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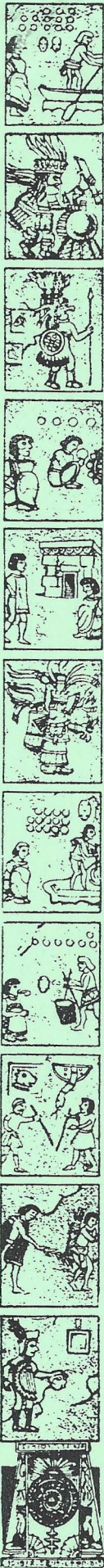
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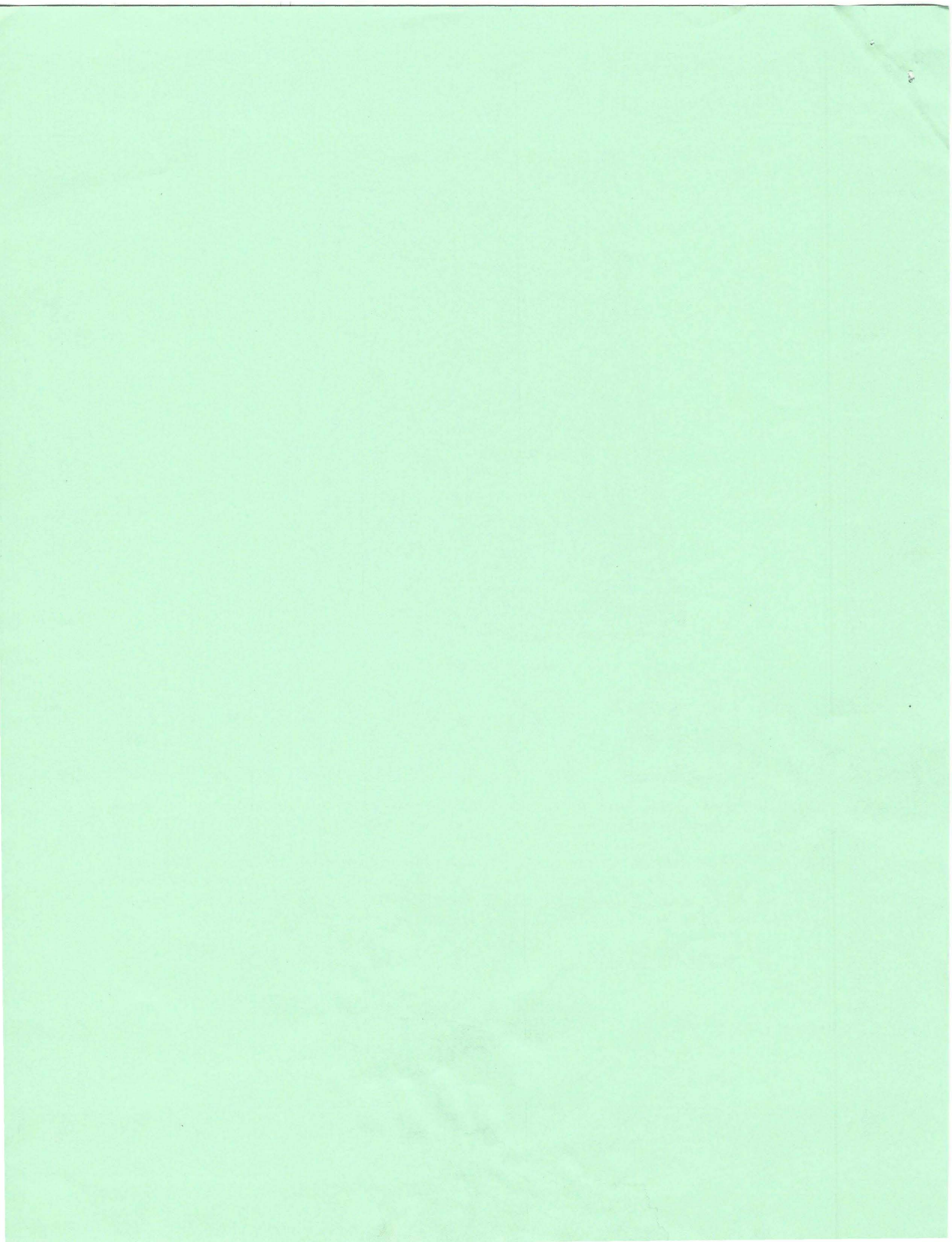
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# MEETING THE CRISES

## Mayan Revelation Number 213

A STORY WRITER

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TURNING CORNERS

### THE PROVEN REMEDY

Beloved Centurion:

You have, of course, encountered many crises in your life but, in addition, you have learned much about how to meet these crises when they arise. The purpose of The Mayan Order is to teach you how to meet obstacles and how to adjust your state of mind to cope calmly with any difficulty you may meet on life's highway. And these things, many of you have learned - some with a greater degree of success than others, it is true - but there are times of uncertainty for all; no one escapes them, for this is life. The important thing is to learn how to conquer these situations, rather than to permit them to defeat you. So it is for this reason that we bring you some strengthening truths in this lesson.

An example of this need follows. One of our members who is highly evolved, a Mayan and a Truth Student in the higher degrees, comes to me at regular intervals when various conditions arise in her life over which she feels she is not quite strong enough to have perfect control as to what her course of action should be. At some times she is worried and not quite adequate in her thinking to rise above these conditions. Although she knows how to lock out fear, it is simply that her courage and resistance at times reach a low ebb, which is only a human thing. After we talk a while, she always is back to her natural state of being, which is strong faith and more courage to meet crises.

So I know that while you, as a Companion in the higher degrees, already are familiar with the truths which we have set down in the following pages,

perhaps your courage and faith need to be bolstered. We all need higher moral courage, - courage that can look these crises, when they appear, in the face without fear. We need to have the kind of courage that can encounter loss and disappointment and frustration, and not be dismayed but rise up to meet any emergency with the assurance that we will be given the wisdom to make a proper decision.

As a matter of fact, courage sometimes multiplies the chances of success by creating for us opportunities. We may not recognize them as such at the moment, but later on we see that our adversities truly were opportunities.

Your greatest attribute in meeting crises and knowing what decision to make is your faith. Personally, I prefer firm religious faith to every other blessing. I do not know how anyone can travel through this life without strong faith. Without it, I could never have met the crises that have come from time to time in my own life. I has never failed me. And I know it can do the same for everyone. The experiences of life nearly always work toward the confirmation of faith.

When we have learned to put the crises of our lives into the hands of God for solution and to know that He can and will bring harmony out of discord in the way that is best for us, when we have that absolute conviction and belief, and know it, we have found the answer to meeting crises. It is as simple as that.

Keep this thought uppermost in your mind as you repeat the following prayer:

#### PRAYER

Heavenly Father, I do not know what situations I may meet, but I know I will need grace and courage to meet them. I ask Thee to provide them in abundance. Amen.

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#### A STORY WRITER

**H**ISTORY is a story writer. It records daily an account of the conflicts among populations and how they turn out. Life is a story writer. It is constantly setting down a record of how the human race deals with its problems and how it makes out with them. Each of us is a story writer. He is daily building the record of how one person meets his situations and whether he wins or loses. Each one of us is writing a story.

What is a story as we find it in literature? It is the account of a series of crises in action and conflict building toward a climax in which a hero or a cause wins or loses. Usually the right side wins because most people like to read and to live that kind of a story. Life likes that kind of a story too, and probably so does history, so we trust the story of the human race on earth will have a happy ending.

If you were studying story writing your teacher would probably show you a diagram consisting of an upward sloping line running diagonally across a page. At the bottom, which represents the beginning, would be a little level place. This is the introduction where there is no action. It has not yet begun. At the other end of the slope, representing the finish, is another little level place. It is the conclusion, where there is no action because it is over.

The long, sloping line is ascending action created by some kind of a conflict of interest or desire. Every story is a tale of conflict. Even the Bible is a story of conflict between good and evil. That is what makes the story and gives it readers.

At intervals along the upward sloping line will be notches where the line drops a little, then rises and goes on. There will be two or three or more of them, depending on the length of the story and complexity of the plot. In a novel there would be many of them. These represent crises in the action. There are places where the hero meets with new and threatening odds, but overcomes them and goes on. After he has passed all these danger points, he finally reaches the climax where his victory over all the crises builds into victory over the odds in the entire action.

Most of us never draw a line like that on a sheet of paper to diagram our action, but every one of us is carrying out such an action under the same conditions and with similarly determined results. Early life is an introduction in which there is no conflict. At the end is a conclusion which inactively rounds off all that has taken place. Between them the determining action and conflict lie.

In other words, life consists largely in meeting crises, overcoming them, and winning through to the climax of a happy ending. That is what this lesson is about. It looks to the winning of enough of them to make victory sure.

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### WHAT IS A CRISIS?

**W**HAT is one of these little drops in the line of action, and what does it look like when we meet it in real life? We have to deal with it there in very real terms and a very practical way. Let us try to make it plain enough that you will recognize it and understand its nature, so you will know how you must deal with it to attain the desired result.

It always helps to begin dealing with a thing by understanding its name, for the real meaning of many words is different from the popular idea of it. A crisis is a critical point, and the word comes from a Greek work meaning "to examine". To be critical is not necessarily to be adverse, but to be observant. Anything critical is a thing needing examination and action in accord with the facts found. A crisis is a situation or development where we need to think and consider with care what to do. Of course there can be a very great deal involved, and a crisis or critical point can be a very serious matter indeed. Take,

for instance, the crisis in a disease. It begins at the moment when the attacking germ organisms in the blood and the defending white cells have both assembled all the power they have and the one that is even a shade the stronger is going to win.

It is the same in military action, which is merely another kind of battle. There comes a critical moment when one side has exhausted its resources of strength and strategy, and the other can hold on long enough to claim the victory. A crisis in anything is the moment when something is going to turn unless it is adequately defended. A crisis, then, is the moment before the turning point comes or is prevented from coming. That is why it is the time for a careful examination into the question of what is the thing to do and how.

That is exactly what you find along the ascending line of the action of a story, and it is exactly what you meet from time to time in the living of your life, and the attaining of your objectives. You may have known people whose lives seemed to flow on like a peaceful river. You would have said they never had any crises to meet, but you would have been mistaken.

One cannot even move out of childhood, or have an illness, or lose a friend, or have a love affair, without a crisis; for these and many other things are critical by nature. Some people have a fortunate way of meeting crises, or are clever enough usually to win them, or are of a disposition not to be disturbed by them, or have long intervals between them, or have them close together early or late in life; but depend upon it, no one is immune. We all have our share.

That you too will have your share you have probably learned by experience a long while ago. The most important moment in life is that climax which is a summing up of our action and conflict, largely determined by how we have met our crises. To prepare the reader better to approach that climax by dealing successfully with his critical hours as they come is the purpose of this lesson. Our hope of safety is to be sufficient.

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### CRISES COME TO ALL

ONE of the first principles in meeting crises is not to get the idea that you have been singled out for more than your share. When one allows his thinking to get into that channel a morbid attitude of mind is at hand. It is on the direct road to self-pity.

No one is important enough that life should center all its onslaughts on him alone. That would be a very unnatural condition of things. If such a thing were true, or even possible, one might be justified in being proud to have attained such concentrated notice; but never mind, you haven't and you won't.

You are not the first person who ever had problems, and you won't be the last. Neither are you the only one now. Life is organized for us all to have

our share of them, which is right and proper, for we need them and should have them. Life would not be worth living if every road were smooth, every wind favorable, and every accomplishment easy.

Some may say that while this may be true, they get more than their fair share of critical situations. Probably you don't, but if you do it is an honor to you. It means that you are worth it and can take it. Was there someone in your class at school who was assigned all the hardest problems? It was because the teacher knew he was equal to them. And did he not take pride in having such confidence placed in him?

Perhaps you get critical situations because you are strong enough and resourceful enough to know how to handle them, so you have the benefit of the exercise. Like the leader in the class, meet them with a smile and dispose of them.

Others around you are doing that. You never hear of it because they do not talk about their problems. They solve them and forget them. If they honored them by attaching importance to them they would weaken themselves against the next time. As it is, they strengthen themselves for it. When one learns to so profit by his trials he is really making progress.

We are all in a great competition which we might call a crisis match. It is one of the events in life's great field meet. You well know the spirit of such competitions. The event could not be carried on with one player. It is the number of entries that makes it interesting. But victory here is not merely a matter of strength, reactions, and endurance. In the final analysis it is one of wisdom in finding the best way past every crisis. Before a great cloud of witnesses it is for you to have that wisdom.

The certainty of crisis is one of the things that make us kin. It is a tie that binds us into a great fellowship, a great brotherhood. It is something the human race is experiencing together. Never think of yourself as a lone player. No one in this world is that. If anyone were, for him the game would be over.

If now and then you miss, do not take it too hard. You are not alone in that either. One drop does not make a deluge nor one low mark a failing final grade. One defeat in a crisis may only prepare you for victory in the next one.

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#### SOME CRISES WE MEET

ONE usually knows when he meets a crisis, though he may call it by some other name. We will now enumerate not some of the crises we meet but some of the kinds of crisis we meet, and with which we must all know something of how to deal.

First let us mention what we may call the crisis of decision. This may seem easy, but it is not always as innocent as it looks. It is not a moment when

a decision may be made, but one when it must be made. Very great and far-reaching issues may turn on our decisions, sometimes on what seem our least important ones.

Next let us mention the crisis of disappointment. It is a condition that makes it all important what you do and which way you turn. This situation is like a live bomb. It is explosive, and how you handle it may be a matter of weal or woe. An explosive thing can seem so innocent till it receives the slightest wrong touch, and the power it holds in concentration can be so amazing.

You have expected things to turn out a certain way and had your plans made for that way. Now it has turned out another way, perhaps one you do not welcome, and new plans must be made. What shall they be, how shall you make them, and can you make them work well? That is your crisis.

Then we have the crisis of frustration. You have struggled to accomplish something till you feel you are at the end of your strength and ability. You have to adapt yourself to a seeming failure, though it may not really be that, and you are at your wit's end how to do so. Some of our frustrations are blessings in disguise, so one phase of meeting such a crisis is to be able to evaluate the possibilities and determine whether you gain or lose.

There is also the crisis of temptation. We have our weaknesses, and opportunities come to violate our consciences for some immediate desire. It may not be easy to meet this crisis adequately, and many fail to do so; but those who do meet it adequately are the real heroes of the world.

Every older heart and most younger ones know what the crisis of sorrow is. No one can describe it, but anyone can recognize it. Life is such that if one has a tender heart, sorrow is bound to come, and when it does it brings the temptation to gloom and despair. It has to be met with understanding of the nature of sorrow and of how to see light through darkness and find peace through suffering.

The one more type of crisis we will mention is the crisis of defeat. When we have put our all into a struggle and have been beaten we have to realize that even doom does not always mean defeat. Were people like Socrates and Jesus losers? The greatest names in history are those of people who have had the courage and devotion to walk through the seeming defeat which was their only road to victory.

These and other crises come to us, not to plague and conquer us, but to try us, strengthen us, and open for us the way to triumph. Do not be surprised when they come to you. They are a part of life. They are our examination days, our opportunities to make good marks on the final register.

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#### AT BAT

**M**EEETING a crisis successfully is a matter of avoiding a head-on collision that might have done damage. If you ever watched the man at bat in a



baseball game you have observed that he has two problems - that of hitting the ball squarely with his bat, and that of keeping from getting hit himself in case he fails to do so.

He stands there in his position and watches the pitcher fitting the ball into his fingers so it will not fly in a straight course but in a curved one. He knows how to place it for a number of these curves, any one of which will complicate the batter's problem.

Now the pitcher winds up, or swings his arm about to throw the ball. It comes flying toward the batter, but it may not arrive from the direction in which it looks as if it is going to. He has to know the signs, estimate the course of the ball, judge the possible curve, then knock the ball as far as possible without getting struck by it. Each ball thrown is a kind of crisis, something coming that must be met and avoided or stopped without being hurt by it.

We do not have to be ball players to have that experience. In fact, we all have it over and over again as we live our lives. Life hurls at us situations, developments, tricks, trials, temptations, questions, consequences, while we stand in the batter's position trying not only to keep from being hurt by them but also to score in the game if possible - and Life pitches more kinds of curves than any authority on baseball ever thought of.

This takes wisdom, judgment, watchfulness, assurance, and faith. It also takes practice, but we all get that in abundance without seeking it as we go along trying to live our lives. Every time you meet a crisis and dispose of it successfully you become a more experienced batter in the game of Life. Each time you do it you are more likely to do it well again. But have a care. Never take too much for granted. Keep learning. Life might think up a new curve any day.

The sky is full of billions of stars, presumably with planets coursing around them and comets and meteors wandering among them, and yet with hardly ever a collision. The Creator has set all this in such a perfection of balance and harmony of relationship that this is the case. You are the ruler of your own little personal universe, in which countless influences, forces, and interests are in constant inter-related motion. Your task is to manage these things so their balance will be sustained and they will not come into conflict with each other or with you. And you have to watch for curves.

To return to the figure of the batter, he is allowed so many balls not hit with his bat, and so many strikes that change nothing, but within certain limits he must strike the ball and knock it forward across the field. We have to do the same with the crises we meet. Too many misses or fruitless strikes lose the game and pull down the average. We must keep up our proportion of successes in meeting crises, in spite of curves.

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#### TURNING CORNERS

**W**HENEVER we have to turn a corner when walking on the street, we may encounter a joy, a responsibility, a danger, a difficulty, or nothing at

all. Most of the time it will be nothing in particular, but some of the time it will be something very significant. So we have to be watchful and prepared for any kind of a surprise or emergency. Crises are like that. They seldom come to meet us in the open. More often they wait around corners.

We cannot see around a corner, though we may have advance information, or knowledge that a certain situation is due, or a suspicion that it is likely; but often we have none of these things. We just have to be vigilant and prepared for quick thinking, correct decision, and effective action.

Some have more crises to meet than others, and some have them in different groupings or at different times in life. But we may rest assured that we will have them. One may not need an umbrella today, and there may be no sign when we will, but all the experience of the past indicates that the day of need for an umbrella will come, so he had better keep one available. It is so with the mental, spiritual, and physical preparation for meeting critical times and situations. They may be around the next corner or many corners away so, since we do not know which, we need to keep prepared for either.

These crises may vary widely. Some of them will be the same as come to others because they are common experiences of life. Others will be of a nature related to the kind of person to whom they come and the kind of life he lives. We each know for ourselves what that is, which should help us to keep prepared for the kind of crisis most likely to come to us.

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Three important things remain to be said about meeting crises. We will state two of them here and the third in the final section of the lesson:

The first is, to state it simply, if you lose, don't let it get you down. Hardly anyone is successful all the time; but those who have had their honest failures, while they may have been set back in some measure, have survived and recovered. At the same time those who yielded to self-pity and surrendered found that they were through. Those who met the situation with courage and resourcefulness retied the broken thread and went on with their weaving. Those who thought because of one misfortune they had lost their all, wove no more. It will pay you immediately to set your pattern of courage and trust.

The second thing is of an opposite nature. Suppose you do not fail, and suppose that success becomes a habit with you. Do not let it go to your head. See how many people became proud of themselves and ever went much further. Do you know of even one? Now think how many lives have proved the truth of what the Master said, that the meek will inherit the earth. Micah laid down three requirements for the good life, and one of them was humility.

Self-vanity is made of very insubstantial material, but unpretentious earnestness is quality goods. Now let us turn to the most important aid of all.

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## THE PROVEN REMEDY

**N**OW in closing we will give a slightly more extended glance to the last of those three final points we began mentioning a little while ago. We call it the proven remedy because it has been long and much tried and never found wanting.

In fact, it is a proven formula for all the problems of life, though now especially recommended for use in meeting crises. It is faith. Do not turn from it because it is old, for its potency has never worn out. It is adapted to all times, and the fact that it has endured is its best recommendation. Like truth, love, and right, it is eternal.

Do not turn from it either because you may have a notion that it may be for others but not for you. It is for all. Do not reject it either because you think you have tried it without result. Perhaps you did not try it rightly, or did not correctly gauge the results. At any rate, try it again. Give it a chance. Meet your crises in faith.

That means that you will meet them with confidence. Calmness is often the saving element in a time of crisis, and faith is always calm. It has given many a tried soul the strength to hold steady and not fall victim to weakness by becoming nervous and confused. Faith is always assured.

It means that you will meet your crises with courage, which is akin to confidence. In the conflicts of time, great and noted or small and unknown, it has been courage that won good and right causes and that won through in times of crisis. Faith gives us the courage to know that nothing can overcome right or the person who is right. Faith gives the courage of wisdom in making the right choice, taking the right road, then all that is left to do is to keep on that road.

It means that you will meet your crises with prayer, which is the secret of the releasing of faith and the channeling of power from infinite and unfailing sources.

Pray, but keep trying to learn better how to pray. The secret of prayer is not loudness, glibness, nor length. It is reaching out to find the wave-length of the Divine. Then you begin to be empowered with the wisdom and strength to manage well whatever your problem is, whether it be a crisis or some other difficult and threatening situation. We find little in this life that we do not seek for, and we have the authoritative assurance that if we seek we shall find.

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All these sources of power, which are the greatest of all possible helps, you have when you take up the shield of faith. With it you can walk into the face of anything, or go through any experience, perhaps the winner, but certainly not the loser.

Meet your crises in faith, and you will reap two great rewards. One is the knowledge that you will meet all your crises and all difficult conditions as well as it is possible to do and with the best results it is possible to obtain. The other is that you will keep building an ever stronger and more victorious faith to be ready to use when other needs arise.

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AFFIRMATION

Crises are inevitable in life. I accept them as tests of my strength and fitness for living, and meet them in faith, which is my victory.

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Blessings,

Your Instructor.