



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

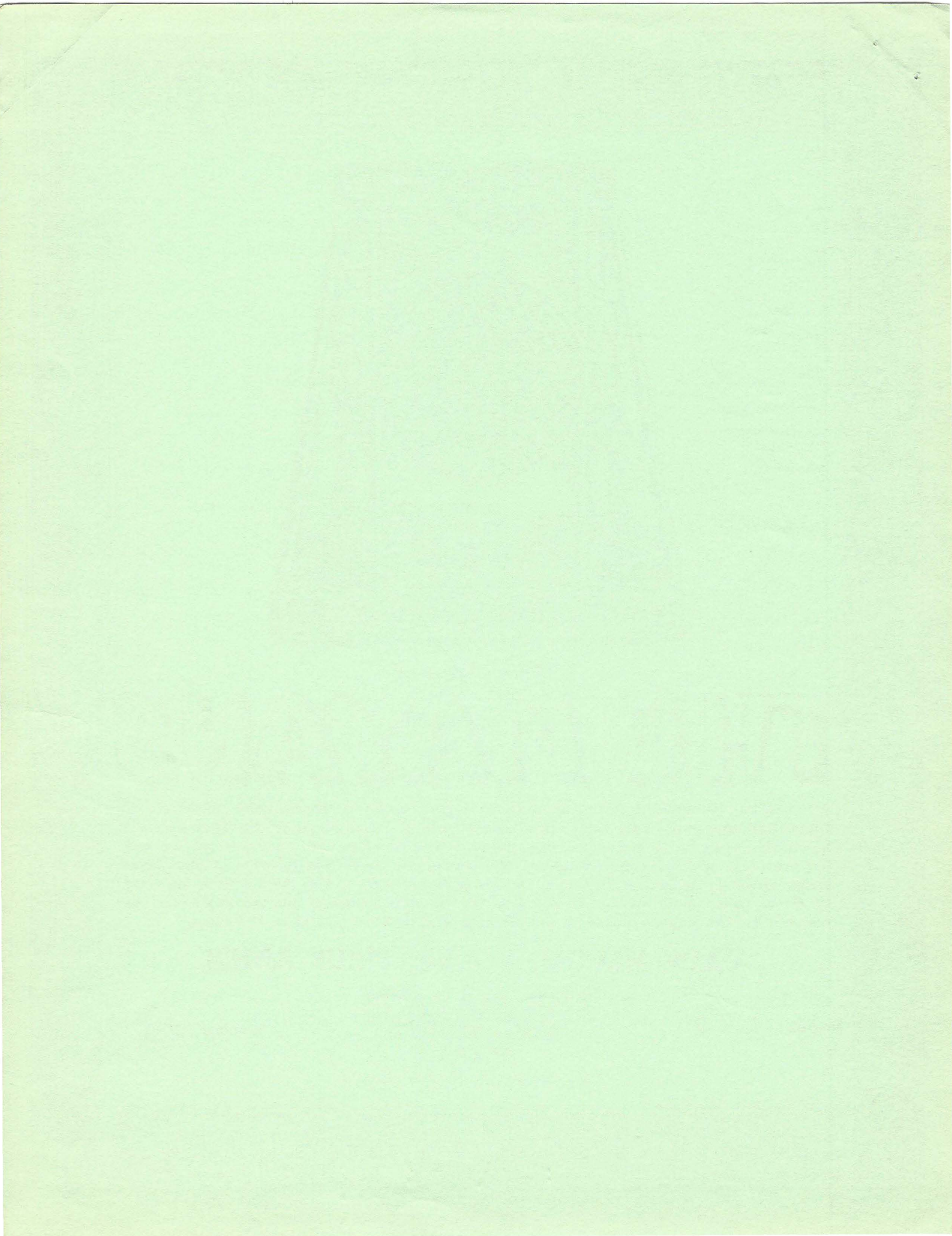
Degree 8 - 9

THE MAYANS
SAN ANTONIO,
TEXAS

Number 233

Copyright 1961 by The Mayans





THE THINGS WE HOPE FOR

Mayan Revelation No. 233

HOPE, THE ABIDING

THE INNER SPRINGS

THE GOOD LIFE

ADJUSTMENT

HOPE AND MATURITY

FITTING IN WITH DESTINY

MEMORY AND HOPE

Beloved Centurion:

Every lesson that is prepared for you at your Mayan Headquarters, every word set down on paper, is designed to help you to a better life, a fuller life, and the accomplishment of your desires in life, whatever they may be.

If you could sit with me at my desk each day and answer the telephone as calls from our members come in from every part of the United States, you would understand why we feel we really know the needs of our members and are qualified to help them.

Each voice that is on the telephone line has some obstacle that is keeping him from his desires. With some it is a health problem, with some it is a business problem, with others it is a domestic problem. Some still have hope - and some, I regret to say, have lost hope - and they turn to me as a friend with whom they can talk over their own particular difficulty. Usually, I feel that we are able to give them more hope - you can hear it in their voices at the end of the conversations. And what a wonderful feeling it is for us to know that we are capable of doing this through the understanding we have gained in the years of helping countless thousands to climb out of the depths of despair and once more see the light of hope.

Your lesson is entitled "The Things We Hope For." We start hoping from the time we are able to walk. A little boy hopes for an electric train - a little girl for a beautiful doll. And as they grow older, the boy hopes with all of his

heart for a bicycle - and the little girl hopes for a party dress. Then the time comes when the young man hopes for a sweetheart and a home of his own - and the little girl grown to a young lady has the same hopes. After the young man has his home, he hopes for a successful business life - his wife hopes for children. And in middle age and beyond, our hopes change - we hope for the complete success of our children and our family, we hope that our health will remain good and that we will have enough of the world's goods to be independent from old age and poverty.

Yes, from the time we are able to walk, we are hoping for something. The things hoped for are dependent upon the individual. All hopes are not good. Some hope for things that are destructive; while others have lost their hopes, such as I have outlined above.

Hope and Faith are very much alike, differing only in this respect - Hope is that which we wish with all our heart and soul to accomplish; Faith is the complete knowledge that we will accomplish it - but they are very much alike in their quality. When you have one very strongly imbedded in your nature, you are quite certain to also have the other - not always, but usually.

Hope is the very last thing that we lose, and what a pity when this is gone for without it there is not much left. When we feel it slipping away from us through something over which we have no control, it is good to remember the pages of history and the attacks that were made upon our great President Lincoln. He never gave up hope. His great hope carried him through and made him the man who we now look upon as one of the greatest names in history.

We should always include in our prayers a request that Hope be kept strong in our breasts. We know that there are times when conditions arise in our lives which would seem almost impossible to have any hope of overcoming, but have you noticed that at the very lowest ebb, so often something happens that causes new hope to spring up again? Even in world affairs, today's news may look dark under the storms and clouds, but tomorrow the news so often brings a ray of hope regarding the same condition that looked so hopeless yesterday.

Many people would die if they did not have Hope to sustain them. In fact, your Instructor considers Hope one of our greatest riches. Faith and Love are two other jewels beyond description from the standpoint of their worth. It would be hard to say which of the three is most important - they go hand in hand.

We tell you more in the pages to follow about these attributes and the importance they play in solving your life's problems. Now let us say the words of the following prayer in which we express our thanks for Hope.

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, I thank Thee for the persistence of Hope. Help me to cling to it as it clings to me unchangingly and forever. Amen.

HOPE, THE ABIDING

WE should pause in reverent thoughtfulness when we use or hear that word Hope. We should capitalize it even in our thinking, for there is nothing else like it. It takes a lifetime to realize what it means, and only in the life to come will we understand fully what it was to us.

Holy Writ implies that three of the very greatest words in the language are Faith, Hope, and Love. For two thousand years since the sentence about them was written we have been testing out its meanings in the laboratory of life, and must all realize by now that these really are the greatest words we know, and that each of them is the greatest word in the language in its own particular way.

Love is the greatest word in the sense of unflinching devotion and self-sacrifice. Faith is the greatest word in the sense of spiritually dynamic power. Hope is the greatest word in the sense of persistency in good purposes. Love never fails, Faith never falls short, and Hope never gives up. Even when Love wavers and Faith is lost, Hope is always clinging and trying again. It has well been called "the heart's one unbroken string."

When we think of the things we hope for we are looking up a very long road, for Hope will always be looking ahead and trudging on to some goal. Faith and Love are here and now qualities, but Hope is a "to the end of the road" one.

Of course these qualities sometimes enter into relation with each other. Love blends with anything, to the great benefit and advantage of that thing. We are told that Faith gives substance to, or makes real, the things hoped for. In other words, it makes our hopes practical. It would avail us nothing just to hope for things and stop at that. Faith comes along and says, "You have been hoping for this wonderful thing. Come now, and let us bring it to pass." But what would there be for Faith to realize if Hope had not thought of it and reached for it?

Hope, then, is a pioneering word. We shall call on both Faith and Love plenty of times as we go forward, but it is Hope that blazes out the first trail and keeps going.

- * It is Hope that goes into strange, new land and overcomes the wilderness.
- * It is Hope that conquers new frontiers, that visions improvement and reform, and dares the way to their accomplishment.
- * It is Hope that conceives new ways to health, safety, and better living.
- * It is Hope that holds the torch and lights the way for better possibilities in our individual lives.

The things we hope for, then, are the things we shall sooner or later possess.

They are the lands of promise we see from afar, and however long and hard the journey, we let no mountain, sea, or wilderness keep us from arriving at the fulfillment of our dreams. They are countless, but here we shall confine ourselves to those toward which we can progress as individuals, and at leaving the totals to add up to what proportions they may, but knowing those proportions will be vast.

THE GOOD LIFE

WHO is there among us who, when asked what he hopes for, would not say first, "A good life?" This is a very familiar term in the language of today, but its meaning varies with the people who use it. The idea of the good life some entertain seems a rather strange one, and it has been often enough demonstrated that what some dreamed of as the good life was anything else but that.

It would seem, then, that the first step in letting the long arms of Hope reach for the good life would be to make as sure as we can that what we have in mind really is the good life. Getting everything we want quickly and easily would hardly qualify, for we would begin with selfishness and only arrive at constantly greater selfishness. A life made of the sensation of material things would not be the good life, for it would entangle us in the secondary values and hinder us from ever arriving at the primary ones. Overcoming all our enemies would not be the good life, for it would be combative and only make more enemies to contend with. We should think carefully of these and other traps, and avoid them.

For one thing, the good life would be as healthy physically as possible, but it can be attained in spite of health conditions; and they can even be improved if the life we live is good enough in other ways. Other features of it are healthy-mindedness and wholesome living, both of which tend to conserve and improve physical health, and sometimes even to restore it.

The good life certainly does not fail to emphasize the cultural values. We profit by being builders of the worthwhile in terms of knowledge and understanding, having some cultural skills, and keeping room in our lives for the truly artistic, seeing that all these things penetrate our characters and personalities.

The good life would hardly be worthy of the name without a strong element of spiritual values and emphases. It could hardly be at its best without a sense of the immortal, the eternal, the universal, and the Divine which has made them real, to hold us and keep us ready to conserve them. The truly good life has reaches that could never be touched by anything less.

Any adequate sense of spiritual values always includes an equally clear sense of the ethical ones. Everyday life is always demonstrating to us the fact that there is a right and a wrong. Life itself presents a constant denial to those who claim otherwise, and especially to those most reckless of all thinkers who continually get right and wrong reversed into each other's places.

The sense of right and wrong must be expressed in our relation to others, all others. That is, it must be social or collective. This involves the spirit of justice, consideration, the golden rule, and the like. That is the point where the good life rises to the level of community, national, and world life. Above all others this hope reaches all the way to the new earth wherein dwells righteousness long prophesied and waited for, and must be till enough people are living the truly good life to permeate and redeem civilization itself. The good life is not solitary.

HOPE AND MATURITY

ONE of the things everyone hopes for in childhood is to grow up, and in youth everyone looks forward to maturity and responsibility, even though he may not have pondered very deeply on what maturity really is, seeing and considering only its outer aspects. We may not reveal it, and we may not even realize it ourselves, but the juvenile deeply longs to be an adult, the youth to be a man, and the immature to be mature. This is one of the most natural of things, deeply rooted in us, because everything was born immature and had to grow in order to fulfill the purposes of its own creation.

No doubt you have seen cases of arrested physical development, usually involving halted mental development also. For some reason these unfortunate people stopped growing and developing at a certain age, usually in childhood, and developed no further, even though the appearance of age came upon them.

This is one of the most pitiful things in the world. We realize it because we can see it, and we feel pity because we know it is a misfortune for which the victim is in no way responsible. But there is a kind of arrested development for which the victim is responsible. It is of an inner nature, and takes place in bodies that pass through all the changes and appearances from childhood to age. Even a good mind may be present, with equipment for all the normal feelings and motivations; but if their possessor fails to use them or stops using them somewhere along the way there is no further development. Though hidden, this is an even more tragic thing.

We are enjoined in Holy Writ to grow in grace and knowledge, and we are appointed to the ideal of maturity, - a full-grown man who has put away childish things. In other words, we are made up of possibilities to be developed, which is the only hope life in any form has of flowering and bringing forth fruit. Therefore everyone hopes for maturity, though he may not have put it into words, even in the silence of his thought.

This matter of flowering and bringing forth fruit is a seriously important one. Thoughtless people have questioned the parable of the barren fig tree in the Bible and its being withered because it had nothing on it but leaves. The deeper meaning was that it had failed the purpose of being a fig tree. Any tree can produce leaves, and any life can wear the outward trappings of maturity; but it is fruitfulness that really proves maturity. Life is created for results.

A glorious thing is to be noticed at this point. A plant, a tree, a human organism, anything, passes through stages of growth and finally reaches a point where it develops no more. The inner life of man has no such limitations. We see people in old age growing in character, understanding, accomplishment, and usefulness, as much as or more than they did in their younger days, because they have learned better how to do it. In fact, some are just getting started in really mature living when the signs of age are upon them. All we who have been young are bound to grow old. Whatever your age is today, keep maturing.

THE INNER SPRINGS

WE keep talking about the good life because it is a kind of epitome of fulfilled hopes, and when we think of hope the good life naturally comes to mind. The good life is a supreme treasure, and we all desire whatever rightly or wrongly we believe it to be. It is not expressed in things, but in the power to create, appreciate, and use things. It is not expressed in acts, but in the spirit that conceives and the purposes that motivate acts. It is not expressed in the outer conditions we create, but in the inner ideals that pattern those things so they can be created.

The good life is a growth, not in a garden but in the heart. It is not added onto the outside, but develops from within. This gives us a clue as to how to proceed in realizing our hopes for it. We do not have to own land or machinery. We are not limited to special seasons for sowing or reaping. Our inward maturing may at least be initiated when we are sitting perfectly still analyzing the meanings of things and decide what to do about them.

Experience plays its part, not so much because the good life is built of it, but more because it is the laboratory in which many of our thoughts and decisions are tested, and in which others are suggested so we can get them going and bring them back for testing later.

Have you not been through some tempest of confusion which you feared would leave you upset and unfitted for living? Then after awhile have you not discovered that, the storm past, instead of feeling confused and distraught you were in a peaceful calm where not only have the outer winds stopped blowing but the inner ones have stopped also? In such cases we are not wearied but rested, our minds are not fagged but stimulated, and we are seeing more opportunities for development than we knew existed. Whatever the experience was, it was a planting. Then we were left to do the tending. So we grew ever more mature as persons, perceiving better what things were worth hoping for and how to realize them.

As we look up the long road any day and see things we have hoped for, or thought we did, experience and maturing understanding together help us to eliminate those that would be excess baggage and to accept and cultivate the rest, remembering that though the body is growing up for awhile the real person is growing up as long as we are willing to work at it.

What a difference it makes to look out on the world and life with seasoned vision, to consider it with an informed mind, to weigh life's problems and possibilities with ripened judgment! That is not only something to be hoped for, but the way to countless other things also, and it all grows from the inside just as a great tree or a lovely flower grows from under the dark ground.

Today the person who is admired and approved is called an outgoing person. That is important, as we shall be noting presently; but we must remember that the source of all he gives out is an inner one. The heart and mind, like the ground, are always giving out because they have an unflinching richness within.

ADJUSTMENT

NOW let us think of what some would call the outgoing element in our hoping. We will call it something that is more than that - a happy and satisfying adjustment to the world life and all other humans being involved in it. The outgoing goodwill of our lives is a determining factor in this, of course, but it is secondary to our attitudes, which we must say again are inner forces. They are like the effects of an electric battery, which are external, but the power is in the battery.

In other words, when we analyze our hopes we are sure to find that one of the things we want most is a happy relationship to others. In the technical field of study they would call this by such dignified names as social attitude and economic justice, but we will bring it right down to ourselves and our closest and most familiar relationships.

Where else can we start then but with the home and family? How could we sustain good relations with society if we did not maintain them at home and in the local neighborhood, and how could we do it anyway if we do not learn and practice the principle in the territory with which we are most familiar?

The most important place in the world to anyone, whether he realizes it or not, is his home; and the most important people in the world are one's home folks. This is true whether one has a family of his own or not, for he does have parents, probably brothers and sisters, and certainly other close relatives.

One would think natural love would take care of one's adjustment at this point, and usually it does, but not always or necessarily. Everyone loves his home people, and if he does not realize it now time and memory will teach him that he did. Unfortunately some dispositions do not adjust so well to family life. The familiarity breeds neglect of home ties and stands in the way of consideration of rights and feelings which, like charity, begins at home. We should all hope for happy family relations and let faith in the high nature of that relationship bring about the substance of things hoped for.

From the home fireside, which is the best of all training and practice grounds for good attitudes toward others the field widens, first to the community and the matter of having and being good neighbors. If there is anyone in the community who is not a good neighbor, try to manage somehow to prevent him from being a bad one. There is a self-interest side to this, for there always comes a time when each of us needs a good neighbor. We can best prepare for that time by realizing that almost any day someone in the community needs a good neighbor.

The field keeps widening till it includes the whole human race. In the truer sense our neighbors may be anywhere in the world. What stands between man and man, nation and nation, class and class, is something every one of us can remove with right human attitudes, the habit of being good neighbors. Any good hope can be achieved if we go about it rightly, and despite their magnitude world relationships are no exceptions. Nothing else can be of full value to us without good relationships with our fellow human beings.

FITTING IN WITH DESTINY

WE have used the word Destiny so long and have let it become so familiar that we may have let it become such a habit that we use it without realizing what a magnificent meaning it has. It refers to the working of a mighty unseen force that is something grander than cause and effect, moving through history, focusing all its currents and influences on goals and outcomes vital to us and to humanity. Sometimes it takes us years and takes the race generations to see its directions and the mighty meanings in its climaxes and outcomes, but we always do so soon or late.

This force works in and upon all our lives. It moves among human events like currents moving as rivers in the sea. It is always bringing us to destinations, and these destinations together add up to destinies, and finally to destiny itself, final and complete.

These forces of destiny do not bother much about adjusting themselves to us. They leave us to adjust ourselves to them, and fortunate are we if we do. We have likened them to ocean currents, and ocean currents will carry us where we want to go or sweep us off our course according to whether we work with them or not. That is, destiny saves or loses us according to our adjustment to it. It is a worthy hope, then, that we may keep in harmony with what is always ready to work for our happiness and good.

Adjusting to destiny is something like stepping into a boat as it slides into the water, or stepping on or off a moving vehicle at just the right time and place. Or it is like being the last man on an assembly line in an automobile plant. You can see a car coming long before it reaches you, growing more complete as it approaches. Your operation is to add the finishing touch. It pauses just long enough. If you fit your operation to that pause, a finished car rolls off the line. If not, the result is an unfinished one.

We are standing every day on an assembly line. Wonderful things like situations and opportunities come rolling toward us. If we can complete them when they reach us, they are ours. If not they roll on to someone else. We have our chance and the power to turn it into destiny if we are adjusted to it ourselves.

The master assembly line on which we work is the destiny of our own lives; what our stay here and the efforts we make are to amount to, what good we may reap from our plantings, the reward for what happiness we have given to our loved ones and others. How well have we kept faith with life? How much have we lived for that was eternal? How much true wisdom have we gathered?

Finally these things assume eternal proportions. Whatever these results are we must take them with us to whatever worlds we reach and whatever further unfoldments may come to us on the assembly lines of eternity. The fragments of destiny we attain here are only beginnings, but think what the fulfillments will be.

Surely this is one of the things we all hope for, and we depend on Faith to help us actualize, for Faith is the builder of the destinies Hope has planned.

MEMORY AND HOPE

ANY day of our lives is a borderline between memory and hope, the point where the anticipation of things to be changes to the recollection of how well that expectation has been realized. The years remaining to us are all made of hope. The years gone by are full of memories that make us better prepared for the miles of the road yet to go. The hopes we have had teach us the value of those we still treasure.

Look back at the eager hopes of your childhood. How beautiful they look, yet how fantastic and strange! It was well enough that some of the more grandiose ones were never realized, but they made good hoping at the time. They at least proved that our hoping abilities were strong and in good working order. We could not have learned wisdom all at once. That was what the future years were for.

Then came youth in its aurora of glamour. You were certainly full of hopes then, all crowded together and tumbling over each other, so that now one was uppermost and now another. No one person could have realized them all, nor should have. There was variety so you would have plenty to choose from. Most of them faded, but not till they had served their purpose and kept you moving on into years of surer judgment and truer aspiration.

Be grateful that when maturity came, though you had left many hopes like withered flowers along the path of memory, you had not stopped hoping. Some of your old hopes remained, in more considered form perhaps, and new ones had taken their places. They were like pictures and diagrams thrown on a screen ahead of

you as guides to follow and patterns to work by. They kept you moving on, and made life interesting, and filled it with effort and achievement enough to build yourself a rewarding life without surfeit to weight it down.

Now, at whatever point you have arrived, there are all those hopes turned to memories behind, with all you realized of them built solidly into what you have and what you are. Be grateful for that, for it is the real gain you have accumulated from living.

Be grateful too that there is always more to come. Never fear that the road of hope will end somewhere out among the years. It leads on and on through the land of unending things. Never let age or discouragement cause you to abandon it. Keep it open, and keep going, for it is one thing that is yours beyond the power of anyone or anything to take away. You could not close it anyway, any more than anyone else could, because it is the road of hope where travelers never lose their courage, knowing that whatever storms may beat along the way, the heart clings to its hopes even when there seems nothing left to hope for.

A closing word about those memories behind us. Some are worth little, but others are precious, and the success of living is measured by the proportions between them. This brings us to a closing suggestion, a secret for making life, any life, your life, a wonderful and blessed thing - so live each day, perform each task, speak each word, and deal with each person, that it will be good to remember.

AFFIRMATION

I treasure my hopes and memories together, trying to make the one good achieving and the other good remembering.

Blessings,

YOUR INSTRUCTOR.