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VADE MECUM, VOLVENTIBUS ANNIS

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... God, in Nature, is Truth

Whatsoever Things Are True

MAYAN REVELATION NUMBER 228

INTRODUCING THE SUBJECT

LIVING TRUTH

SPEAKING TRUTH

DISCOVERING TRUTH

THINKING TRUTH

TESTING TRUTH

EXTENDING TRUTH

Beloved Centurion:

Through the years, a vast experience in teaching - and as Leader of your Mayan Order whose membership now numbers into the thousands - has brought me many inquiries from Truth Students. The most persistent of these inquiries is the effort to discover exactly what is meant by TRUTH.

I have often been asked for a definition of Truth, and this is indeed a difficult definition to give if one covers the vastness of it. I say vastness, but in reality Truth is very simple. If I were to cover the subject very briefly, my definition would probably be TRUTH IS PERFECTION, perfection in all facets of one's life.

What we have in us of the image of God is the love of Truth. Truth lies in Character, for Christ did not simply speak the truth - HE WAS THE TRUTH, for Truth is certainly not a matter of words. Truth is of life and of being, which is why I say that Truth lies in Character, it is Perfection. Regardless of what points of it you may touch, Truth always has to do with the being and the government of God. It is limitless in its reach.

We cannot know Truth without seeking. It cannot be learned solely from hearing it spoken from pulpits or written in articles. Truth, in order to be attained, has to be worked for by the individual. A man must work it out for himself with such help as he can get. Surely all these helps are good, but, underneath it all, the student must learn it from hard labor of his own. Then, all of a sudden, one day it dawns upon him just what Truth is.

When I say that in my opinion Truth is Perfection, I think of the true and perfect features that make up the beauty of a face, the true proportions that

form the beauty of architecture when we see a wonderful cathedral, and the true harmony found in music - even in poetry, Truth is Perfection.

Truth and Love are the two most powerful factors, and when they go hand in hand, there are no heights to which they cannot reach - and your Mayan lessons are designed to teach you that Love and Truth can help you to overcome any problems in your life regardless of what they may be. Sometimes it is not easy to be patient and the waiting becomes almost impossible to bear; then, just when you feel that nothing can help you, a way is opened and the road ahead seems smooth.

All of this comes when you have learned to understand more clearly the real meaning of Truth. And in this lesson, which we have called "Whatsoever Things are True", we feel that you will find the answers to many questions that may be in your mind. It is your Instructor's belief that it can bring illumination on subjects that are now not clear to you. I hope that you will write us your reaction to your study of it. Let us know if it has helped you in your quest for Truth.

As we proceed with our study, let us repeat together the words of the prayer:

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, help me to conduct my life in harmony with truth in order that, like truth, it may be enduring. Amen.



INTRODUCING THE SUBJECT

ST. Paul admonishes us to think on "whatsoever things are true". The implication is that if we think on these things we will come to live by them, and thus we will be fulfilling one of the most important laws of existence and at the same time keep ourselves in line for countless blessings.

This is naturally the case because the universe and everything beautiful, beneficent, and enduring in it is built and operates according to principles of truth. As we study atoms and everything that is composed of them we find that the most exacting mathematical principles have been followed in their construction. Find a snow-crystal that is not exactly six-sided if you can. The search will be fruitless. One substance is immediately changed to another if the proportion of counted atoms in it is changed by even one.

The law of conservation decrees that no material is ever lost or destroyed. All that can happen to it is a change of form, like ashes from burned wood or gas

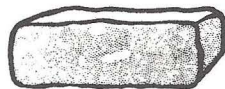
from evaporated water. Everything that was ever created is still somewhere, though it may be in any one of many possible changed forms, all because of a different arrangement of carefully counted atoms. The sum total of matter never changes because its units were originally created by mathematical count, which never changes in nature and principle.

All prodigies we know are either mathematical or musical. If one appears who is a prodigy in some other field, that field, like music, will be fundamentally mathematical, something based on count. Man-built ability may be in any field, but God-given genius will always be in a field of exactitude.

In the creation of the universe and everything in it the Divine Mind had to think on whatsoever things are true in order to bring forth this great, unchanging exactitude. Everything in this vast order is carefully and precisely counted out, and therefore cannot change or cease to exist. True living has to be based on truth, therefore whatsoever things are true are most worth thinking about.

The word truth as we use it may not say quite all this, but it does suggest and imply it. On the other hand, the word truth also applies the idea to relationships as well as fact. It comes from the old word troth, which meant an agreement between two or more people, a dependable agreement, one that could be relied on, one made between people who were truthful because they were true in their thinking, their living, and their promises. Truth is a great word because it ties us to the dependableness of God and man.

We set a great goal for ourselves when we undertake to seek out even some of the meanings of this great word. We do a great thing when we undertake to walk in this narrow way, for it has in it no room for wandering aimlessly about, but it is the safest of all roads because it is absolutely dependable.



SPEAKING TRUTH

A truthful man always stands high in the community and commands respect wherever he goes. People seek his counsel because they know they can depend on it. They accept his promises because they know they are safe. They do not require his pledges in writing because they know his word is as good as his bond could possibly be. They recognize greatness in him because they know it takes greatness to live a true life. They know he has "thought on" whatsoever is true. What he has not found so he has cast away, so no one will get entangled in it.

Untruth is known by the short and ugly name of a lie. Every one spoken or lived is an evil let loose in the world. One implied either by cunning words or silence may be as dangerous and devastating as one boldly expressed. Nearly all

of the sadly great number of people who go astray begin by stumbling over a false idea or a dependence on an untruth they have heard and believed.

All deception is falsehood. Even a trivial falsehood represents a fault in either thinking or character, and therefore one that is dangerous. It should not be classed as humor, for it is not funny, and its results are likely to be still less so. It is a seed, and therefore starts growing and keeps on until it may build up into something really disastrous.

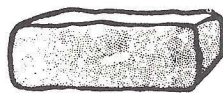
When one tells a lie even for what he considers a good purpose the purpose ceases to be good. One who will try to support an objective or accomplish an aim by falsehood is not one who can be depended on to know for sure what a good purpose is. His motives are too confused to permit his judgment to be dependable. He does not distinguish well between right and wrong.

So-called white lies can be avoided and should because they leave a permanent trace. If one does not want to state the truth for the sake of someone's feelings or the fear of bad consequences, there are ways also to avoid speaking a falsehood, even if one must decline to express an opinion.

If all this seems rather strict and more than most people think they should be expected to undertake the answer is that you have taken a higher standard for yourself than most people have. You are undertaking to be as exact about building your life as is possible, after the pattern of the building of the universe. You find a satisfaction in keeping careful accounts. You are proud and happy to think that you have parted company with the things that compromise excellence. Compromise ends where life at its best begins.

Deception to gain some personal end, like profit or gain, is a triple wrong. It is at once a falsehood, a selfish act, and the doing of damage to good business practice. It never really and permanently pays. Reckon it up and see if you have not always in some way lost as much as you wrongly gained.

The Latin word for truth is veritas. Truth is the veryness of life. It is something that makes your life very excellent, very dependable, very sure to follow the right way and arrive where such a road is certain to bring you.



THINKING TRUTH

SPEECH does not come from the lips alone. It takes its form in the unseen processes of the mind. The tongue is not the master but the servant. When we call it an unruly member we really mean that it does the bidding of what can be an unruly mind. One of the things we do when we determine to measure ourselves by the things that are true is to bring the mind itself under control so it can be unruly no more. To be sure of speaking the truth one must

acquire the habit of thinking truth.

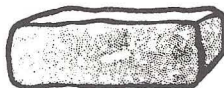
This habit pays rich dividends because it not only keeps one on the safe and dependable side but it is an effective mental exercise. It cultivates the power of the mind along the best channels and develops its ability to stay in those channels where its strength is sure to grow. The mind, like a muscle, responds to practice and develops sureness through exercise. It is an extremely good habit in speaking, preparing to speak, or reviewing what one has already said, to ask one's self whether that was really true. Then, if it is not, it can be restated. Whoever does this will find it growing less and less necessary, which means that he is becoming a more accurate thinker. How valuable this can be in science, for instance! It can also put more integrity in all one's dealings.

We find when we begin watching what we say that one can not only be deceived by others and by things, but he can also deceive himself by careless thinking or heedless observation. This must be overcome. We cannot prevent outside efforts to deceive us, but we can certainly avoid the habit of delivering ourselves up to error and misjudgment.

There are certain known traps in thinking. They are called fallacies, and one can fall into them without knowing it unless he is aware of them. His talk will sound perfectly reasonable to him when as a matter of fact he is deceived by it. Everyone should know at least the main fallacies, like abstractions, universal statements, begging the question, thinking in circles, and the like, and avoid using them till the avoidance becomes automatic. Then he will not be so likely to speak untruth without realizing it.

There is a famous saying, attributed to President Thwing of Western Reserve University, that one must learn to see life steadily and see it whole. Think it over carefully. It will help you much to think and therefore speak the truth. We too often look at things without really seeing them. If you are going to talk about anything, take a good look at it and make sure you see all of it. People will soon be listening very carefully to what you say because they will know it is accurate and that it covers the matter.

Hold to truth and do not mistake facts for truth. A fact is a partial or temporary truth. The difference between them is like that between the statement that the sum of two and two is four and the page on which it is printed. The page can be torn up, thrown away, or burned, but the statement remains as true as ever. Do not take isolated facts for truth, but do relate them to it. Learn how to reason well and without fallacies. Thus you build a bridge to new understanding.



LIVING TRUTH

NOW we take a step deeper yet into this matter of understanding and expressing truth. As speaking truth proceeds from thinking truth, so thinking truth proceeds from living truth, we might even say being truth. Of course this is a kind of circle. Thinking and speaking truth also result in more adequately living truth too, but unless they first rest on living truth they do not have a sufficiently secure foundation. In the main whatever one says or does depends on what he is.

Living truth is, of course, doing what we know to be true, and this is considerable from the very beginning. Even the child knows enough truth to give him a start. Then the processes of life, thought, and expression, keep increasing this body of understanding, and one's way of living must keep up this growth. Unless this goes on side by side with physical growth there is no real maturity. That is why the testers so often find so much difference between the chronological and the mental ages.

Jesus made this distinction in the parable of the two foundations. Two men who had heard the truth and knew it acted very differently in relation to it. One lived it and the other did not. They were like two men who built new houses, one on shifting sand where it did not long stand and the other on solid rock where it was permanent. We see these shifting sand and solid rock dwellers all the time, the one ignoring the truth and the other using it for the material of which to build their lives.

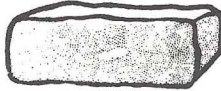
Living is not just putting in the time from day to day. It is making the time mean something valuable and permanent, and building to true patterns does just that. Living is serious business. We have only one chance at this present life, and our life structures stand for a long time to represent us. Why use anything but the very best materials and work by anything but the best methods? In other words why fail to use only the things that are true?

Two kinds of people are most noticed and longest remembered - those who build the most error and those who build the most truth into their lives. Somewhere along the line from the one to the other each of us is working. We can see, if we try, just about how much true gold our ways of living are assaying. If we want to improve the percentage we can, for the area of life is when and where there is pay dirt everywhere. The result is in our own hands.

In other words, we are all rich in truth. Whether we ever mine it or not it is all around us everywhere, plenty for everyone to have enough. The problem is not to find whatsoever things are true, but to think, speak, and live by them, until they become the very substance of our natures. Life actually holds it out to us in thought, wisdom, experience, revelation, and discovery, all the time. We have but to reach out, take it, and use it.

Any life is an incarnation of something or a combination of somethings. Some lives are love and some are malice, some are avarice and some are service. But the life that is truth is a compound

of all that is right and abiding.



DISCOVERING TRUTH

THE body of truth is constant. Like all things divine, it is the same yesterday, today, and forever. People sometimes talk about discovering new truth, but that cannot be done because there is no such thing as new truth. It is only the discovery that is new. TRUTH IS THE PATTERN BY WHICH WORLDS WERE MADE AND LIFE ORDAINED. There has never been a time when it was not in effect, all of it, including vast areas not yet suspected and some that probably never will be by us because our human span is too short for anything so vast.

We do, of course, keep on discovering truth. It is new to us, though not to God. The gold or the diamond taken from the mine today has long been there, but it is to us as though it had just been created. The body of truth is changeless, but the body of known truth grows by discovery. There are pioneers of truth just as there are of territory, people who are always pushing back the frontiers. Some do it by pioneering thinking, some by pioneering action, and some by pioneering testing of what appears to be true but must be tried.

Here is territory you can occupy and a part you can play. You, like each of us, stand at the edge of known truth somewhere and in relation to some thing. Whatever your place and work in life may be, are you not sometimes moved by a feeling that something more could be done to make it mean more? When you are contemplating pure truth as it relates to the way of life, the progress of man, the use of the mind, or the life of the spirit, do you not sense points at which someone could move out along lines of discovery and penetrate reaches that would be of significance to you, and perhaps to others?

Something was always nudging at the mind of Columbus about the size and shape of the world. Gutenberg could not get away from the urge to easier and better printing for the spreading of knowledge. Pasteur could not escape the notion that there was some way to attack infection in the bloodstream. Einstein was obsessed with the notion that understanding energy would unlock many secrets of the universe. Is there not something that keeps whispering to you about some advance that could be made in understanding life and living it?

Life is much easier to live, and one can make much more of it today than in the past. That has come about because of this very fact of people the world over and their lives through catching these little gleams of guidance and following them. In other words, they see a little more deeply into truth, and keep working their way into it till they discover something of great value to them.

We sometimes call this spirit of discovery the sense of wonder. It is different from and greater than mere curiosity, which can be an idle thing and

get us into trouble by causing us to pluck an apple from the wrong tree in some Eden. The sense of wonder is a more wholesome thing. It begins with a realization of the majesty of what God has wrought and wanting to know more about it because its meanings are valid and true to live by. The sense of wonder is back of most wisdom and knowledge, and from it invariably grows progress for mankind. It is not merely the urge to know, but the urge to know something worth knowing.



TESTING TRUTH

IN thinking and living we need to be open-minded but not too credulous. Keeping the mind closed against new ideas and approaches to truth can cause us to lose many of the riches of thought and faith we might as well possess. Prejudice against newness should not restrain us, because nothing is older than truth. We should be ready to consider the as yet unknown, of which there is a very vast amount, but we need to test it, to prove all things so we can hold fast to that which is good. We have to do this by measurement, by applying standards and tests.

One test for truth is whether it is in harmony with the teachings of the wise and good of the past and present. Of these there is much, and in some cases a single sentence handed down through centuries will shed light on some baffling idea that is both new and important to us. It is helpful to the groping to know what great thinkers, remembered teachers, and especially the revered prophets and apostles thought about it. Some of them may have said directly what they thought, and may even have proved it in the processes of living. What has stood the test of the years, even the centuries, must be true.

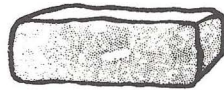
Another test is the experience of the race. We still know the stories of men and nations who tried various ideas of what to think and how to live, and we know what happened to them. The wrecks of the yesterdays show us what did not prove out, while the open channels where the ships of others have sailed in safety show us where lies the better way. How vain it is to keep trying ideas and standards that proved to be not principles but miscalculations!

When we apply this in our own affairs we have the pragmatic test or the test in practice. If a thing works it must be true, and vice versa. This laboratory test can be applied to anything. No wise person will try error a second time or make the same mistake twice. He will not even try it the first time if he knows others have already demonstrated its error and paid the price.

The test of private judgment is not to be overlooked. Your honest opinion is worth something, perhaps more than you realize. Besides, it will be sharpened, strengthened, and made more dependable by use. Your dedicated judgment may also be very valuable to others. Use it, but carefully.

There are two tests that seem intangible, but almost any measurement of the unknown is so at first. We will call one the test of necessity. Anything necessary must be true, for the Creator would not have allowed it to be a deceit. He would not be in it, and life could not have gone this far without Him.

The second we will call the test by instinct. Have you not noticed that every instinct points to the truth it takes to satisfy it? We would not hunger if food did not exist, or thirst if there were no water. When we long for truth, or for God, that is evidence that they exist and are available. The migrating bird makes no mistakes about directions, and the soul makes none about what is true and how it may be possessed.



EXTENDING TRUTH

IN this section of the lesson we are not discussing quite the same thing as in that entitled Discovering Truth. In that one we were considering the extension of our own knowledge of truth. In this one we are emphasizing the importance of spreading it by sharing it with others, which is equally important since what we do not share we do not continue to get.

Anything that is alive grows. Truth in our lives is a living thing, and must spread. If it does not the same thing will happen to it that happens to a plant when it stops developing. If you have truth, and everyone has some measure of it, you need to be a center of its extension. Don't let it die, and it will unless you pass it on. That does not mean to push it on others, which seldom succeeds; but it does mean sharing it with those who need it and are ready to receive. Even the Great Teacher imparted truth to people only as they were ready for it.

That is why we always tell you, and have from the time you first began your study, that it is never wise to try to force the teachings of Mayanry on others. Rather, you can lead them into Mayanry by living your life in such a way that they will want to learn your way of life and will ask you for your secret. And then you can tell them what The Mayan Order has done for you. Many of you have known the joy of opening the door to others through what you have experienced in your own life.

If you teach or write in any way or form you have an opportunity ready-made. Deal very carefully with it. True teachers will always tread very softly, realizing the delicacy of that with which they deal and how long any implanted word will live and grow in a mind, and how much difference it will make. The character and personality of each of us is partly our teachers and the authors we read living anew in us.

If you have no such open channels you still have channels. Every human

contact, such as we all continually have, is a possible one. You do not have to lecture to people you meet. Build truth into your conversation, just as life-giving rays are built into the sunlight and we get them without knowing it. Let your talk be radiant with wisdom and helpfulness which others can see and will want to try for themselves. You can do it as naturally as talking about the weather. You can even do it when talking about the weather.

Make it attractive. Emphasize its beauty and helpfulness. That should be easy for truth is naturally beautiful. All lovely things are so because it has been the measure and mould in their making. Just keep it lovely like it naturally is. That will help to beautify your own life as you go along.

As you see people, especially children and the young, evidently seeking truth, perhaps without realizing it, do not push it toward them or them toward it. It is better to create situations where they will see it and can respond to it. Let them think they discovered it themselves. That will encourage them to try to do it again.

As we have already suggested, always keep on pushing out your own frontiers of thought and realization, so you will constantly have more to share. This will add to your ability in discovery, and keep you enthusiastic because you too will be growing, and having always more to share with those who desire it. If you find people coming to you for light, be grateful. What greater honor could come to you?

You will discover for yourself and be able to show others that the light of truth reveals the way of right. Finding either is finding both because they are two phases of the same thing. How better can we direct our thought and action than to do our best to follow the principles by which God shapes His?

AFFIRMATION

I follow the way of truth as far as I can see, and each day I can see a little farther, as I share the light with others who wish also to see.

Blessings,

YOUR INSTRUCTOR.