

OFFICIAL EMBLEM OF

THE MAYANS

All material, discourses, lectures, illustrations, lessons, scientific dissertations and letters of transmittal appearing under this Official Emblem are protected by copyright. They may not be quoted except by official and written permission of The Mayans. They are not for sale but are prepared for the private use of Members of our Order. The recipient of this manuscript agrees by acceptance to hold it Private as the property of The Mayans to be delivered up to the Order upon demand. All rights in the material appearing beneath this cover are reserved by The Mayans, including the privilege of translation into other languages.

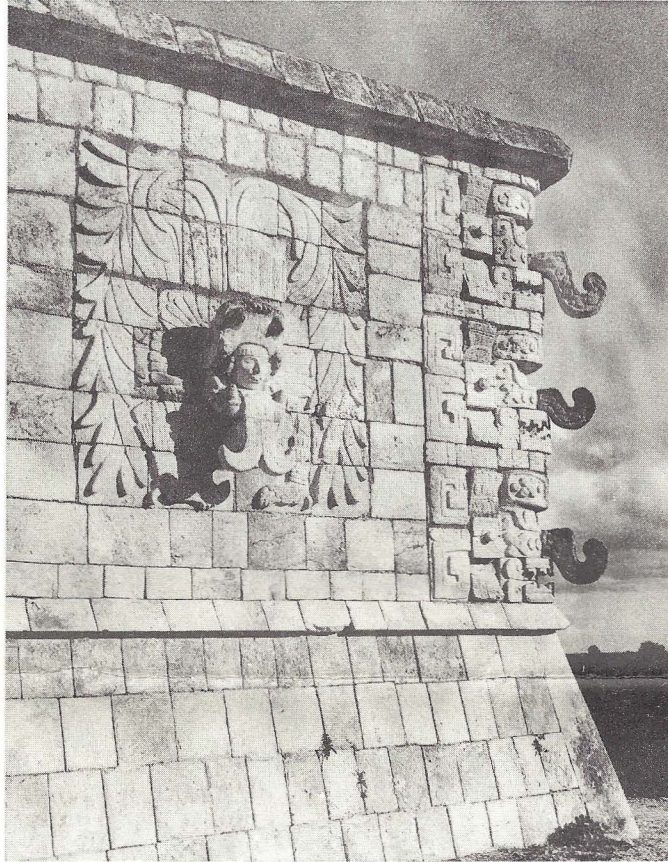
VADE MECUM, VOLVENTIBUS ANNIS

Degree 8 - 9

THE MAYANS
SAN ANTONIO,
TEXAS

Number 221

Copyright 1960 by The Mayans



What Are Your Plans?

Mayan Revelation Number 221

Keeping Books

Red Ink or Black

Laying Out a Plan

Another Kind of Balance

Some Advantages

The Body Plays a Part

In Account With Yourself

Closing Remarks

BELOVED CENTURION:

Have you ever thought of your life as a "business" - for that is what it is, you know, a business just as much so as any other enterprise.

We have success and failure, just as we do in business. We make small errors and small successes in our journey through life, just as we do in our business career. Sometimes we fail utterly in our business, and need to start over again; and when we start over again, very often we are more successful than we have ever been before. And so it is with our lives. It is a matter of keeping books in our lives as we do in our business.

And, as I am writing this, the thought occurs to me that it might be a good idea if you were to make a list of all your assets and all your liabilities. Make a list on one side of a page of all those things you consider assets. Then, on the other side of the page, set down all those things you feel are not what they should be, things you are doing that you know are not good. This will help you in the taking of your inventory. On the last pages of this lesson, you will find help in making your list. Certain questions are asked of you and your answers mentally will help you compile your inventory.

It is the sincere hope of your Instructor that with the study of the following lesson you will absorb in large measure those things that are so important to you in overcoming the obstacles that are keeping you from accomplishing your desires in life. We have tried to cover those stages in your development that have a great bearing on whether you succeed or fail.

And it is the firm belief of your Mayan Order that the material that has been given to you in this series of lessons, if studied by you in all seriousness and with a burning desire, will have wrought a change in your life, or at least you will be on the road to improved conditions. Many of the members in your class will, I know, have gained much. Some are able to profit more than others, depending on the ability of the member to put into practice the instructions given.

As we study this last lesson in this particular series, I would suggest that you read some of these lessons over again, particularly the ones you feel are most needed in your search for the abundant life. There are many truths that you should know in the pages to follow. Proceed with me now as we pray for fruitfulness in the business of living:

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, I must keep the books on the business of living my life in my mind and heart. Help me to keep them faithfully, and keep them in balance.
Amen.

§§§ RED INK OR BLACK §§§

A great businessman gave this simple formula as the secret of success - Pay as you go, and keep books. Although we have to do both these things in a little different way in the living of life, this is not a bad guiding principle to adopt. We pay up automatically for everything we do or do not do, everything we do well or poorly, as we go along. We also profit by everything that deserves reward. We need to remember both, which is keeping books.

The credits Memory writes down in its own kind of black ink. The debits it writes down in its own kind of red ink. A part of your survey at inventory time is to determine whether your books balance - whether your outgo is offset by income and whether your liabilities are equaled or surpassed by your assets, all of these, of course, being reckoned in terms of life values. This is one set of books in which no dollar marks appear. But both colors of ink do.

For some the red ink entries prevail so much and so long that they feel they have failed and either stop trying or wind up the business altogether. In the business of living, it is also possible to do that in a way, though no one ever should. In commercial business one may not be able to get help enough to avoid bankruptcy, but one of the glories of the business of living is that the assets necessary to success - will, courage, confidence - are always available; - and no one ever comes to a place where he cannot get enough of them to redeem the situation.

Sometimes one does his real best in business only when he makes a new effort after a failure. This is especially possible and even more often true in the business of living. One of the grandest things about life is that it is never too late for anyone to make a new start.

Carrying on a business in the red is bad, but living in the red is worse. It comes from doing minus things and wasting time and effort on minus values. But its deeper cause, the thing beneath and back of this, is thinking in the red. By that we mean thinking in terms of weakness and failure, and assuming that a good thing cannot be done, especially by us. Failure is not likely if a real effort is made, but what a pity are the numberless failures ever even to try! Keep your inner life positive, constructive, hopeful, confident, and courageous. In other words, keep the red ink entries out of your accounts.

Being in the red in the day's actions and events is merely a matter of slipping backward, while being in the black is merely one of pushing forward. To slip backward all one has to do is - nothing. Pushing forward takes effort, but how rewarding that effort is! There is only one place from which the orders can go out, and only one person who can give them. You know where and who they are. Determine whether you are operating your life at a profit or at a loss, and make your decision. There will be no one to hinder you or to object to your choice.

§§§ LAYING OUT A PLAN §§§

WE should all know something of the past as a part of our equipment for living and planning to live. We do not examine the records of the past because our chief interest is there, though they are interesting. We do it to find a basis for improving the future which is and will be a living issue. The questions of the past are put by, but passing time keeps confronting us with certain vital questions. Here are some of the basic inquiries we need to make in planning our lives for tomorrow. Knowing the answers can help greatly to strengthen our hands.

What do you need to do better, and how can you do so? Where should and can your record be improved, and how? At what points do you need to expand your interest and effort? Where are you making your mistakes, and how can you eliminate them? Are your objectives right? Do your ambitions need overhauling?

What is the best workable plan you can devise for the next phase of your growth and endeavor, doing so on the basis of your experience and the understanding gained up to the present? What resources will you need? Do you have them, or can you acquire them? If not, what is the nearest you can come to doing so? These items do not belong on the balance sheets and ledger pages, but they do belong somewhere among your records. When you have worked them out and put them down on the page of consciousness, they might be called something like accounts receivable. We can follow a plan better when it is made intelligible and orderly by being thought out, put into a list of steps, and written down on paper or in the mind.

If the items in your future purpose are too few, they can be increased. If they are too brief, they can be lengthened. If they are confused, they can be clarified. If they are mistaken, they can be corrected. That is what your periodic session for inventory and planning is for. The chief things that can make this possible are such means as will, courage, patience, and creative imagination. Do you have them, or can you get them, and will you use them?

What is written into a ledger has long been building up in the journal. The way to be out of the red at accounting time is to keep the average out of it, and the way to do that is to keep the record of any day from running low enough to hold the entire period to the debit level. When this is done in business it makes an unsatisfactory report. When it is done in living it makes an impaired life and finally a damaged personality, for we must remember that what we do becomes a part of us. We write business records in a book, but we ourselves are the records of what we have either accomplished or tried to accomplish.

Have you planned to go forward? Have you allowed for expansion? Is a larger and more effective life your objective? Even the business of life management must prove its vitality by growth, and that takes more of everything. All this will find its way into the record, which is yourself. You will have to pay as you go, and you can. You will have to keep books, for it does itself.

*** ANOTHER KIND OF BALANCE ***

WE have been considering the matter of keeping a balance between assets and liabilities, between black ink and red ink. But there is another important balance to maintain - the balance of proportion. In mathematical quantities, values, and processes, very much depends on keeping things in the right proportion. In the compounding of chemical elements this means the difference between success and failure. In the preparation of medicines it can make the difference between recovery and relapse. In one proportion an element may be curative, in another fatal.

We have listed and considered five general divisions of the business of living. In more exact detail there may be many more than that, but most of it has been or can be included under these. This means five divisions in your bookkeeping as you keep track of what you have and acquire and what you do with it and make of it in the processes of getting on. Thus, dividing one's interests and keeping track of what is going on under each head should make progress and improvement easier and more certain.

It is important to maintain a balance among them. We all have certain favorite interests, and we all have some things we do easier and better than others. There is a constant tendency to put the emphasis here where it is not so much needed, and to neglect others which are less interesting or more difficult. This makes our lives onesided, top-heavy, out of balance, or in some other way short of their best. A good building has to be good at every point and in every way. So does a well lived life, a complete personality.

As we go forward in the administration of our affairs we need to plan each step of advance in relation to all the phases and interests that are involved, also in relation to our capabilities and situations. Suppose you are considering some new interest or endeavor. Have you a place for it? Will it fit into the pattern of your abilities and interests? Is there some other point where emphasis is needed? Keep improving your life, but keep it in balance. Then, as in a well-constructed building, each part will help sustain the rest.

Certain things are mutually exclusive and do not work together at all, like frivolous companions and serious studies, or selfish business methods and trying to observe the great commandment and the golden rule. Other things are mutually helpful. For instance, meditation and spiritual understanding support each other. So do friendship and fidelity. So do curiosity and learning. It is the same all the way through. Life is not a heap of unassociated interests. It is compound, a combination, a network; but the elements have affinity for each other.

It is easy to let our interests get out of control and therefore out of balance, and we are certain to do it if we play favorites. The consequence is that life loses its symmetry and poise. One must watch and not let that happen.

St. Paul write wisely when he said life should be so lived that it will be like "a building fitly framed together". That is a good ideal to hold before us. A good builder must think of every phase of the result. So must one who tries

to live his life like a master builder. Proportion is one thing to keep in mind.

*** SOME ADVANTAGES ***

YOU should take courage and not regret the sacrifice and effort you make to keep all these matters under control. There are advantages, and very great ones, that accrue in your favor. They are advantages that do not obtain in ordinary business, and they are advantages so great they will insure you against failure if you permit them to do so. Let us think of them a little at this point.

The question whether most people can go into the business of their choice is whether they have the necessary capital, and in most cases that capital has to be surprisingly large. In the business of living you may have a few incidental expenses here and there, but the real capital required is something you have or can develop yourself. Little, if any, money is necessary to begin, and little, if any, will be required for maintenance, equipment, and supplies. Nothing beyond the point of possibility is required of anyone. You come ready equipped free of charge.

There are no depressions or slumps in the kind of enterprise we are discussing, in these lessons. It can prosper as well, and sometimes prospers better when secular business is not doing so well, because its dividends are treasure laid up where moth and rust do not corrupt and thieves do not break through and steal. The process of getting and investing them also pays the temporal rewards of peace and satisfaction here and now.

In the business of life building you can carry on at full capacity anywhere and in any season. Your entire establishment goes with you automatically wherever you go. It has no fluctuations of demand or production, troubles about personnel, or difficulties about supplies. Transportation is not a problem, and its profits increase in value at compound rates.

The overhead expense is so slight as to be practically negligible. In the main what supports the enterprise supports you also. Since you are the chief instrument used, your support is also the cost of your equipment. Is it not a wonderful fact that the most important business in the world, the most important work each of us carries on, is run on power derived from our own minds, hearts, and hands? You can generate and accelerate it by instruction, meditation, resolution, and prayer. What other business is so completely in the power of the one who operates it?

Think of this; failure, if it occurs, is never final. It seldom occurs, and needs never occur. You do not have to go back and begin again every time something goes wrong. You can always begin where you left off. Nothing is ever lost. Every value gained is a part of your life forever. It is something like

the study of a textbook. If something necessitates a lapse you can begin again without going back to the first chapter.

Help is always available and abundant. Most of the work you can do yourself, but you are not without helpers when you need them. In the lesson on Friendship we have seen that potential helpers are always about you. Then there is always the outstretched hand of the greatest Helper of all, the One who never fails.

*** THE BODY PLAYS A PART ***

IN all this discussion of mental and spiritual principles we must not forget that the body also plays a part. It is the mechanism through which all these laws and principles operate and all of these products are realized. The body is the most amazing mechanism on earth. It is indeed "fitly framed together". Its organs, tissues, and cells, all interoperate, so to speak. Each is always helping all the rest to compose and maintain a healthy organism fit for life and its uses.

Consider the universe. Think how the galaxies help hold each other in place and in the proper motion. Think how star, planet, and satellite are kept related in perfect balance and orbit. The body is a little universe in which much the same condition prevails. All this has a purpose, and the purpose is a beneficent one. All this is for our use. We get it without cost, and it surpasses in wonder and efficiency the most expensive thing man ever made.

We have to use it well, maintain it properly, and now and then do a little repair work; but beyond that its operation is automatic. In the constitution of nature and the body alike these delicate balances are maintained and the processes kept going without our even being conscious of them. We are relieved of this responsibility. All we have to do is to use it wisely and effectively in the business of realizing the highest purposes of existence.

The body is an organization finer and more intricate than any business or any other mechanism. It stands ready to consider a question and come up with the answer, to form a purpose and then execute the physical part of that purpose, and even to develop the stimulation its motive power may need. The body deserves profound respect and unflinching care. Like any machine, it also deserves normal use. And all it costs you is to take care of and let it serve you.

Observe the harmony and rhythm in music. See how its parts and sequences combine and cooperate to produce beauty of tone and combination of tone. Consider the constructiveness of harmony and the destructiveness of discord. The body and its multiple labors are like that. It must build harmony into its motions and it must keep in harmonious relation to everything else to produce the results of good, and happiness, and worthwhile living.

Consider the checks and balances provided for in our plan of government. All of its parts and functions are built to fit together and to support each other, so

it may be effective as a whole. The body is like that. It has the facilities for the exercise of a legislative department to make our personal laws, a judicial department to interpret them, and an executive department to carry them out. These are the will, the mind, and the hand. They were given us and stand ready to function without cost.

Your related plan for living, then, has to be executed by means of that wonderful piece of machinery called the body. We owe a duty to the body, one part of which is care, one part of which is use, and one part of which is appreciation. In the values listed in your inventory that of your body will loom large, and the care and use of it will have important places in your plans for production and expansion.

*** IN ACCOUNT WITH YOURSELF ***

LORD STRATHCONA, the great Canadian railroad promoter, began as plain, poor, hardworking young Donald Alexander Smith. When asked how one might bridge such a gap, he indicated that he had done it by working hard, saving half he made, and keeping track of his accounts. When Andrew Carnegie was asked a similar question, he replied, "Pay as you go, and keep books".

These lessons are intended to counsel you to do the same thing in making life mean as much as possible. As you go along you should have life values to show for your time and effort, you should make the best use of them, and you should keep account of your progress. In business you keep books with others. In living you keep books with life, but also with yourself. Let us now discuss this briefly to see what it means and how necessary it is.

Early in life we become familiar with printed statement heads reading "In Account With ----". It means, of course, indebtedness to this person or firm, or that. Your chart for living is a kind of record of account, and it might well be headed something like "In Account with Myself". It is a fact that we are always in account with ourselves. Let us briefly consider the nature of this account, which is also a statement of indebtedness.

An old Greek maxim ran, "Know Thyself". That is one of the most important possible reminders. No wonder it was supposed to have been dropped down to men by the gods from the sky. Few know themselves really very well. The less well one actually knows himself, the more certain he is likely to be that his self-knowledge is complete. To know one's self means to know one's own nature, his powers, his possibilities, how well or how poorly he measures up to these things, or how he stands in account with himself. Have you done for and with yourself what it deserves from you? Until you have you will be in arrears in a very serious way.

The condition of the five fields of interest we have noted are really divisions of your account with yourself. Like any obligation you need to look them

over now and then, and inform yourself as to how you stand. If there are arrears, and more often than not there are, take measures to satisfy them. They are debits against the value of your personal stock, charges against your investment in yourself.

These fields of interest are divisions of your account with others also - God, life, and the world. Yet an obligation to them is at the same time an obligation to yourself, for they are all allied with you and you with them. In these fields and with these associates our gain is measured by what we give. It is an investment that always pays at least a hundred percent.

Said Polonius to his son in Shakespeare's Hamlet, "To thine own self be true, and it must follow as the night the day, thou canst not then be false to any man." Polonius had it right. That is the law. What we owe to universe is the best selves we can be and the best lives we can live, but every payment we make enriches us also.

*** CLOSING REMARKS ***

LET us now set up these divisions of your living and its interests, and look at them as a total plan. In the form of five short questions let us bind them together into unity, yet retaining the variety of the interests themselves. These questions will epitomize the content of the lessons in such a way that you can ask them of yourselves and thus have a general review of the entire scope of the series as often as you wish.

Are you living the wise and normal life that is conducive to health, or wholeness? Are you using it, protecting it, and giving it any special needed care? The body is not the fragile thing some imagine. It will do much toward keeping itself in condition, but from you it needs the kind of conditions under which it will not be hindered in doing this. If you fail in health you fail all along the line. If you are to plant and reap, you must have a good planter and a good reaper.

Are you keeping your mind well furnished and effective, and are you applying its various powers in the living of your life? The mind is your light on the road and into all the particular questions and problems you will confront. Its powers range all the way from sense perception to wisdom and faith. These powers are sufficient for our needs if we equip, cultivate, and use them. The possession of them implies this obligation - know, think, reason, judge, be wise, and learn faith. In this there is a certain inertia until you get started. Overcome it.

Are you keeping well supplied with good friends, and exchanging proofs of true friendship with them? One person living alone on a planet or a large area of it could not be really living. He would lack and fail in all of the virtues that are based on relationship with others. A person without a friend is really living alone, however many people he may see or deal with day by day. One makes friends by being one, and each one he makes multiplies his life and security. He was right who said when asked what had been the secret of his great success, "I

had a friend."

Do you keep your affairs under the control of worthy ideals and within the limits of right? Do you move forward with the upward and onward look? Is religious faith a part of your program of idealism? This is the point of the highest and the farthest reach. It is your compulsion to heed, your gleam to follow, your star by which to determine your direction. The Bible can best give us our start in idealism, and the church can do most to furnish us the means for its exercise and cultivation.

Do you cultivate and follow wholesome, helpful, and worthy habits? These are the directing channels in which you move, the roads that take you where you are going, the forms by which your character and your personality are moulded. The strongest of them started small.

Keep your total chart before you. Keep the books balanced. After occasional inventories expand and strengthen your program according to the need and opportunity they have shown. Your personal stock will become increasingly valuable and your profit increasingly gratifying. They will be so in terms of life values, and these are riches you can take with you to any world.

AFFIRMATION

I keep accounts with God, Life, Nature, Destiny, and myself. I am determined not to be in arrears, but to enhance constantly the value of my investment in the enterprise of life building.

Blessings,

Your Instructor.