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THE MAYANS
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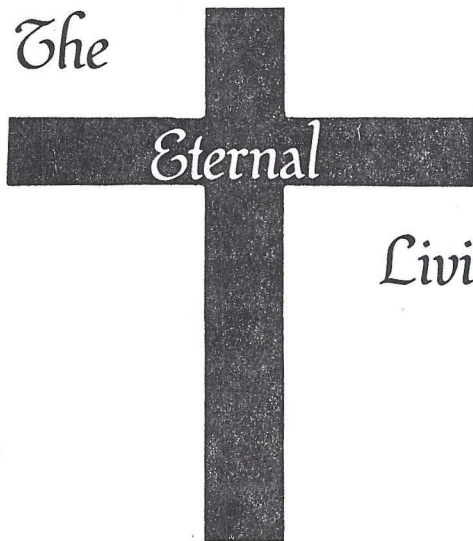
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The



Eternal

Living Series

Mayan Revelation Number 203

The Road On

Prayer

Be Adequate to the Situation

The Clock Hands

Directions

Emergence

The Goal

We Must Grow

The Silence of Eternity



Beloved Centurion:

As we progress along the path in our study of Eternal Living, we study now THE ROAD ON, which could mean our travel forward. During this series, which we have called Eternal Living, letters have been received from members, asking me to explain eternity and what it really is. Of course, everyone knows in a general way what it is, and it is a little difficult to put the actual definition into words, but I might give you this example:

"What is eternity?" was asked of a deaf and dumb pupil, and the very beautiful and wonderful answer was, "It is the lifetime of the Almighty". And truly that is exactly what it is.

We are born for a higher destiny than that of earth, and to me there is something thrilling and exalting in the thought that we are advancing into a splendid mystery, something we do not know a great deal about, that no mortal eye has seen. We only know that it behooves us to take our life and shape it into something of which the Almighty may be proud for, after all, He has given us life, He has given us the material to mold as a sculptor would work his clay into a thing of beauty. The sculptor can make of it a delight for all to behold and admire, or he can make of it something that no one would care to ever glance at, something that just has no meaning, or even something to be shunned.

All that we are and all that we have belongs to God. We are only the stewards, and this is a truth we must keep forever before us, for when we thoughtfully and prayerfully consider this truth, we could not possibly do anything that would not be to the glory of our Creator.

You, as a student in this advanced class, have evolved greatly. Mentally, spiritually and physically you have developed, and your Instructor is proud of your development. This lesson that you have in your hands contains much that you may read between the lines. There are deep and hidden truths, which you will be able to bring to light. Please read this lesson more than once - study it - and it is my sincere wish that you will find in it much to enrich your knowledge of Eternal Living.

Before you study, however, please repeat this prayer with me in order that you may be receptive to the lesson to follow:

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, I have looked upon eternity and I have seen that it is the field of my life and growth. I cannot see all the way to the summit of the slope. May I go forward in faith that Thou dost lead me and will bring me to my fitting place. AMEN.

The Road On

THE CLOCK HANDS

WE have been thinking of life as measured by the clock of destiny. We have referred to the importance of watching the clock, not to estimate the nearness of quitting time, but to see whether we are keeping pace with it. This is all because the clock hand keeps moving. That is what a clock is for, to register change, emergence, ongoing. It does not indicate how rapidly we are approaching eternity. It indicates how rapidly eternity itself is passing us by. What added dignity, meaning, and importance it gives the living of our lives to realize this! In the motion of the great, tireless hands on the clock of destiny there is no quitting time.

This does not mean compulsion, but opportunity. Destiny does nothing to force you to take advantage of what it offers. It only holds its riches and wonders before you, and leaves you free to take anything of which you are worthy and which you are willing to dedicate and use. It does not matter to Destiny what you do or do not do with the high opportunity represented by the circling hands upon the dial, but it matters very much to you.

It means that before you the road leads on. Have you not driven into a range of mountains or over constantly ascending ground, and been amazed when you looked back at the length of winding, ribboned road over which you have come? Remembered pleasant spots were far behind you. You did not know exactly what was ahead, but you had to trust that it was good. There was no turning back on that narrow trail with the precipitous sides. The road led on. Somewhere ahead lay the objective you were seeking, and you must keep going.

That is the way it is with the road of the years, the road ticked off by the clock of destiny. You were young when you started, and when you are very old you will still be journeying on. You think poignantly of places far behind you. People call it longing for the good old days. Those days multiply as the present turns ever more rapidly into the past, and a new present is built out of a bit of the future, but your real duty is always to the present being ticked off by the clock, so you must press on, not knowing what is ahead, but knowing it is for you so it must be good. This is the time for which you were born. To this destiny you have come. This hour is right for you. Realize with Browning's Rabbi ben Ezra that the best is yet to be, that it is the last of life for which the first is made, that your times are in God's hand, that he has planned life as a whole, and we should trust and not be afraid.

Life always has the glory of going on. To stop and stay with the good old days would be stagnation, and stagnation would be death.

In the country when we met a neighbor on the road we would stop and chat a few moments, then one or the other would tap a horse gently with the lines and say, "Well, it's getting late and I have a long way to go." That is always true in the journey of the years. It is getting late, and we have a long way to go, so we must keep moving.

EMERGENCE

THAT is because this eternity we are living in is an ever-emerging thing. It is like a ribbon being steadily unwound from an infinite spool. We keep wondering when a sudden stop will announce the end. In the case of time and eternity we need not wonder. That moment will never come. Eternity, the measure for living, is forever emerging. There will be no end.

As the traveled road appears to us when we look back down the hill and are surprised to see how far we have come, so an age would look from some crest of duration. The road would lead past points in the growth of civilization, the rise and fall of nations, and historical epochs that mark milestones in the long march of man.

The road from creation would look longer still. One looking back down the slope would see stars that were old when our sun was yet unborn. Our earth would be a comparatively newcomer in that celestial company. All those ages were spent getting the stage set for you to come on and play your part. Do you not think that when the forces of the universe have so patiently built the scenery for your role, however brief it seems in the total scheme of things, it deserves the best you can give it?

Stop, and think, and realize how true that is. Influences were playing on your life today that were set in motion by people and events of so long ago that you could not comprehend the elapsed time. They never heard of you, but they were getting the world ready to be a proving ground for you. Your life would have been quite different but for them. They blazed the trails over which you go. They lighted the lamps that help you find your way. Eternity was an emerging thing for them too, a road like an ever-lengthening ribbon, and on that road you were one day to become a traveler.

What they of the past did for you you are doing for those of the future. The ribbon is still lengthening. The road still leads on. Eternity is still emerging. You do not know who or how many will be affected by the influences you are setting in motion, but someone will, many people will. You do not know just what to do to make these influences right for them, but you can do what good people have always done; you can do your best to release only forces that will be wholesome and good, and leave it to destiny to use them well in the building of the unseen future and those who will live it. That much is the least of your duty to the ongoing road, the ceaselessly emerging eternity which is the environment of your life and will be of all the lives that ever are.

One is likely always to be on the safe side if he will keep in mind the fact that he is living a life which is launched into eternity like a ship is launched into the sea to journey long to far, strange ports. Gauge the deep urge, the pursuing desire, the impulse of the moment, the cherished ambition, not by its momentary appearance but by its eternal significance. Is the act for which it calls something you want to send up the ages? Is it something of the final effect of which you need have no fear? If so, do it. If not, turn to some better purpose.

<p>WE MUST GROW</p>

THE clock keeps ticking. The road leads on. Eternity emerges with its endless current of change flowing out of nowhere. For us that means one thing very clearly. It means that we cannot stand still and let eternity run away and leave us. We have to go along with it, for better or worse as we determine. We cannot be static when everything else is powered and moving. We cannot be neutral among all these positive forces. The universe is expanding. The purposes of God are moving on. Life is growing. We must grow with it or our little worlds will be crushed by the impact, and we will be left standing destitute and alone in the midst of the wreckage.

The New Testament constantly reminds us that the kingdom of heaven is a growing thing. It has to be because life, of which it has to be made, is a growing thing. Life is going to grow into some form or other, and the kingdom plan is offered as the best form into which it can grow.

Why is that true? A complete answer would be manifold, but St. Luke has epitomized the pattern well. What he wrote about the growing life of Jesus in youth will at least give us a general pattern with which to begin. Jesus grew, he wrote, "in wisdom, and in stature, and in favor with God and man." That is all we know about the master life from the age of twelve to the age of thirty; but that is enough, for it shows at least four of the lines along which we ourselves need to proceed. They are the physical, the mental, the social, and the spiritual ones.

For some reason the great apostle mentions growth in mind before growth in body. He must have had some reason, intentional or unintentional. Could it have been because, being a physician, he knew well that the natural development of the physical powers goes on unconsciously during the normal period of growth, while growth in wisdom takes some conscious and directed effort, such as going to the temple to talk with the doctors of the law? Could it have been because the development of the body goes on better under the impulse of wisdom than when it is wholly left to nature? Could it have been that the flesh is a secondary consideration? At any rate, wisdom is mentioned first.

Next he mentions stature, or physical development. This too is important because a sound mind can function best only in a sound body, and in a world like this the flesh has to be the mechanism through which the spirit acts and expresses itself. Take care of your health. Develop as sound a body as you can and do what you can to keep it so. It will not help to overemphasize the physical side. It will be healthier if you keep it in its place, but that place is not first.

Luke puts favor with God and man together apparently because the two lines of development are closely related. The social man is at his best when actuated by the spiritual motive, and the spiritual man has to express his nature in the contacts and relationships of the social man.

Remember always that you cannot grow up in a day. Set your course. See your lines of development clearly. Then begin. Keep humble, for even after years of development you will have only well started. The only way you can reach a goal is a step at a time taken in the right direction.

BE ADEQUATE TO THE SITUATION

LET us now notice something that brings many promising lives to a halt. One must try always to be adequate to each new situation that confronts him, which is

constantly, for as soon as you have dealt with one situation another is there awaiting your attention. It is a little like batting curved balls in a baseball game. You never know what the next one is going to be. You cannot be sure even when it leaves the pitcher's hand, but only as it approaches you. You can always assume that it will probably be a surprise situation you have to meet.

All around you are people who are thinking of occasions in their lives when they failed, and possibly lost their places in line, because they were not adequate to some situation that arose. They missed the ball because they did not analyze the curve in time, or perhaps because they just didn't have the necessary skill.

Now they look back and see how much better the thing could have been done, how they could have resolved the situation, succeeded instead of failing, and gained ground instead of losing it. They did not take a wise attitude. They did not say the most effective thing. They did not make a disarming approach. They did not have the strength to master themselves. They failed to have the skill and ability to manage and master whatever was involved.

It would have won then, but afterward it was too late. Now they spend regretful moments thinking how much better they might have done - if. This is not wholly in vain, however, for though the great chance was lost every day in life still brings issues in which we can yet apply whatever understanding experience has taught us. In some way every day we can prove the value of whatever we have learned, even if we did learn it a little late. And who knows but that another great chance may even yet come our way?

As a matter of fact, the greatest and most important chance of all is open to all of us each and every day. No one is ever excluded from it, and it is never too late to win. It is the constant challenge we have to attain new levels of character, conduct, ability, skill in living and working with people, and success in following the guidance of God. There are values that will be with us when all the others have tarnished or passed away. On them you can apply all you have learned about being adequate to situations as they arise.

This day looks and feels different to each of us, but it is a challenge to all of us. It is our task right now. Each of us must meet and master it in the form it has taken and in the conditions in which it has occurred for him. See how well you can do it. The effort will repay you with the feeling that you have lived a day well and have really gained ground in your progress.

But that will not necessarily be all. You may so prove yourself that unexpected doors will yet open to you. It happens all the time; but if it doesn't happen you will at least have passed a threshold to happier and more effective living. It is not for nothing that the road leads on.

DIRECTIONS

IN traveling the road forward one needs a very clear idea of directions and how to follow them. It is his only hope of not going astray.

Of course directions are not absolute. They are ideas based on relationships to locations on the earth or fixed objects in space, that is objects like stars that appear fixed, though they are not actually so. Away from the earth direction is wholly relative. For instance, what seems "up" to us tonight is "down" to someone directly opposite us on the other side of the earth. There are points at which east meets west and north meets south.

One lost in the woods or on a desert may get to going in a circle and arrive back where he started because it is so hard to observe landmarks where things all look alike.

A party driving along the California coast became confused. Some thought they were headed north, others south. But one of the party who always watched for landmarks settled the difference and showed they were headed in the intended direction by calling attention to the fact that the coast mountains were still on the left. If they had unintentionally got turned around by curving roads, they would have been on the right. He had kept his sense of relationship.

We have to keep our directions in the progress of our lives. If we are haphazard about the roads we take, how they wind, and how they relate themselves to things, we may get going in any direction, even the opposite one from the way we want to go. If we go by chance or follow the dictates of fancy it will be surprising if we do not get lost.

One thing is to be assumed at the outset in the living of your life; namely that you want to go forward. You have chosen a definite goal, or at least you have made up your mind that you want to keep adjusted to eternity. In either case any desirable point you can possibly reach is on ahead.

We said in an earlier lesson that eternity is not merely a straight line, but that it has breadth, height, and depth. There is considerable latitude, then, for possible aimlessness. You may go forward by a straight course, saving time and energy, and arriving sooner, or you may wander afield a great deal, keeping a general forward course but wasting much time, distance, and effort.

Most of us who were brought up in the country were early taught how to keep a straight course in walking. We were shown how errant were our tracks when we merely assumed we were walking in a straight line and not testing it in any way. But if we fixed our eyes on an object or a point and followed our gaze, we could walk as straight a line as though it had been marked all the way and without even looking at the ground.

That is a good method to use in becoming what we want to be, accomplishing what we want to do, and bringing up where we want to arrive. Select your aim, keep your attention fixed on it, and walk a straight line toward it. The result will be a direct approach, which is the quickest and surest way. The important thing is

first to know that is the direction you want to go, for one can work just as hard going in the wrong direction as in the right one.

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THE GOAL

In shaping your life careful consideration should be given to the purposes you want to realize. A great deal of effort can be wasted retracing steps mistakenly made and then struggling forward again to some new objective, effort that could have been saved by making a wiser choice at the beginning. We are all likely to make some mistakes, but the fewer we can keep them the better off we are. Here are a few suggestions that may help:

First, choose a purpose with which you will still be satisfied when you are older, and time and experience have seasoned and reconstructed your sense of values. What one wants in maturity may be quite different from what he thought he wanted in youth. Try to focus your sights on something that will seem good to you on a permanent, not a temporary, basis.

Second, try to choose a life purpose that is and will continue to be worthy of you. It is tragically pathetic to see someone engaged in small and shallow things who was made for great and important ones. Shovel molehills if you must, but move mountains if you can.

Third, let your purpose in life be something that will make a difference for the better in the lives of others. Remember that you will be expending the vitality and energy of your life in this effort. If it is made for yourself alone it will restrict your soul. If it is harmful to others life will judge you and assess the full penalty. If it is shallow and unimportant your earthly existence will be a fleck of foam tossed by the rolling forces of the deep.

Fourth, choose a life purpose that is adapted to you and your situation. Let it be something that can be expressed in terms of your age, environment, and abilities. Some defeat their own desires and purposes by choosing objectives for which they are not prepared and to which they are not adapted. Others do so by failing to prepare and adapt themselves when they could if they would try.

Fifth, choose objectives within your scope of reasonable possibility. Do not let pessimism and self-depreciation hinder or defeat you. No matter what your situation may be, there is an important task for which you are needed and at which you are capable of succeeding. No matter where you stand, there is a way for you to that responsibility. You may have to clear and open it, but it is there. There is no suitable way for you to what someone else should be and do, but for what you should accomplish and make of your life there is.

Regardless of all conditions and restrictions, there is a road for you, and it leads on. Your life was never created to be a waiting, but a marching. Every day of it should thrill with interest and enthusiasm, for it is not only an adventure but a new adventure. Yours is the privilege of watching your panorama

of advancement and progress constantly unfold. Every morning brings you face to face with a new situation and a new prospect. Do not discount its wonder nor fail to take advantage of its invitation to keep marching. Every morning destiny has new marching orders for you, though they are always the same - Onward.

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THE SILENCE OF ETERNITY

We have now considered at length the great matter of living in terms of eternity. We have thought of it in terms of action. Now let us do so in terms of empowerment. We have thought of it in terms of speech. Now let us think of it in terms of silence, the waiting and watching of silence. Early in the series we had a lesson on sensing eternity. In closing the series let us re-emphasize that idea and be sure we realize that it is not found by searching nor begun by action, but that it takes root in meditation.

In one of his beautiful poems, often used as a hymn, John Greenleaf Whittier gives us a suggestion for creating the situation from which this experience may spring. One stanza of it runs:

"O Sabbath rest by Galilee,
O calm of hills above,
Where Jesus knelt to share with Thee
The silence of eternity,
Interpreted by love."

That leads us to this astounding proposition. When you are seeking a sense of eternity listen not for a voice but a silence. When all noise is hushed you are much more likely to hear that silence. Jesus made a point of seeking silence for the moment of communion. Enter into your closet and shut the door, he said. He found that closet of silence in many places - on quiet rooftops, on the slopes of Olivet, among the shadows of the Gethsemane olive trees, or anywhere under the quiet stars.

We are told in the Book of Kings how God once spoke to a prophet. First there was an earthquake, but God was not in it. Then there was a fire, but God was not in that. Then there was a still, small voice, and God was in its silence.

This should indicate how you may go about hearing the silence of eternity. It is a great exercise for the soul and a great preparation for usefulness in the world.

But do not overlook the importance of the last line of the Whittier stanza. That vast, throbbing, meaningful silence you hear is unfamiliar to the world. Others do not hear it as you do. You must interpret it to them, but how? You cannot translate it into speech of words or sounds. You cannot write it down for it did not come to you in words. There is only one way you can interpret the silence of eternity to others in a way that really does it justice and which any

human heart can understand. That is to interpret it as Whittier reminds us Jesus did - by love.

Love throbs in what the silence of eternity is always trying to say to you - the eternal quality of God expressed in God's own tongueless language. St. John caught the idea and wrote it down in one of his epistles - God is love.

That is a language all human spirits understand. Live it till it becomes the sign and symbol of your personality, and others will sense it in your life. It will melt its way through coldness, break down resistance, and open the way to the dawning of the kingdom, because it is living in terms of eternity at their highest level.

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In order to help in accordance with the above guidance, the use of the following Affirmation daily can help you:

I will make every effort to grow
spiritually, mentally and physically,
and be a blessing to others.

YOUR CLASS INSTRUCTOR.

