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THE MAYANS

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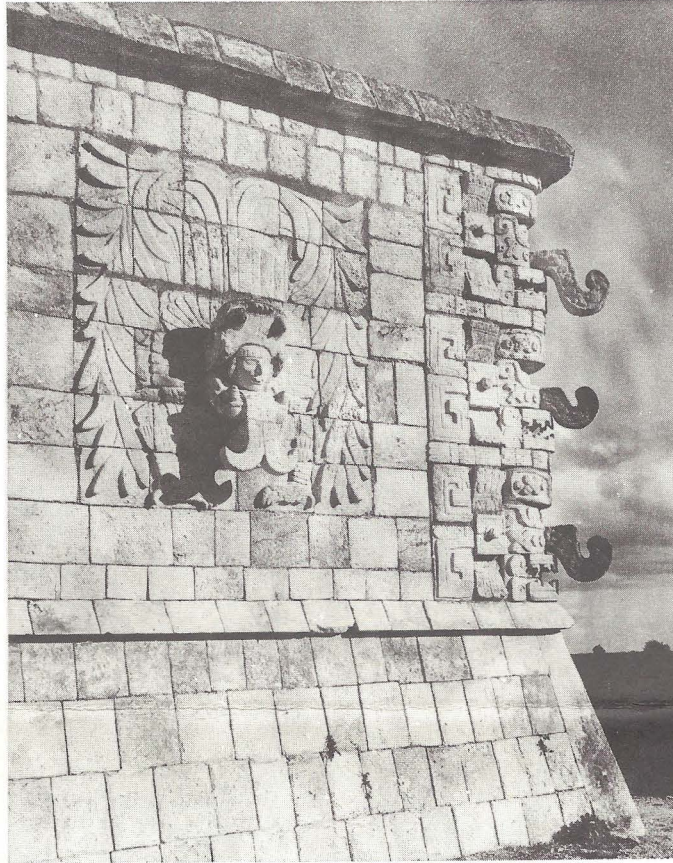
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What Are Your Plans?

Mayan Revelation Number 215

Where Do You Stand?

Taking Stock

What Should You Discard?

What Are Your Assets

Potential Assets

What Can You Add?

Looking Ahead

What Are Your Plans?

BELOVED CENTURION:

With this lesson, we embark upon a completely new series about which I am very enthusiastic. It has to do with plans for your life. We have called it "What Are Your Plans?"

This first lesson in the series is really a sort of preparation - getting ready for what is to follow in the other lessons - and your Instructor feels that the instructions to come will touch every department of your life.

For example, in it you will find an explanation of conditions that cause your health problems, and it will give you instructions that should be helpful beyond measure. And then, one of the lessons takes up your mental powers. Another discusses your friendships, and yet another, your habits. There are many things too numerous to mention here.

And I sincerely feel that you can look forward with great eagerness to what you will learn during this study course, and what it will mean to you from the standpoint of improvement of conditions about you regardless of what they may be. The material for your lessons is derived from the letters that you send me. Your letters tell me of your needs and those things that are keeping you from happy, successful living. So I know your problems and feel that I am qualified to say that this series is one of the most outstanding your Mayan Order has brought you.

After all, there is nothing in life except what we put there, and the more you put into the bank of life, the greater will be the interest it pays you. We are stewards of our lives. Life was given us for lofty duties - certainly not for selfishness and not to be dwindled away in useless dreams, but rather to improve ourselves and to be better able to serve not only ourselves but mankind. So it must be our earnest purpose to make the very most of what has been given us.

The first lesson we have called "Where Do You Stand?" and before you can take up the other subjects that are to follow in subsequent lessons, it is necessary that you make an inventory of your own life, which is explained in the pages to follow in this lesson. That is why I say this lesson is a preparation. So prepare now your heart and mind for the truths that have been set down in its pages by now joining us in the words of the prayer that follows:

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, I have paused to take inventory, to examine into what I am making and failing to make of my life. Help me to see it and what to do with it as thou seest. Amen.

§§§§ TAKING STOCK §§§§

THOSE in charge of any well conducted business, at not too infrequent intervals, take a careful look at its condition and outlook. An inventory is taken and an accounting made of its assets and liabilities. The volume of business and its trend, upward, downward, or at a level, are studied. Plans are made for any changes in policy needed, and for expansion, possible improvement, and whatever else seems indicated by existing conditions.

Living is a business, and therefore each and every one of us is the executive head of an enterprise. We are stewards or managers of our lives, responsible for what we get from them and for what they mean to others. The business of living calls for management as capable and systematic as that of occupying any other position or responsibility, or heading a commercial organization.

For any one of us the business of living is of the one-man or one-woman variety, though it involves and affects many others also. Each of us is the sole manager, though it is well to have as many capable advisers as possible, especially among those close to us. Even this, however, leaves the ultimate responsibility upon us, in this case upon you.

Instead of sitting at a long table, presiding annually, quarterly, or at other intervals, over a board of serious-faced directors, your executive sessions are held alone, at work, at rest, enroute, or wherever you may be; but it is important enough that you should appoint times frequently enough and long enough to sit down alone and apply your best abilities to the analysis of how you are getting along in the conduct of your life, to the making of an inventory and survey of your whole field of activity and responsibility. This will enable you to reexamine your assets, equipment, and program, and to plan for any needed improvement and possible expansion, so you will have a clear idea of your present situation and best possible objectives for the future.

You might call it a kind of program renovation, like improving a building or pointing up a sagging business enterprise. When you get through with it it should be all reconditioned and ready to go. Like one with an improved piece of machinery you should find more pleasure working with it, and like a new broom that sweeps clean it should give you better results.

This series of lessons is not a complete, detailed survey of all the possibilities; but it is sufficiently so to serve as a basis and starting point for a workable inventory and program for going forward with the business of living. It may not fit each case equally well, but since it deals with the essentials it can be adapted as needed. Whatever revision you make, the important thing is to see where you stand and determine where you want to go.

§§§§ WHAT ARE YOUR ASSETS? §§§§

YOU need to know at once what your assets are. They consist mostly of possessions, advantages, abilities, skills, qualities, knowledge, and attitudes.

Whatever financial resources you have can be made a part of your working capital. In secular business they would be of prime importance, and even in the business of living it helps to be able to finance what one feels he should do. The cost of most things you must have, however, is probably not great, unless you are in the business of philanthropy.

Most developments in the art of living cost little or no money, since their chief outlay is likely to be conscientious and well-directed effort. In this field anyone can manage the matter of working capital if he will. The important items are at the command of anyone who will seek and use them. This will be seen as we proceed to list some of the leading ones.

Health is one of them. It will be dealt with more fully in a later lesson; but let us say now that while it places anyone at a great advantage, no one who is limited in regard to it should ever consider himself already defeated. One in good physical condition can endure more exertion if he will; but by making persistent use of whatever physical ability plus whatever mental ability he has, a handicapped person may be able to do more with his life than a healthy one who does not do his best.

Your personal qualities are, or can be, made indispensable and priceless assets. The sum and combination of yours are different from those of anyone else, for they are yours and you are different. Examine them and list them in your inventory. Know what they are, so you can make some effort to cultivate and improve the good ones you have and to add other important ones you have not inherited or acquired. Be skillful in the use of them, both singly and in combination.

Your abilities may be not only equipment for what you have done and are doing with your life, but they may also be equipment for doing things you have never done and had no idea you could do, not having tried. Some people discover important abilities late, some too late, and some never.

A sharpened, developed, cultivated ability is a skill. It is a grand fact that while the possibilities for improving material tools is limited, those for improving human skills are boundless. At the time when we think we have reached their limits, the facts may be that we are just getting started.

Two special assets make all this possible. One is effort, which is completely within our control; and one is knowledge, which is largely so. There are many uncultivated minds, but there are few that could not have been cultivated and which could not take a great deal of cultivation even yet. It is never too late. You could do wonders with a little help, and even by your own efforts. The easiest roads there are lead on, or up, or both.

Your assets for living are countless, priceless, and free. Use them.

***** WHAT CAN YOU ADD? *****

LET us say you have now written down a list of your essential assets for the business of living. This you should do, first to see how it looks and second so you can check it visually for completeness or incompleteness. Always remember that there is nothing unchangeable about it. Assuming that it has been

reasonably adequate for your life as you have been living it, the question at this inventory time is whether it is adequate for your life as you could be living and wish now to begin to live it.

Look the list over and squarely face the question whether anything is not there that could and should be there. Are there territories of worth, character, ability, and achievement you have not moved into because you did not heretofore feel ready, but that you now feel able to enter? Consider them now and seek a way to begin annexing them to your personal life.

Is there something you would like to know but have not looked into as yet? - there are all kinds of opportunities to do such things today, and it is never too late. Is there some skill you would like to develop, but never have? Why not now stop wishing and begin to do it? Would you like to widen your circle of worthwhile acquaintances? Perhaps this is the time to undertake it. Are there things in your life you would like to correct or improve? Perhaps this is the time to let the will begin to spark the deed and get it under way.

It is well from time to time to consider what valuable things you could add to your way of living. The trouble is that we so often do so, and then get busy with other matters and forget them. Now with your inventory before you, you can scan the areas of your interests and endeavors in a systematic and businesslike way, decide what should and can be added now, and make definite plans to strengthen your program of living at that point.

Do not be content merely to say to yourself that you will do something about strengthening this or that weak place in your program, or filling this or that empty spot. What will that something be, and how will you go about it? Be as orderly about this as good business management would be about adding some missing link to the chain of its success. Put down the name of the proposed project and under it list your plans for going about it as far as you have yet thought them out. Clarify, reshape, and add to it, in the light of new facts you learn or new thoughts that occur to you. When you have even a preliminary program laid out, begin work on it. Revise and add as you go along, but get started.

When your mind breaks through and your will becomes stimulated by even one important addition to your list of interests, the illumination may start a flood of them pouring in upon you. Decide on one or two for immediate realization, then make notes on the rest for future use when your mind is not so fertile, for these inspirations are from subconscious sources and easily and quickly forgotten unless captured on paper at once.

~~~~~ WHAT SHOULD YOU DISCARD? ~~~~~

**P**OSSIBLY you feel that you are already working along as many lines as is wise or even possible. That may be true, though we are usually capable of more than we think we are. If the prospect looks forbidding, what can you do about taking on more?

When planning new items a merchant has also to plan for shelf and storage space as well as equipment and ability to handle them. He can usually solve the



problem by discarding one or more lines it is wise to discontinue. Anything that is a drug on the market or otherwise undesirable to handle should be discarded anyway, and it makes room for other stock.

Probably that is a way you can find room for additional interests in your plan of living, and at the same time strengthen a weak point in your program. You will be all the better off by dropping what does not justify by its value and results the time and effort it takes.

Look over your list of interests with a practical eye. What is there that is of negative or neutral value and you are sure cannot be improved, or if it can be improved is not worth the effort? What items are you working on that are not paying off in terms of satisfaction and richness of life? Are they hopeless? If they are, let them go and use the shelf room for something better. Do not stand on ceremony, nor agitate your mind with regrets. These things may be preventing you from doing well with others that would really be worthwhile. Weak spots lead to breakdowns, and chains are only as strong as their weakest links.

There is only one exception. Never give up on anything that involves the hope and worth of a human being. One reason is that here you are dealing with values too great to make mistakes with. Another is that you never know how much hope there is in such a situation nor what amazing and gratifying success may come when you least expect it. In this lesson we are talking about activities, accomplishments, and interests, not people.

In the practical business of living our lives, however, we must guard against waste time, energy, and ability. Do not wear yourself out carrying around excess baggage. Be sure it is excess baggage before you put it down, but when you are sure, do not hesitate. If it adds nothing to the value of living it is worthless; if its effect is actually negative, it is worse than worthless.

During Mr. Edison's lifetime a visitor at the red brick shops at West Orange, New Jersey, congratulated him on his accomplishing so much without failure. The great inventor led him to a back window through which he could see a vast heap of what looked like common junk. That, Mr. Edison said, was his accumulated failures. If an idea was not practicable, or if a machine would not work, it went into the discard. He could not afford to bother with it further.

We all have, or should have, our failure heaps. Not to have them would have stood in the way of much that did not fail. They made room in our lives for something that had value, something that would really work, something that would be helpful to others and ourselves.

\*\*\*\* POTENTIAL ASSETS \*\*\*\*

**W**E have been considering the assets you actually have for conducting the most important business there is, - that of living. We have taken account of two kinds - those that are producing happiness and good, and those that are producing nothing of value - and we have suggested adding to the one and getting rid of the other. But we have been thinking of them rather conditionally, because we must remember that there is a potential side as well as an actual one.



That is, each is capable of changing, usually becoming more actively what it is now.

There are always three things to notice about anything: -

what it is  
what it might have been  
what it can and may become

The first is important for now. The second is of little real importance. The third is extremely important. We have to consider it in order to do full justice to the first. Always consider whether the true values you have can be increased, and whether the doubtful ones can be redeemed.

Look at your list of the qualities, advantages, and values in your life. These are your actual assets, but are they or any of them dormant or active and productive? If they are productive, are they as much so as they should be and can be? How can you go about making them so? These are practical questions to be considered in a going business, for they deal with ways to keep it so. Since a growing thing constantly becomes larger, it takes a greater amount of growth all the time to maintain the same rate. In living as well as any other enterprise, that is the way you keep able to declare regular dividends of happiness to yourself, extend your usefulness to others, and put more back into the business to strengthen and enlarge it.

Never stop considering how you can improve and enlarge the true values you have in your life and how you can use your abilities to improve and increase them. Work at your way of living as a farmer enriches and cultivates his soil, building up its strength for better and better harvests.

Look again over the list of interests that seem of doubtful or negative value from the viewpoint of potentiality, before you discard them. Consider whether any of them can be made worth keeping. Perhaps not enough effort was made to cultivate them, or something needlessly went wrong. Would more and better attention make them worthwhile even yet? Would the effort be effective enough to make it worthwhile? Are there points at which the gain would justify it? Are they worth saving, even if you can save them? Consider the matter from this viewpoint so whatever action you take will be a wise and advantageous one.

You must take final action, of course, but you can do so better after you have considered these questions. You can then make the decision that will strengthen your position, and thus enrich your life. You will have proved yourself a good business person in the supremely important business of living.

Creative work is always done with the potentialities in view. The work of any day or hour is not final; it is always a step toward what is possible. That is the way to live creatively - live and work with an eye on the possibilities.



LOOKING AHEAD

PEOPLE are always commending the forward look. They tend to approve or disapprove one on the basis of whether they consider him forward looking. We even do that with ourselves. The backward look has a certain value. It keeps us reminded of what is or is not worth continuing or repeating. It reviews the times and labors that have given us what we have. But there its practical value ends. From that point on the important part of the road is the one ahead.

There are different ways of looking ahead too, but only one is the best. There are people who look only at the immediate future, and see nothing but the challenge of the tomorrow just ahead. We need to keep our eyes on tomorrow to be sure, but tomorrow may not be at all indicative of the day after, or the day after that. A program that reaches into the immediate future only is not sufficiently developed to gauge anything. Plans for living need to reach as far as possible.

On the other hand there are people who overlook the exacting demands of the immediate future by looking only past it, perhaps farther into the remote future than they will ever actually reach. The nearer future helps us to deal with that farther future which will become the nearer one, so the total view is best.

Henry Churchill King once advised that we need to "see life steadily and see it whole". That is exactly what we need to do in making and carrying out our plans for the continuing business of living. The good workman or the good business person makes plans tonight what to do tomorrow and how to do it. He also plans the work of tomorrow in its possible relation to all that is to come after it.

What this all adds up to is: think and plan ahead and have the total task in mind, but concentrate on the next thing. Do this in your choice of values, then do it in the use you make of the ones you choose and develop. Have an idea where you are going later on, but remember that your chances of ever getting there depend on the step you are taking now. Plan how the story of your life is going to come out, but give everything you have to the writing of the present page. Have plans for the future, but give the work of the future a good foundation in the quality of the work of today.

This is no suggestion that you burden yourself and take the pleasure out of life. It is exactly the opposite. Did you ever see an idler or a slipshod worker who was happy? On the other hand, did you ever see an expert or anyone trying to become an expert in the doing of anything who was not enjoying every day of his life, and continuing to do so in spite of the time and labor?

To have something worth the doing and to do it well is one of the best recipes for enjoyment, and its fruitage is a happiness that brings no regret. It is your sure reward for choosing the best things in life you can have and doing the best with them you can. It does not end with the doing and is not consumed with the using. It lines the road ahead with flowers that reach as far as the eye can see. It is not the road away from happiness, but to it.



\*\*\*\*\* WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS? \*\*\*\*\*

**T**HIS series of lessons is designed to stimulate your answer to the question asked in the general title and to set in motion a systematic effort to make your answer one from which you will reap the profits of happiness and power. When you have considered the various phases of the interests covered in the lessons as a whole and have worked out, and preferably written down, your plans for action under each heading, you will have a tangible and intelligible program for living and one which you can really follow, by which you can check your efforts and the progress made, and which you can expand and improve for still more advanced life interests as you go along. This has very great possibilities, but of course you alone can develop them into actualities.

This is a plan for being systematic about the business of living. If you have not been so in the past you will be amazed to find how much improvement it can bring about. Many people of integrity and good intentions are not making as much of their lives as they could, because they depend on good intentions, irregular action, and unrelated effort. They do not apply to the work of living the intelligence they apply to other things. To change that may be the promising door of opportunity waiting to yield to your touch right now.

Do not let yourself be hindered by the notion that life is something to live and not to be orderly about, and that making it businesslike would take the joy out of it. Does being systematic take the joy out of business, or art, or even of pleasure itself? Does its assurance of success not rather put happiness into it? Being orderly about life gives you a greater opportunity to live your life in such a way as to find happiness and satisfaction in it. Why should it be otherwise?

The next six lessons in this series will suggest as many general areas of life which can be laid out with the best plans you can make for each. What can be said here about these six areas of living cannot cover any one of them in complete detail. That will be for you to carry forward as you come to it. But this outline does cover in a general way the scope of living. It is like an outline map which leaves you to fill in the finer details. That is what gives you a chance to make it a constantly growing life program. Unless plenty remained for you to build in as you proceed it would not be a plan for progress at all.

Begin, then, with this or whatever adaptation of it your situation and need may seem to call for, then see that it develops as you discover further needs and possibilities. Finding and adding these will be interesting as well as profitable for you. The important thing is to aim for a better record between now and the next inventory and accounting time and a still better one during each such interval in the future.

We proceed, then, to sketch the broad outlines of a course of progress in what we will call the Departments of Possessions, Health, Mind, Friendship, Habits, and Idealisms, closing with a discussion of keeping one's books balanced between the outgo and the income of living.

AFFIRMATION

I undertake to seek and find the most effective way to make my life count for the most and the best.

Blessings,  
Your Instructor.



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