl knows nothing she should not be allowed to learn!

My god, Dorothy--is that what YOU believe too! Can it be forbidden that an inexperienced girl even suggest that Dorothy Lauer might not be anything but a good guesser? Can't she, like Ray Palmer, have it PROVED to her? Dorothy, when I told Sharon you COULD do these wonderful things, she asked for PROOF. But you, and these readers, insist I shall not prove it. They will allow her no voice to ask, and they will not even rise to the challenge when posed by an "expert" (the editor himself). Both of them must be sent into outer darkness!

I wonder if I am wasting my time, Dorothy? Do you understand what I am talking about? Do you understand what I did, and how I did it? Do you understand that I am weeping, literally, because I have failed in my life's work, that I cannot even prove to a child that I am not a gullible fool, and that there IS a basis for what I try to teach her?

Sharon says these dero of Shaver's are poppycock, you agree with her, that you never believed in them. Sharon, in her rights, asks

for more than just my belief--she wants proof. I can explain it to her, if I start at the beginning, and lead her patiently through years and years of experience. But the only way I could do that would be to sit down with her personally, and tell her personally. This would explain it only to her. There are other young people who might want to know how I can prove I'm not either gullible, mentally unbalanced, or a liar--and how would I reach them? I have only one way, through SEARCH. But if I rehash the Shaver mystery, there are two objections (1) the present readers have gone through all that, and a repeat would be boring, and they'd quit reading; (2) to present the thing as was done twenty years ago is like asking the kids to dance the black bottom and say twenty-three skidoo, and besides they would be handicapped by the picture of a 56-year-old goat asking modern intellectual youngsters if they believe in goblins. A new approach is necessary, and one with more moxie to it, less on the square, cool it, man. We've given these youngsters Vietnam, and are asking them to spill their lifeblood in a dirty swamp--and for what? Do you think they'll take the "good fairy" from us, trust it to wave a magic wand and save them?

But YOU--you make one statement that simply screams DERO at me! It is absolutely incomprehensible. With all your psychic abilities,

it just can't be Dorothy Lauer saying "I've always felt Palmer was really Shaver". The one thing that could discredit the whole dero thing would be to convince everybody that there actually was no Shaver, but that it was really Palmer, and a great big fiction stunt that made its publisher millions. This story has been persistent from the very beginning, and has been proven false so often it is pathetic. Thousands of people have visited both Shaver and Palmer, and none of them doubt that both are real and both sincere. Yet, somehow, incredibly, a noted psychic like you comes up with the old old propaganda line "Shaver is Palmer". Shaver would say to me: "Do you doubt the telaug now!" and I would have to admit I didn't. It is one sure thing--that thought, that psychic conviction, could NOT have come from God! It could not be the result of you asking for truth; and trusting in the Lord! It DOES, to my mind, prove that you DO have strange abilities. I don't agree with Shaver that a telaug ray from underground, operated by crazy little dwarfs, put that thought in your mind. But SOMETHING did! You can't really believe that this is one of your psychometry revelations that will come true, given enough time (be proven true, that is)?

Dorothy, it is futile of me to say you are possessed of these powers--what is NECESSARY is that Sharon say it! But she has to be convinced!

Neither you nor my readers will let me! If I can't convince one teenage girl that even one single facet of the strange mysterious things I have discovered in my life is based on reality, then how can I make a success out of a magazine which deals in those mysterious things?

If you will sit down and open your mind to the infinite, I am sure of one thing--God will tell you that He's finally put Ray Palmer in his place, and given him a job he isn't big enough to do! Many years ago I asked God not to make it easy for me--that I wanted tough jobs to do, because I wanted to acquire as much

ability through experience as it was possible to get in this primitive, kindergarden school called life on Earth.

I've flunked out! I'm stumped. Where do I go from here? Maybe YOU can tell me? I need help. Which may sound paradoxical, because right now I'm thanking God for answering my prayer, and giving me what I asked for. I wanted it tough, so I could make it big--if I beat this fluff, I'll be gear! But I need Sharon, Helga, Dave, Kit, Al, Ruth, etc. etc., and you, to help me do it. And if it'll give you any solace, you predicted it! Ray

COMING NEXT ISSUE: "WHAT MAKES RAY PALMER TICK"

Two astrologers reveal their finding on Ray Palmer's character and future. Can astrology be a helpful and accurate guide for our lives? **SEARCH** looks at the stars with wonder this next issue. Don't miss it!

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WHAT IS PRAYER?

Tillman L. Martin

WHAT IS "prayer"?

Prayer is several things. It may be telepathy, directed out into the vibratory universe, to touch and influence helpful action in another individual or group, toward the realization of one's desires. It may be an order to the subconscious mind, whereby the blind forces in one shall act toward the realization of those desires. Or, it may be a petition addressed to one's personal "god," his higher self, to enlist that divine aid to further one's purposes and desires.

The bible, and indeed other religious systems as well, specifical-

ly state that one must "ask believing that ye receive." That is, one must KNOW that there are forces amenable to his petitions or affirmations, if these are imbued firmly enough and repeatedly enough . . . and if they are in harmony with his TRUE desires, not what he thinks he ought to desire. Outside nature, itself, consists of a substance which is subject to the determined commands of the human mind and which, when impelled into action in spite of its natural sluggishness and lethargy, moves to bring into materialization whatever he visualizes.

CAN YOU PROVE YOU HAVE EVER HAD A PRAYER ANSWERED?

Attention SEARCH readers: Can any of you prove you have ever had a prayer answered? Please write us and tell us your experiences with prayer. Write to: SEARCH, Amherst, Wisconsin 54406.

JAPAN'S Religion of "Gain"

By "AWAKE!" correspondent in Japan

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REELING UNDER the blows of atomic bombs and of military defeat, Japan emerged from the second world war with new and urgent problems. The feudal basis of family life had been weakened, old communal standards had been shaken and old-time religion had suffered a big setback. There was a moral and spiritual vacuum that needed to be filled. What would fill this vacuum?

In any other country, communism might have capitalized on the situation. However, communism failed to take hold among the nationally-minded Japanese. Rather, the post-World War II era has witnessed the growth of a multitude of "new religions," often called

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"crisis religions," designed to meet the people's immediate wants. Almost one hundred "new religions" have mushroomed during the past twenty years. Their number includes Shinto sects that had been forced previously to conform to state Shinto, as well as offshoots from established Buddhist sects.

For the most part, these "crisis religions" have offered their adherents things that they lost during World War II, such as health, material prosperity, peace of mind and community fellowship.

Riding on this tide of religious revival, one sect has raced ahead of all the others. It is the so-called "Soka Gakkai" ("Value Creation Academic Society"), a development of the 700-year-old "Nichiren Shoshu" sect. Its postwar organizer, Josei Toda, explained that the Nichiren Shoshu sect had declined prior to the war, and, therefore, "as the Great Saint Nichiren predicted, Japan has experienced a crisis which resulted in national ruin." And what was his solution? The militant Soka Gakkai, which has proclaimed itself the savior of Japan, and ultimately of the entire world.

The Nichiren Shoshu sect was founded in the thirteenth century of Nikko, a disciple of the Buddhist monk Nichiren Daishonin. Its headquarters, which the sect expects to become the center of religion world wide, is a temple called

Daiseikiji, at the foot of Mount Fuji. Here are preserved the "Dai-Gohonzon, said to be the original scroll containing Nichiren's sacred formula, and also Nichiren's miraculous tooth, the onikuge. It is reported that Nichiren pulled a loose tooth from his mouth and handed it to Nikko, to be used as a testimony in propagating their religion among all mankind. It is also claimed that a piece of flesh still adheres to the tooth, and that this continues to grow. The sect is to reach its zenith when the flesh covers the tooth in its entirety. The tooth is closely guarded, and no scientific authority is permitted to examine it.

Soka Gakkai was founded in 1937 by Tsunesaburo Makiguchi, an ex-school-teacher and student of pedagogy, who converted to Nichiren Shoshu. Nichiren's religious fanaticism and Makiguchi's theory of "value creation" have been combined into one of the most amazing religious crusades in history. Soka Gakkai itself describes the Theory of Value, as taught by Makiguchi and his successor, Josei Toda, in these words: "The goal of human life is happiness, the ideal state for each individual...A happy life is the condition in which whatever is regarded as having value is realized....Truth and value are two very different concepts....Historically, philosophers have regarded the principal elements of the ideal life

to be truth, goodness and beauty. This is incorrect....The Principle of Value makes the basic ingredients of happiness: gain, goodness and beauty....The criterion of value is gain or loss, not good or evil."

This sounds contradictory to Nichiren's own oft-repeated emphasis on the "Lotus of Truth." Gain is substituted for truth. Devotion to the sacred scroll at Daiseikiji and the repetitious chanting of the Lotus Sutra are the "gain-producing values". Financial gain or faith healing often provide the incentive for joining Soka Gakkai. The standard for judging everything is: Do we gain or lose by it?

The Nichiren denounced all other schools of Buddhism as heresy, and established his own new formula for the salvation of all mankind: "Namu Myoho-Renge-Kyo" ("Adoration Be to the Lotus of Wonderful Truth!") Followers of Nichiren, and now of Soka Gakkai, are said to reach Buddhahood through the daily chanting of this formula, the Daimoku. "We pray to the Dai Gohonzon ("Holy Scroll") every morning and evening. Look intently at the Gohonzon, and you will find some Chinese characters on the upper left which read: "Those who worship the Gohonzon or those who practice the sutra of the True Buddha can accumulate even greater merits than the ten virtues of Buddha." On the opposite

side it is clearly written that "A person who viciously maligns the Gohonzon will surely have his head broken in seven." A person who has pure faith in the Gohonzon will be bestowed with even greater benefit than the ten good fortunes of Buddha. On the contrary, those who slander either the Gohonzon or true believers (Gakkai members) must undergo such dreadful punishment as having their heads broken in seven i. e., falling into the pit of hell."

One may well ask, How could a religion with these medieval concepts make such strides, as Soka Gakkai has done, in a modern society? For the most part, Soka Gakkai adherents are to be found among the poorer, uneducated classes. The movement has made its appeal, emotionally, to the desire for material betterment. It has used a devastating instrument known as shakubuku, which has been variously interpreted as meaning, "destroy and conquer," "bend and flatten" or "crush and throw down". This refers to the practice of Soka Gakkai members in ganging up on households or individuals afflicted with sickness or economic problems, blaming it on their religion, and relentlessly 'brainwashing' them until conversion is achieved. The new convert must then destroy the "abominations" of appendages of his former religion. He is provided with his

scroll, rosary and badge, and is threatened with terrible reprisals should he ever think of leaving the organization.

Shakubuku was organized by president Josei Toda following World War II. It draws strength from Soka Gakkai's militaristic structure, which has been compared to that of the Hitler Youth. Its Youth Division today numbers one and a half-million young people, including a fife-and-drum band of the Young Women's Division described as "second to none in its skilled and beautiful performance". Soka Gakkai describes its Youth Division as "the driving force of the organization". Soon after instituting shakubuku, Toda proclaimed: "The great march for forced conversions, begun on May 3, 1951, has brought a great many comrades into our camp". By 1953, the number was 1,096,920 households, and by 1964, the claim was for 4,600,965 households.

Soka Gakkai's main goals are political. This is in line with Nichiren's ancient claim: "I will be the pillar of Japan; I will be the eyes of Japan; I will be the great vessel of Japan." As explained in "Seikyo Shimbun" in April 1955, the sect's purpose is that "when, as the result of our great 'shakubuku', our country is rid of all evil religions, the Diet ought to decide to create a national center of worship. For that end, it is

necessary to send our members to the national legislature so that we could command a majority. Of course, it might be 10 or 20 years before this may be realized. Until then, we must train our members in the local legislatures."

After making sensational gains in local municipal and Upper House elections, Soka Gakkai set up the Komeito ("Clean Government Party") on November 17, 1964. The party immediately called for the abolition of the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty and for Japan to recognize communist China. However, Komeito acts independently of both "right" and "left". According to Soka Gakkai leaders, the party has been organized as a practical means of carrying out obutsu myogo, a merger of government and religion. In elections for the Upper House of the Diet in 1965, Komeito increased its representation to twenty in this body of 250 members. They are planning next to put thirty-two members into the Lower House. Other political parties are voicing concern at this religious invasion of the political arena.

Since 1960, Soka Gakkai has carried its campaign into Southeast Asia, and even into the United States. It has been outlawed in South Korea because of its political activity there.

Seven centuries ago, Nichiren himself announced his sect's ob-

jective of building a national temple at the foot of Mount Fuji. Soka Gakkai has espoused this goal, declaring its purpose to establish a "kokuritsu kaikan" ("national instruction hall") for "basic religious training in defense of the nation". In July 1961 a four-day drive among members netted over three billion yen (\$9,000,000), and this was used in building the projected temple's Grand Reception Hall, which was completed April 1, 1964. According to Soka Gakkai's "Seikyo Shimbun, of October 19, 1965, another four-day drive recently raised 35 billion yen (nearly \$100 million), which is to be used for building the shohondo, or main temple hall. This is now under construction.

Soka Gakkai used to make bold the claim that it would convert, first the entire nation of Japan, and then the world. However, in July 1965 the sect's 34-year-old president, Daisaku Ikeda, appeared to make the goal more realistic, when he drew an illustration from the Indian state of Shravasti, mentioned in the "Lotus of Wonderful Truth". According to the Lotus Sutra, one-third of the people of Shravasti saw Buddha and believed him, one-third saw him but did not believe his message, and one-third neither saw nor heard him. The implication is that the conversion of Japan will be accomplished when shakubuku has claimed one-third of the people

for Soka Gakkai, another third is sympathetic, and the remaining third is either indifferent or hostile. A recent Soka Gakkai tabulation asserted that membership was already 5,400,000 out of 25,000,000 households in Japan.

What is the ultimate goal of the movement? To quote Soka Gakkai itself: "The purpose of Soka Gakkai is not world conquest, but absolute world happiness and peace. President Ikeda has always stated that "the purpose of Soka Gakkai is to save the masses from misfortune and misery and to establish happiness and peace throughout the world."

It is with this goal that Soka Gakkai carries forward its militant campaign of shakubuku. Imbued with the idea that people on this earth receive everything from the idol Buddha, they are aiming at centering all worship in Japan around the huge temple that is to be completed at Mount Fuji in 1970. A Gakkai spokesman told the Sunday Mainichi (November 14, 1965) that the temple is scheduled to be completed around 1970. This seems to be a target date for a campaign to "help save" the soul of everyone in the world. It is also in 1970 that the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty is scheduled to come up for revision--an explosive issue from which radical groups such as Soka Gakkai doubtless hope to make gain.

"COLD LIGHT", PAST AND FUTURE

Tillman L. Martin



WILL SCIENCE and technology come up with a "cold light," obsoleting present methods of lighting for homes and businesses?

In the ancient teachings, there is something that is called "fohat", which we may translate as "electricity," but, unlike the present concept of electricity, considered as alive and conscious. Fohatic force or vibrations included not only electricity as presently understood and employed, but vast extensions of the conventional range. That is, there are fohatic frequencies we presently know absolutely nothing about, whose uses we cannot even surmise as yet.

Madame Blavatsky, in **THE SECRET DOCTRINE**, reported that when ancient Metallanim was excavated, archaeologists found rooms in which glass globes giving off a cold light, without apparent power source, still "burned" after thousands of years. The discoverers broke these globes to see what made them tick, but of course that released whatever had been con-

fined and the light went out forthwith.

In Frederick S. Oliver's **A DWELLER ON TWO PLANETS**, by PHILOS THE THIBETAN, there is much information about the Maxin, a stone pillar surmounted by a cold, eternal flame. Anything immersed in this sacred fire, of a type not known today, which he says formerly was in use in Atlantis, or as he calls it, Poseid", changed its molecular structure and entirely disappeared from the physical plane.

In the various religious scriptures of the world, there are many references to "light," meaning the astral light, zodiac light or light-of-the-intelligence. On Mount Sinai, Moses was confronted by the Shekinah or divine light in the form of a burning bush. Recently, in something I read somewhere, the author raised the question: Is this "light" which is intelligence similar to, related to, or perhaps even identical to the light we see with our eyes? Just maybe the discovery and mastery of cold light will provide not only insights into the nature of ordinary light as we usually speak of it, but its continuity with human and animal intelligence as well. This is something to think about.

A few years ago, and doubtless still, laboratories in Princeton, New Jersey, working under U.S. government research grants, were experimenting with fireflies (light-

ning-bugs), attempting to discover the secret of how their cold light was produced and how it was flashed on and off by the insect's nervous system. The scientists collected fireflies on an extensive scale. Youngsters and their elders came bearing bottles and fruit jars full of fireflies. As a result, the chemical involved in the firefly's light was isolated and named "luciferin", after Lucifer "the light-bringer". But at last information, the secret of HOW the firefly was able to produce cold light from luciferin, and how to synthesize the same in the laboratory, had not been found out. No doubt it will be, in time.

In one of his fabulous books, the inimitable Charles Fort recorded instances in which, not hot, but cold meteorites, emitting cold light, had been known to fall to earth in various places. He pointed out that, contrary to the prevailing and accepted belief, therefore not all meteorites are hot. This is something else to work on.

A Dr. J. Rand McNally, down at Oak Ridge, has been gathering data from every available source for several years, on fireballs or ball lightning. These things, apparently consisting of static electricity and ionized air particles, display intelligence. They may enter a room by a door or window, meander slowly around the room, nosing into corners and so on, then turn in leisurely fashion and mosey out the same

way they came. They may be silent, or they may emit a crackling or purring sound. Some explode and people have been seriously burned by them. Apparently Dr. McNally and the U.S. government feel that these fireballs, vehemently denied by orthodox science until a few years ago, may possess secrets valuable to our progress and especially to our military program.

In the late '50s, one of the larger lighting manufacturers - General Electric, Sylvania or Westinghouse - had succeeded in impregnating wallpaper and fabric draperies so that one did not need light bulbs or tubes but received light evenly throughout a room directly from the walls and drapes. Probably because of the havoc that would have resulted in the lighting industry had they put the new methods into production at once, we hear no more about this remarkable invention.

We know that countless civilizations other than our present one have come and gone, some leaving little trace or even memory, and that at least a few of these reached levels of achievement which we today can little conceive. Fohat is one of the forces known in the pre-Vedic civilization which survive in the secret doctrines of the East. Somewhere in the entire broad spectrum of fohat, there is a region of cold light. It has but to be rediscovered.

BOOK NEWS AND VIEWS



By Sylvia Smallwood

THE LONG, HOT summer brought a lot of not worth reading junk to this reviewer's desk, so I dug down in my despair barrel and brought out these worthwhile books which are still very much in print.

THE DYNAMIC LAWS OF PROSPERITY by Catherine Ponder. Prentice-Hall, Inc., Engle-

wood Cliffs, N. J., 1962. 253 pages, \$4.95.

Once in a lifetime someone writes in lay language a self-help book of this caliber. Mrs. Ponder has been able to do this for she seems to have lived what she's written. From the first to the last chapter, one is aware of her special brand of vitality which comes only

with successful living.

Many will learn just how shocking the truth about prosperity really is. Others will study the prosperity laws and directions for their use. Some will turn at once to the prosperity law of self-confidence. All readers will be interested in the road to better health through prosperous thinking. Imagine using prosperous thinking to bring about weight loss! Mrs. Ponder even outlines how to stop smoking painlessly. Worry, fear, guilt, sorrow, doubt, crossed conditions, ill health and failure will cease to fascinate you after practicing these laws.

The most important sentence in the book reads thusly: "Many of them thought it was 'beneath their dignity' to say definite prosperous statements and definite words of success for 15 minutes each day, although they did not find it beneath their dignity to speak definite words of hard times, lack and financial difficulty the rest of the day; nor did they find it beneath their dignity to live in indebtedness and financial embarrassment."

Catherine Ponder is a Unity minister, but she practiced before she preached. A MUST book for your library.

SOUTHERN WHITE PROTESTANTISM in the Twentieth Century by Kenneth K. Bailey, Ph.D. Harper-Row, Inc., New York, New York, 1964. 180 pages, \$3.75.

This is a thoroughly docu-

mented and skillfully reconstructed map of the evolvement and involvements of Protestantism from 1861 forward. Excellent reading.

Dr. Bailey, in typical Sagittarian fashion, lays it on the line in impeccable grammar without rancor. He sees us through brush arbor meetings, murder, the Coca-Cola dynasty, Darwinism, prohibition, textbook quashing, dead letters, Bible Belts, rotten eggs, beer kegs, Anti-Saloon leagues, Billy Sunday, slander, prophecy, sin, segregation, dancing sans corset, shades of Aimee Semple McPherson and flapping sheets of the Ku Klux-Klan.

This delightful but scholarly work shows us how theologians braided the split hairs of Church and State and coiled them atop the head of the South. First, a chastity belt was slipped over the eyes and ears of student youth in the matter of Evolution. Then, Dr. Bailey wipes the cobwebs off the 1928 election and ensuing market crash. The chapter entitled "Since 1940" explains how the scales was brought almost into balance, only to be tipped again.

A bland but potent dose of history - this, for Kenneth Bailey has beaten his sword into a penpoint. It is mighty. Like Perseus, we need to look back - ourselves to see.

In the most eloquent last chapter, I seem to hear this Sagittarian author say, "Forgive them, Fa-

ther . . .")

THE ART OF SELFISHNESS by David Seabury. Julian Messner, Inc., New York, New York, 1964. 317 pages, \$5.95.

Dr. Seabury, an internationally known psychologist, wrote this long overdue book in 1937. It was recently revised, updated would be a better word, by Mrs. Evelyn Seabury.

In spite of occasional clumsy sentence structure, "The Art of Selfishness" will give you a new slant on your importance as an individual. It counsels to say "no" to those who would arrange your life, pilfer your time, sap your energy or rob you of your identity.

Chapter 37 is a most lucid treatise on divorce. Contrary to what you may think, money, sex and/or mother-in-law is not the underlying cause of divorce. Dr. Seabury's insight into the American marriage is well worth your time. His explanations may prevent further or future emotional snarls in the lives of his readers. Scattered throughout the fifty chapters are checklists which can be used as commonsense guides in human relations.

The section entitled "New Skills for Quarreling" will give you many clues for quelling verbal riots, nipping trouble in the bud, or withdrawing from emotional strife with a minimum loss of ace. Highly recommended.

ASTROLOGY by Louis MacNeice. Doubleday, Inc., New York, New York, 1964. 351 pages, \$9.95.

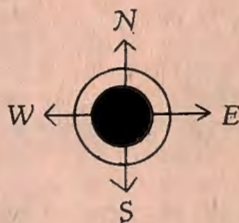
You may feel like buying two of this book, one for yourself and one as a gift. It is lavishly illustrated with both black and white and color plates.

Besides a breathtaking history of Astrology, Mr. MacNeice gives a unique interpretation of the Signs of the Zodiac, the Houses and their sphere of influence, major aspects, tables of sidereal time, tables of houses and a simplified ephemerides of the planets. A birthscope can easily be drawn from these tables for anyone born between 1901 and 1964. Too, very simple directions are given for setting up a Southern Hemisphere horoscope.

The chapter on Predictions has this enlightening passage written in 1547 by Jerome Cardan: ". . . if Saturn be in Aquarius, the Native will be a mere Woman hater . . . The Moon, full of Light in Conjunction with Mars, makes the Native be counted a Fool, but if she be void of light and with Saturn, he be so indeed . . . A Woman that has Mars with the Moon is Right. I'll warrant her . . . Make no new Clothes, nor first put them on when the Moon is in Scorpio, for they will be apt to be torn." From this, it would seem that astrological history has been passed down to us pretty straight. Pleasure and education beautifully combined.

MAPS, MAPS AND MORE MAPS!

Tillman L. Martin



HISTORY AS taught in the conventional schools, colleges and universities is as false as the teats on a boar pig! From much study and research on our own, some of us know that history as orthodoxly conceived is a conventionally agreed-upon pack of lies.

History goes much farther back than most people know, in fact it recedes into stupendous stretches of time far beyond ordinary conception. Furthermore, let us pull out into the open and recognize the fact that intelligence and the fruits

of intelligence, in the arts, science and technology, are far from being a twentieth-century invention made in America (or Russia) as some naively believe. Man, besides, has not risen in the scale of civilization from cave beings, as history and anthropology insist upon teaching, but actually has "fallen downstairs" from civilizations almost too grand to be comprehended today with our so-limited imagination and understanding. Proofs of these allegations of mine lie right on the surface of the earth, to be seen by

anyone with an eye; and numerous illustrated books have been made available through the years, concerning the remains of these fabulous ancient civilizations. Read them for yourself.

Sometime ago there was excitement concerning the discovery of the first Piri Riis map, a map made shortly after the time of Columbus' voyage of discovery to the "New World." This map was obviously copied from older maps then in existence in the Alexandrian Library, which, for reasons of their own, the Christian Church burned to the ground. The Piri Riis map proves beyond a shadow of a doubt that the Arctic regions and North and South America had previously been mapped FROM THE AIR. By whom?

There are many ancient maps and fragments of maps in existence even today. George Ivanovich Gurdjieff, in his book, MEETINGS WITH REMARKABLE MEN, tells of discovering in the possession of a monk in a secret monastery in Egypt, during his quest all over the Near and Far East for the materials later incorporated into his teachings in the Institute for the Harmonious Development of Man, near Paris, of an ancient map of pre-sands Egypt - that is, Egypt before the Sahara desert came into being. Gurdjieff wrote that he stealthily and secretly got hold of this map and made a copy of it, which is probably among the unpublished papers

which he left behind when he said, likely in the hands of one of his more intimate students.

For those who are research-minded, who have a touch of the detective in your makeup, here is a good subject for exploration. A friend of mine, Ray Nelke, of Jennings, Missouri, a regular reader of SEARCH whom I met through the letter columns of this magazine, has corresponded with the Library of Congress, from whom he secured material on the Piri Riis map. He has also been in correspondence with the authors of the various magazine articles on the subject; and even went so far as to work through the Turkish Embassy and get hold of a good pamphlet on the cartographer Piri Riis and a copy of the original map. Dig back, and find out what ancient maps there are . . . or if you had rather, look up some of the older books on the subject (these would be available through rare book dealers, probably); then correspond, all over the earth if necessary, with those who might have inside information. It would be interesting to know what success you have. You could write a report for SEARCH . . . and by all means let me know what you find out. An article on the subject of old maps, adequately researched, would be of broad and extreme general interest. Besides, it is the most effective way in the world to broaden your real education.

PERSONALS

- All books for sale, only half price! There are books on all sorts of occult subjects, so when you ask for list, please state which subjects you're interested in. Can anyone tell me where to contact Mrs. Barbara Moore Pataleewa, please? Write to Mary Chrietberg, 708 East 8th St., Tifton, Ga., 31794.
- Back issues of Fate, Mystic and Search for sale, 1950-1959. Write

wants. List for stamp. R. Lee, Box 194, Seaford, N. Y.

- Would any of the readers who have psychic ability, like to try to locate this missing person? Vera Aileen Barnes was born near Lindrith, N. Mexico, in June, 1934. Her mother was Vera Clifford Barnes and her father Forrest Orion Barnes. She had one brother, David Maurice. The mother died when this



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child was 11 months old. The father's two unmarried sisters insisted on raising the little children. The father took no responsibility. Rumor has it that the little girl was later placed in an orphanage or school run by Catholic Nuns in Trinidad, Colo. The mother's relatives have finally located the boy, but no one knows what became of the girl. She would now be 34 years old. Anyone able to give this lady's name and address please write to: Viola Coleman, 1013 Iris Apt. 3, Los Alamos, N.M., 87544.

- I have the following used books (like new) for sale: The Fourth Way (Ouspensky) 446 Pages \$4.50; Where Two Worlds Meet (Arthur Findlay) 624 Pages - Direct conversations between this world and the next - where they live - how they live - what think \$2.00; On The Edge Of The Etheric (Findlay) \$1.50; The Way Of Life (Findlay) How to live on earth and what to expect when we reach the other world - direct communications from the etheric world \$1.50; Life In The World Unseen by Anthony Borgia (2 volumes) good condition \$4.00; The Art Of Thought Reading (Dunninger) like new \$1.00. Many others. Send for list, if interested. 20% reduction on every \$5.00 worth of books ordered. Please, no checks. If you send money order, I will pay postage. If you prefer I will send C.O.D., but you will have to pay C.O.D. charges and postage. Marie Fredenburg, 5037 N. E. Al-

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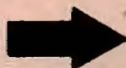
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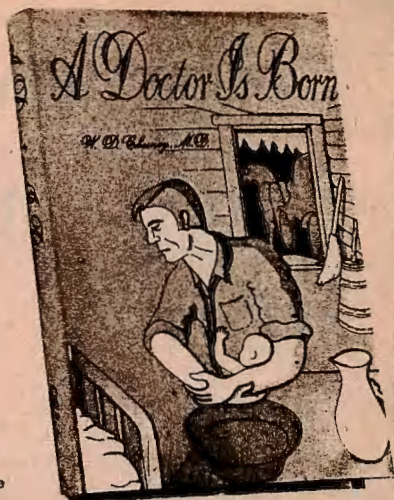
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Where The Reader Has His Say

Dear Ray:

For quite a period of time, I have supported you and your work because I believed you were that rare individual, a man of principle, integrity and the courage to stand by his convictions. Alas! Times have changed, and it is with a deep sense of regret that I have been forced to change this view. Let me tell you what has occasioned this. Possibly you may have observed that of late I have absorbed none of your publications where formerly I had ordered a good deal. The following is the reason:

First let me state that I am a personal friend of Dorothy Spence Lauer. About the time my subscription to Search was up for renewal an incident occurred which I shall call the Malva Dee episode. This situation is not public property, but I am certain you know full whereof I speak. I deemed your cavalier treatment of her at the time, un-

warranted, unreasonable and extremely unjust, seeing that she was in the right of the matter quite obviously. This is when my image of you began to tarnish, and subsequently I did not renew my subscription. Mrs. Lauer's reaction was one of astonishment and hurt indignation. She just could not believe you could do this to her. Yet, because she is basically an open and generous person, resolved to swallow her personal feelings and forgive and forget. Not so I. I don't turn the other cheek too easily. An affront to my friends is an affront to me.

Now, however, you have added insult to injury. I have lying before me the current issue of Search (which was given to me, I did not purchase it) and find it increasingly difficult to believe. Your tongue in cheek left handed compliments, as to Mrs. Lauer's powers, and your snide, boorish remarks as to 10% accuracy leave me with no other re-

course than to speak out. You know perfectly well this is a contrived distortion of the truth. Dorothy Lauer is a human being, and subject to human fallibility. If she would be 100% accurate she would no longer be a human being, she would be a God, as no human being and no prognosticator has ever achieved this mark of accuracy. She has an amazing record of 90% accuracy which has been proven by letters telling her so. What do you have to back up your statement of 10%? You seem to have a fetish about money. I am sure you are aware that in everyone's life changes can come to you spontaneously? There is no time limit in an analysis, something Dorothy once told me personally occurred exactly as she predicted, but FOUR years later. I didn't believe it would occur any more, but it did exactly as predicted. Do you believe it impossible in your case?

It seems to me you have a remarkably short memory, Ray. In the early Mystic days, when you were desperately struggling for a foothold, and I daresay oftentimes wondered if you would make the next issue deadline, Mark Probert's articles and Dorothy Lauer's column sold your magazine for you. Several people informed me that they purchased it mainly for her predictions. Let's face it, your at times highly opinionated articles, and somewhat acidulous comment of those days, did not always win uni-

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versal favor. You have mellowed somewhat since then. At that time, you turned quite frequently to Mrs. Lauer for personal guidance and she always informed you correctly, did she not? I cannot see your object in desiring to downgrade this noble and generous woman, who has always desired nothing but your own personal good, and who helped you with guidance and counsel over some rough spots in the past. Suddenly, because you haven't become a millionaire, you wish to malign her character and ability. I repeat, you have a short memory.

And now we arrive at the gem of assininity, the teen age editor. Before I go any further, I would like to know what qualifications a callow teen ager possesses to edit a mature occult magazine? Years of sweat and toil have been devoted to studies on this subject and grey bearded oldsters admit their knowledge is incomplete. A clue to Sharon's wide knowledge, however, is given in the letters column, where a reader inquires whether she is familiar with Jains, Buddhism, and asks whether she knows what a Vegan is. Her brilliant reply "I have never read those three articles you mention". What phenomenal persipacity! Buddhism is referred to as an article.

Who did this star of the literary world write for previously? The Hooterville High School Clarion? What are you trying to do, build a

teen age following?

All this is beside the point, and I would deem it all beneath my notice and would hardly mention it were it not for her unwarranted, sarcastic, attack on Mrs. Lauer who has spent over thirty years in the occult field. The whole thing would be laughable if it were not tragic, tragic in the sense that an individual's reputation is at stake, and that is no laughing matter ever. Your teen age editor is about as well equipped to edit an occult magazine as a Percheron is to run in the Kentucky Derby. Or maybe the effort is not entirely wasted. She could write a column on Mod fashions in the spirit world; one would actually be no more extreme than the other. By the way is she your daughter?

You may not like what I have written, but like you, I speak straight from the shoulder, and let the chips fall where they may. I hope you will accept truth where you find it, therefore. John Thar, 13-39 123 Street, College Point, N. Y. 11356.

● The chips, it would seem, are falling! First, your statement that you are no longer a reader is a case in point--I lost you back there when I accepted a paid ad from Malva Dee, who was once Dorothy Lauer's secretary. I never said Malva had any proven psychic powers - but how could I say she hadn't, and exclude her? On that basis, I would o-

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originally have had to exclude Dorothy also. As for Mark Probert, I know him personally, and he is a phenomenon! A valuable one to me. But neither he nor Dorothy put my magazine across; although I will not deny that they were and are both popular, and did help circulation. One of the tests of a circulation getter is to leave it out once in awhile - if circulation drops, you've got evidence. I am inclined not to adhere to that rule, but instead, if continued publication coincides with slowly growing circulation, I see no reason to change horses.

As for the "insult and injury", if you are fortunate enough to have

this issue given to you, you will see what actually has happened, and I doubt if this can do otherwise but improve Dorothy's image, in addition to stimulating an interest which has apparently dropped through familiarity, because since the requests for readings go directly to her address instead of through SEARCH, they number better than 60% less. I attribute this to the fact that we are failing to attract new readers for the reasons outlined in my reply to Dorothy.

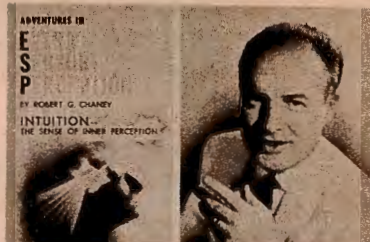
I seem to have failed to make my point that percentage of accuracy is not relevant. It is the 10% which I **FREELY ADMIT** is beyond explanation. Then there is the 50% which is classed as "accurates". Up to my editorial, they had been classed that way, because after all, you must admit I said they were "correct".

As for Sharon, your letter is one of the prime cases which have almost driven me to despair. You are saying in very loud, plain words, Ray Palmer is a failure!

Not in the sense that I can't teach her anything, but in the sense that I have not taught **YOU** anything! Suffer little children to come unto me... Not a very applicable or apt quotation, but in the case of SEARCH, it could read: "Suffer the young and inexperienced and unthinking to come to us..so that we can give them a little nudge toward intellectual self-reliance and cog-

itative proficiency". Think - of what you have said! You (loose translation) said: "Children wanted: To run the world in the future - only those with adult experience need apply!" How do you expect to get any applicants for the job with conditions like that? Out with Sharon because she doesn't know anything about these things! Don't let her SEARCH, quick hide the proof, lest she become one of us! She's a "gem of assinity", a "callow" teenager. Who did she write for, the Hooterville High Clarion? Derision, scorn, intolerance, ridicule. She's all this because she was just recently hatched from the egg of some dumb cluck. Come on now, John! Straight from the shoulder, are you as BIG as you think you are? I've admitted to Dorothy I'm a cad, and played a dirty trick (for what I hope will be a good result)-how about you admitting you owe Sharon an apology, and a helping hand? And how about renewing your subscription and helping Ray Palmer fix up the botched mess he's made of SEARCH and his whole life? I'm perfectly serious--if I ever needed help, I need it now! What can we make of this magazine? It can be a great, but I have the sorry feeling that without John Thar, I will lack a mighty strong helping hand. Or am I mistaken about you? -- Rap.

+++++



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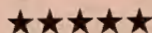
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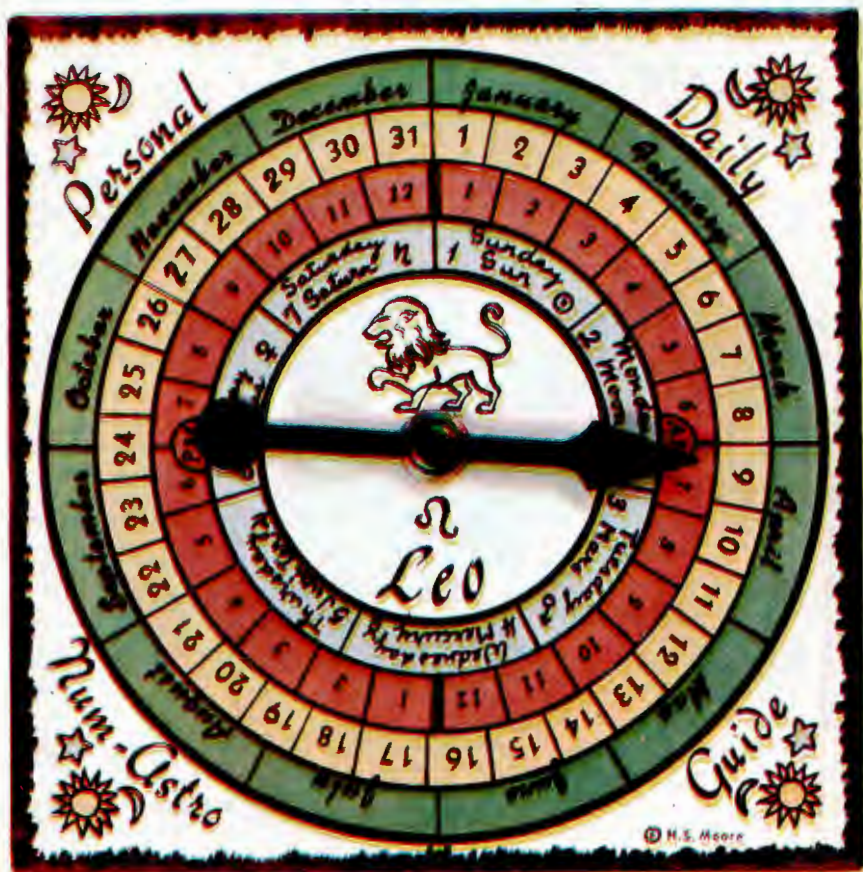
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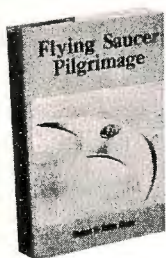
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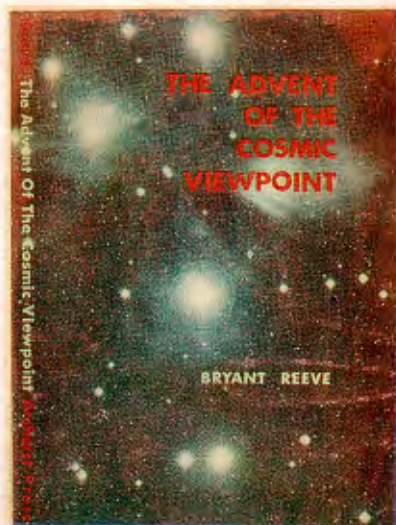
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