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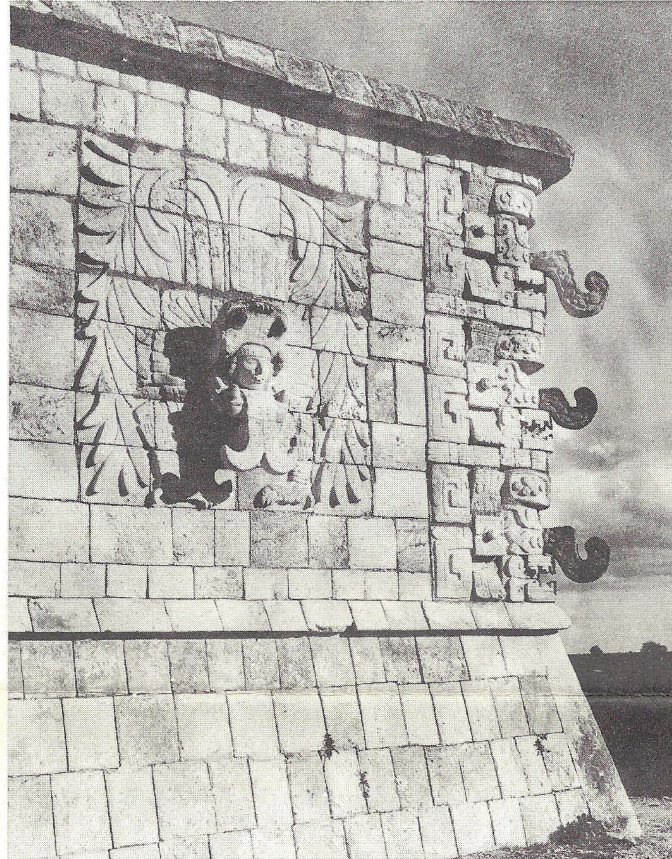
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## What Are Your Plans?

*Mayan Revelation Number 220*

### *Division of Ideals*

*Idealism*

*Think*

*Integrity*

*Don't Be Ashamed To Dream*

*Optimism*

*The Other Fellow*

*The Roll of Faith*

## **B**ELOVED CENTURION:

Our next subject in your life inventory has to do with ideals. It is one of your Instructor's favorite subjects for, in my opinion, your ideals are YOU - they are the real You.

Nearly all men and women at some time in their lives have in mind the ideals of what they should be and what they would like to be, and what they are not. There are few people who are so satisfied with themselves that they never wish to be any wiser or any better or live lives more worthwhile; however, the majority of people do have ideals - some higher than others.

You have heard people refer to someone with a little scorn, saying that he or she is an "idealist", just a "dreamer". But this is not true. Of dreams great things are made. Never scoff at an idealist or dreamer. Practically every worthwhile thing that has ever been done has been accomplished through an idealist, - someone who had a dream and made it a reality.

The best and finest lives are those that set forth high ideals, and you have heard me say before in past years that the finest and the highest ideal that anyone can have is Jesus of Nazareth.

Keep your head in the clouds and never permit your ideals to descend from the highest peaks. What a wonderful world this would be if all followed this practice, if all countries lived in this idealistic manner - and you can do your part.

All Mayans everywhere can contribute in creating something worthwhile and noble, whether it is in shaping their own lives or molding the lives of those about them, changing the thoughts of others whose ideals are not as lofty or, perhaps, non-existent - no ideals at all.

Because I believe the subject matter to follow is so rich in the message it has to impart to you, we will proceed without delay after first repeating the words of this prayer:

### PRAYER

Heavenly Father, I now stand looking up at the levels of higher living. Thou hast made me to be like Thyself. Help me always to escape the dust and seek the sky. Amen.

### \*\*\* IDEALISM \*\*\*

**B**USINESS is usually thought of as being materialistic, but it too needs the upward look. Even a secular business needs a liberal mixture of idealism, and many people engaged in it have that mixture blessing their lives and

helping them to better achievements every day. It is happier, and it pays. But we are thinking now of the entire business of living, to which it is necessary.

One who deals with material things and meets material necessities needs idealism more than one who does not. He needs it to keep the material interests in control. He must have ideas if he is to succeed, and if those ideas have goodness, honor, and spiritual worth in them, that is idealism. It does not eliminate nor even belittle the material side of life and endeavor. It honors and glorifies it, and it holds it up out of the mire.

Idealism provides the upward look, the upward thought, and the upward reach, which distinguish man from the animal. The animal is built to keep its eye on the dust, but man is built to keep his eye on the stars. Therefore he has managed to make life mean more to him than the life of the animal means to it. He sees more that is challenging in Nature, events, and his own reflections. He is a child of the sky. He has a sense of the infinite, the eternal, and the universal. One needs this in his business, whatever his business is. If he is in the right business it will help him to improve it. If he is in the wrong business it will challenge him to set it right or change it for a better one.

Ideals, which are the power of ideas, are not just to have and to hold, but to heed and to realize. They are patterns, and therefore of value only when they are used to make something like themselves. Idealism is a nourishment for the spirit, and therefore of value only when it is consumed and assimilated. Idealism is a guiding gleam, and therefore of value only when it is followed. It will not remain unchanged when it lies unused. It will wither.

Of course idealism is not just the following of any ideas. It implies good ones, ideas that do not sweep the ground, ideas that look beyond expedience and self-interest, and especially ideas that are above the trammels of the flesh. One needs not worry about the flesh. It will take care of its own interests, and more than likely overdo it. It is the upward reach of the mind and the soul that is most usually and most easily neglected. The idealist keeps his feet on the ground, but he keeps his head and heart above it.

Idealism tends toward perfection. It has a lift in it. Its word is Excelcior, which means "Higher". The materialist may hold the same level, but he is usually slipping backward and downward. Only the idealist is always improving, always going on, always reaching for something better. Idealism makes not just a life, but a super-life.

\*\*\* INTEGRITY \*\*\*

**I**DEALISM takes too many forms and has too many phases to permit us to consider them all, but a few of the most important will now be mentioned. The first we shall name is Integrity. It can be assumed that the reader of this lesson realizes the necessity for this in the common business of living. Therefore these few words of reminder and emphasis should be sufficient.

Having integrity is making one's life an integer, and an integer is a combination of values bound together in one, a number of values that hold together and cannot be disunited and scattered. That is why the word is used to indicate honor and dependability in living, something belonging to a person who keeps his word and does his duty. Of course it belongs to idealism, for without integrity a life's content and endeavor would fall apart. The house built on a rock had integrity. The one built on shifting sand did not.

Integrity is unity, multiple elements compounded in one, multiple powers working together as one, an engine of varied parts all helping each other to help the entire combination arrive at the same desired destination. In the closing years of his life Doctor Einstein declared the whole multiple and varied universe to be a vast unity. So must be any enterprise, including that of living.

Relate each phase of your living to all the others. Then relate them all in a central unity. Let that unity be something that works to achieve things worth doing, and something on which others can depend. Let this intricate engine move in its course, and let its objective be something at which it is good to arrive, something it is good to achieve. Away with the wavering mind, the unstable will, the weak sense of honor. They do not belong to integrity. I once knew a man of wealth who loaned money in small and large amounts on the simple verbal promise to repay it, but only to people of integrity. He never suffered a loss.

As one weak place in a bridge endangers the whole structure, one ununified element in a life can endanger the whole unity and result in disaster. But each strong element added multiplies the strength and safety of the whole structure. Integrity is unity, and its value depends on what it is that is unified.

Integrity is a prime asset in a business or a life because so much else depends on it. It is what holds the machine together, so nothing can be depended on to continue to function without it. Its value surpasses that of money, influence, or luck. It is the unseen girder that holds a building together, the submerged pier that makes a bridge a bridge, the unity of purpose that makes all the elements of life one.

Make your motives trustworthy, your actions honorable, your word dependable, and keep them all related in the one purpose of living a life the world can count on, and that you yourself can count on to accomplish the right things and arrive at the right place.

#### \*\*\* OPTIMISM \*\*\*

**A** true idealist is an optimist because he knows that God is kind and life is good. There would be no room for idealism in the opposite viewpoint because it is opposite to faith, and faith is one of idealism's chief ingredients. Being an optimist, the idealist is saved all the worry and fear so costly to others who have not seen the true nature of life. Your inventory should always show a full supply of the best obtainable brand of optimism in stock. The optimist is not foolish. He is not just taking an inadequate view of situations. It is the

pessimist who does that. The optimist is not just seeing something that isn't there. He is seeing something others do not see and taking into account aspects of situations others do not realize. He knows it is a human world, but he also knows it has a divine Ruler. He knows the road has rough places in it, but he also knows that if it is the right road he will reach the goal, and that good is the goal, often even of ill.

This gives the optimist something to live and work for because it removes the causes of discouragement. He knows he will not be defrauded of his rights or cheated of his pay. This does happen to the pessimist because his very unfaith makes negative even the forces of providence so far as he is concerned. That is why he is so sure he is right, not knowing that it is he himself who sours the sweetness of life and work. God lays good at his very fingertips, but he refuses to take it because it would wreck his philosophy.

The pessimist has something wrong with his makeup. He does not see things clearly. He is deluded, or on the wrong road, or confused in his thinking and attitudes. He may have found a rough place in the road somewhere and refused to go on, not knowing that the roughest roads sometimes lead to the fairest places and the greenest valleys sometimes lie on the other sides of the steepest hills. The difference between optimism and pessimism is not always in the road but in where it leads. The wrong road may look very promising, yet prove blind or worse.

Optimism is positive and constructive, while pessimism is negative and destructive. The choice should not be hard to make. It is the choice between a good harvest and a failure, between gain and loss, between progress and frustration. Pessimism is a fallow field, a barren tree, a road to nowhere. Only the positive has anything at all in it. Let us accept the shadows that are real and move bravely through them to sunshine, but let us not manufacture any shadows just for the sake of the shade.

Stop and consider. Did you ever know a pessimist to achieve anything but failure, to win anything but despair, or get anywhere but to the bottom of the hill? On the other hand, did you ever know an optimist who did not get on well with the life with which he took care to keep on good terms? Did you ever know one to fail, or to be long unhappy, or to come to hopeless grief?

Since an idealist is one who looks up, keep your gaze centered much on that bright star of optimism shining in your sky. See if its bright rays do not signal something like, "Life is good because God is good. Accept its goodness."

\*\*\* THINK \*\*\*

ONE of the mysteries about the human race is that there is so much dread of mental exercise. The general use of the human brain is only fractional. A few let their minds lead them to heights of understanding and achievement. A larger number think their way through to a fair grade of knowledge and usefulness. But countless numbers are bored with thinking because they never think their way through to anything very rewarding. What they lose and cause the world to lose

is incalculable. And all the time they had the means of gaining it!

Be different from them. Reach great heights of thought power if you can, or average ones if they are more suited to you. Never mind about the height. Just use your mind as well as you can. In other words, keep trying. Ideals are select and active ideas. You can have them only by producing the material for them. They are the special possessions of thoughtful people. They never force themselves on anyone. They may be had by anyone who will pierce the fog mentally till they reveal themselves.

Know yourself. Many know themselves least well of all people. What is your situation? What are your possibilities and capabilities? Are you on the right road? What are your tools and materials for building a better life? Think about these things. That is the way to make an inventory of yourself, of what your ideals are, what they should be, and what you can do about realizing them. Life will bring your ideals to reality if you think them out till they are clear enough to follow and if they are patterns of anything worthwhile.

Do not stop with the inventory. Idealism is practical too. When you get the general idea do something about it. Particularize it. Define it. Make plans for it. Think it into form, and then start building by the pattern. You will be amazed to find how many and what helpful forces will come to your aid in this construction work. You will know to a certainty before you are through that God really does help those who help themselves.

As we have indicated in a former lesson, knowledge sees the outside of a thing, but real thought penetrates it with insight and understanding. Only at that point can you see an ideal clearly and know what to do with it and about it. It is like gazing steadily into a fog till you see a ship, or a mountain, or a shore line that was entirely invisible at first. Concentration has great penetrating power. That is why meditation is so valuable in shaping life.

Observe the people you know who have done most with the art of living. Try to see what it was about them that enabled them to do so. That will suggest that much of a working program. Read and think about the words of the wise on the subject. Consider their definitions of the good life. Some of them reach deep and far. Try things out. Prove all things and hold fast to what is good. Use your mind in conducting your laboratory and testing department. It will be good for your mind, as well as for yourself.

\*\*\* DON'T BE ASHAMED TO DREAM \*\*\*

**P**AY no attention to those who sneer at dreamers. Be one frankly and happily. History has been made by them. Don't disregard your daydreams. Welcome them and heed them. They are patterns for action. They are your new life if you make them come true. It has been said that the dreamer lives forever while the thinker dies in a day. We could substitute the word doer for the word thinker and it would still be true. It is certainly difficult and probably impossible to be an idealist without being something of a dreamer.

The mind is a probe and a microscope for realities at hand, but it is also an aerial and telescope for things far and high, including possibilities that can and are intended to become realities. Probe deeply, for that is probably a help toward reaching high. Realities sometimes suggest possibilities which are intended to become more realities. As we have said, the universe is integrated. And everything is part of its unity. One thing is linked to another, and reality and possibility react on each other. This is not a reason against, but for being a dreamer.

All the great achievements began as either thoughts or dreams, and between thoughts and dreams there is little if any difference. Our country itself began as an idea, and therefore part of an idealism. So have our great reforms, our important inventions, our beautiful works of art, our cultural developments. They all started in someone's mind. They are dreams that have come true, and without dreamers they would not have been. In the more limited worlds of each of our lives the same holds true.

Compare the achievements of those who sneer at dreams and reject them and those who welcome them and try to realize them in action and reality. The first are not only failures but they are robbers, stealing from the world and the ages what they might have been and might have done. The second are the builders of progress and the benefactors of mankind, sharing themselves in the good they create and make possible.

Why is it that youth is a time of dreams and maturity a time of endeavor and realization? It is because youth is being shown what later endeavor can do. It is created sensitive to impressions and challenges, and strong and adaptable to do something about them. It can see gleams and it has the courage to follow them. It is venturesome and unafraid. There is nothing it cannot do, because there is nothing it will not undertake. When youth passes one has the rest of his life to weave the patterns his youth has drawn for him.

"All are architects of fate", declares one of Longfellow's poems. Think what a wonderful thing it is that no one needs to move in the dark, for Life draws the preliminary sketches for each of us. All we have to do is to examine them carefully, then build according to the plans and specifications.

We sometimes fail with our dreams because we talk too much about them instead of going ahead and making them come true. Telling others about our plans weakens us. We do not carry them out in action because we have already worn out the patterns. No one else needs to know, and probably does not wish to. Do it, then it will speak for itself.

\*\*\* THE OTHER FELLOW \*\*\*

**ONE** of the most important things about an idealist is the fact that he knows life involves obligation, and that no one lives richly unless he recognizes that every person owes a duty to others as well as to himself. What is obligation? It comes from two words meaning "to tie to". It is close kin to duty. It means to



owe a duty to someone, to have a sense of oughtness, to be tied up to others and recognize that they deserve something from us. We are not right till we are bound to something, and not wholly free from anything. Strangely enough, this makes us freer than we were before. It sets us free from the consequences of egotism and selfishness, and makes living cooperative and mutually helpful.

Obligation is one of the laws of right and justice. We profit by recognizing duty to both friend and enemy, to both those who appreciate and return it and those who do not. This carries out the idea of mutual helpfulness and collective good. The bread we cast on the waters comes back to us. If six people undertake to do every good thing they can for each other, each one has five people working for him, which is give more than if he merely works for himself. That is the value of considering others, and the more of them we consider, the more helpers we have. That is how much the term "the other fellow" really means.

Think often of the old formula that did so much to make the Hebrews so great among ancient nations and sent their influences up across the centuries to us - "Thou shalt love the lord, thy God, and thy neighbor as thyself." That is the ideal collective attitude. Do we carry it out? Many do, and every one counts. If you are, or become one of them, there will be one more, and that is that much. Great structures are built of small bricks, and each one adds to the strength of each and all of the others.

Think often also of the Golden Rule - Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. That is the Great Commandment, stated above, carried into concrete application. Do we do it? Many do. Each who adds himself to the number makes one more. We keep wondering what will bring the Kingdom of Heaven on earth. Here it is. A great many people will have to be working at it? Of course, but each is one more. How many can you get started on it by showing them its value in your own life?

The word right really means straight, but in the Bible it is interchangeable with the word justice, and justice means "right dealing". You see it too has collective implications. Nothing less than right toward all and among all is right at all. A true ideal has to take others into consideration. If it does not, it is only a whitewashed form of selfishness.

Social idealism might be called collective integrity. It says, "Are you going my way? Good, let us go together, so each can help the other to journey safely and well." The idea is worth as much to you as it is to the other fellow.

### \*\*\* THE ROLE OF FAITH \*\*\*

**W**HEN we reach the highest levels of thought, insight, reason, wisdom, and idealism, and come to the top step, that step is faith, or more broadly speaking, religion. That is the point at which we reach up and out beyond ourselves and make connection with the universal and divine and experience the miracle of finding their powers lent us for any good and necessary purpose. It is a solemn place to stand, for it is holy ground. It is the point of personal meeting with

the Father of our souls and join Him in accomplishing His will and ours, for they become one.

Faith has a wider reach than any of the other things we have mentioned. It takes them all, unites them, and adds its power and wonder to them. That power is knowledge of and confidence in the supreme powers of the universe. Our lesser idealistic assets suggest and approach these powers, but faith shows them to be real and makes them available. Aspiration so often stops short of faith because it fails to pray believingly; but faith takes aspiration and completes it by crystallizing it into reality.

Success in anything, including living in general, requires faith. To try to get along without it is like trying to travel without a guide on a road over whose streams there are no bridges. How may one have this guide and bridge-builder? It is simple. If you have any faith, use it and try to increase it. If you do not have faith, proceed as though you did have it, and you will probably generate it by the experience you will have. Many people have done this without knowing much about it to begin with.

Since faith is a point of contact between the human and the divine, one which closes a circuit as it were, and permits power to flow through, it may be thought of as something that brings humanity to its full flower. It shows and proves once for all that we are really created in the image of God. The day we begin to live in the power of faith we cease to be juveniles only; envying our Father's maturity and power we become grownups actually possessing and using them.

Belief and confidence are magic releasers of power. Faith is maximum belief and confidence in what is good and in God as a Source of that good. Abraham was called a man of faith because he simply believed God, trusting His promises and taking Him at His word, just as a child does those of its human father. Any parent, including the Divine Parent, likes this attitude and honors it with his gifts and help.

The great Textbook of faith is the Bible, where its fundamentals are shown and explained. Life, history, and personal experience are also full of principles, examples and demonstrations. The way to know for yourself is to take these teachings and test them.

As the Bible is the great Textbook of Faith, the Church is the great Guardian and Promoter of it. There prayer and worship are used to cultivate it, as grain is cultivated in the field or flowers in the garden. One cannot long live a life of prayer and worship, and remain without it, for talking with God, as with a fellow human being, if it is any good at all, leads directly to the making of first an Acquaintance and then a Friend.

#### AFFIRMATION

I ask God's approval of the ideals I set before me,  
then use them as marks for the running of my race.

Blessings,

Your Instructor.