



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 10

**THE MAYANS**  
**SAN ANTONIO,**  
**TEXAS**

Number 237

Copyright 1961 by The Mayans





# **WORK YOUR MINES**

**MAYAN REVELATION NUMBER 237**

**Acres of Diamonds**

**Growing Personality**

**Know Your Possibilities**

**The Creative Personality**

**Exploration**

**The Highest Reward**

## **All Ground is Good For Something**

Beloved Perfectionist:

There are many conflicting opinions on whether or not a man or woman deteriorates when he or she retires. The majority of opinions seem to be that after retirement, a man does not have as much value as when he is working every day. This thought comes mainly from the fact that most people who retire do just that - RETIRE. They lose interest in most of the pursuits of life, they do not use their thinking faculties, and for the most part, take the attitude, "What's the use? I am retired and there is nothing further I can do that will be useful."

This, of course, is not always so. There are some who remain just as active, just as productive, after retirement as before. They become interested in some hobby and develop it to quite an important degree. As a matter of fact, many of our own members have done their best and most creative work after retirement. I could fill pages with the names of these, many of whom have even begun new things in their middle 70's.

It all depends on the individual! I personally have found in my wide experience with people that the productive life of an individual does not end with retirement, which is the reason this lesson has been written - to help members of all ages bring out abilities within themselves of which they did not know they were capable.

The subject of this lesson is "Work Your Mines" and that is exactly what it means. Discover your "mine" within yourself - the thing of which you are capable of developing and doing, and set to work to bring it out. It gets back to the philosophy that is so important to man - "KNOW THYSELF".

And I want to say right here that real knowledge, like everything else of value, is not to be obtained easily - it must be worked for, studied for, thought for, and, more than all of this, it must be prayed for daily. Man really was not

born to solve the problems of the world. He is not supposed to do so or expected to do so, but to study himself and find out what he is to do.

The inquiring mind is the one that usually gains most. I once heard a man who had accomplished a great deal in life say that the way he had achieved his success was by realizing his own ignorance and constantly asking questions.

Your Instructor prepares most of the material in your lessons from the needs that are made apparent to me through your telephone conversations, your letters, and your personal talks with me. This lesson was written because I know that many of you have talents within of which you are not aware. You are not satisfied with your life. That in itself is a good sign because it shows that you want to do something about it, and when this desire exists it is very probable that you will "work your mine" and find the treasures that are waiting to be uncovered, as did some of those about whom we tell you in the pages to follow.

Right now, we will begin our lesson with a prayer of thanksgiving for that which we have been given to help us "work our mines".

#### PRAYER

Heavenly Father, I thank Thee for all the resources for living with which Thou hast endowed me, and ask that I may not overlook or fail to use any of them. Amen.

### **Acres of Diamonds**

**T**HERE is an old story about a man who continually wished he owned a diamond mine. He read of others who found such riches and wondered why such good fortune did not come to him. Then, when it was late in life's day, he discovered that his whole farmland was underlaid with the precious stones. He had spent his life wishing for rich mines while he failed to discover and work those he had.

This story was used by Russell H. Conwell in a lecture titled Acres of Diamonds, which he delivered widely and from the proceeds of which he built and endowed a great university. He too was working a mine he had instead of fretting about those he was not certain about, and he used the profits to do a great service to the young people of the country. Thus he also indirectly enriched himself.

The lesson you are now beginning to read is an appeal to you not to spend your energy wishing for mines to work, but to work those you have and have not taken the trouble to discover. In other words, let others do the best they can and wish them well, while you set about developing your own aspirations and possibilities, which are probably as good in their way as anyone else's are in their way.

Here is a little parable about a farm animal, a cow who spent her days in



a good pasture, but spent much of her time looking over the fence into the adjoining field and wishing to be there instead. The grass looked ever so much greener there. Her bovine brain believed that if she could only feed in that other field she would be content.

The fence was too strong and high, and the gate was always fastened; but one day the farmer forgot to fasten the gate, and the cow lost no time in pushing it open and going through. When her owner returned he decided to let her stay in that field and fastened the gate more securely than ever. Meanwhile the cow had found on closer view that the grass there was not as good as what she had before; but there was no way to return to it. We sometimes do just that with the blessings and treasures we already have.

Of course not all, perhaps none, of our undiscovered and unworked mines may have diamonds in them. They may not even have any material thing, but they are there, and they hold riches in one form or another for anyone who will find them and work them. Diamonds may be about the last thing you need, and your life may somewhere hold the possibility of the very thing you need most. Anyway, the material is only the means to an immaterial purpose.

A diamond is only of arbitrary value. All it can really get you at the best is admiration and at the worst envy and dislike. Of course, sold at a loss, it might relieve some necessity in case of need - the same as its value in money might do, and no more - whereas you have resources from which you could be gathering lasting values, like happiness, good will, and satisfying thoughts and attitudes.

## Know Your Possibilities

**T**HE trouble with the man in the Acres of Diamonds story was that he did not really know his land. He had assumed that he was merely buying so many acres of soil that would grow things. Of course he could not work mines he did not even know he had. We shall notice later that this is a very common occurrence, and that really few people do know what their land might be good for other than its present use. Most of the riches of living, like those of the earth, are overlooked.

There might be some excuse for not knowing what is under one's land, but surely there is none for not knowing what is inherent and potential in one's life. What is in the ground is covered, but what is in one's life manifests itself in one way or another, in thought, feeling, aspiration, or by showing up in little ways in the everyday processes of life and work. We can see in others and in ourselves lines of activity we might have followed, or might yet follow if a change should become necessary.

If you want to see your opportunity and possibility look in the mirror of your mind. Consider yourself, your makeup, your tendencies, and the creative urges and impulses that sometimes come to you. They are open roads to follow, and

at least some of them may be good roads. How are you getting on with the job of living? Could you do better? Or could you do more? Don't let a good possibility go unworked if you can help it.

Are you satisfied - and that is a big word - with what your life is producing, with your actions and reactions, and with the reactions of the world to your efforts? You may be assuming that you are doing your best, but are you? In odd hours, rainy days, and holidays, why not look around a little over your field of living and see if there are not some unnoticed possibilities that would respond to a little effort? This is no recommendation that you take on too much. It might even point the way to the lightening of your load.

Watch for awhile how you manage your life, what you do with it, and what are the results. Are you doing a good job of programming according to your abilities? No one is who does not inspect and revise his plans occasionally, for these situations constantly develop, grow, and change. In one of these periodic inspections you just might come on a diamond mine, or something better. It has happened before.

Do you sometimes think of, or observe some aptitude and reflect that you might have done something with it if you had started along that road? Well, why didn't you? Not having done it then, why don't you now? Everyone needs a few minor interests, and they sometimes grow into major ones. Some people have avocations that are more important than their vocations are.

Acres of diamonds do not rise up and wave at you, but personal abilities and possibilities do. There are opportunities and needs around you that are signaling to you now. Some of them might indicate undiscovered mines.

## Exploration

**H**ERE is something we all need to realize, and many do not realize. When you have surveyed the self you familiarly know, you have only begun to know yourself. Where familiarity ends, exploration needs to begin. That is the borderline, the frontier where the commonplace ends and adventure begins. The owner of the land that concealed acres of diamonds thought he knew his farm, but he hadn't even begun to. He only knew the evident. The unusual about it, that which made it really valuable, did not even exist as far as he was concerned.

The phases of your life you have never come upon, the possible values in it you have never faced, may constitute as much or more worth than do those you have. What most of us know about ourselves is only what we have encountered in the processes of daily living. These we have accepted without much thought, and have become so familiar with them that we are hardly conscious of them any more. We know ourselves as we know the familiar fields and hills, with no idea at all of what is concealed beneath and within them.



So when you have surveyed what you know, start exploring what you do not know. That is where the interesting part of living begins. It is exploration of the new and different that fills life with the stimulation of surprise. Sometimes people reading old genealogies find themselves with great ancestors and sometimes with heirship to estates to which they had never dreamed they had any relation. Something like that, perhaps something better than that, happens to us when, in really analyzing ourselves, or really listening to ourselves think, or really watching ourselves work, we come upon the diamond mine of a talent or a quality we did not know we possessed, or discover we can really do something with one we did know we possessed.

These too are mines of value, mines containing perhaps the richest treasures of all - riches of will, vision, social grace, satisfaction, ability, character, and all kinds of things of incalculable value. The person who overlooks or neglects them is not being kind to himself.

Now and then someone in middle age or even farther along blossoms out with a new phase of ability or quality of personality that surprises acquaintances, and it is always something this person might as well have been getting the benefit from all along. These personal things that might have been may never be vitalized, but when they are we find them to be things not new but hitherto unrealized.

Linnaeus said that the green leaves on a tree are the expression of its hope for the future. Think over the message of the First Psalm, and be like a tree planted by rivers of water, whose leaf does not wither, and whatever you do will prosper. Not only have hope for the future, but keep realizing some of it as you go along through what you can keep a perpetual springtime, like Victor Hugo who said, "The snows of winter are on my head, but the everlasting springtime is in my heart".

The explorer is always coming on something unusual. His discoveries are always thrilling. That is your opportunity to keep life an interesting story.

## Growing Personality

**T**HERE are two kinds of mines of values in your life, either of which you can gain by working or lose by neglecting. One kind is the contemplative or growing ones. The other is the creative or achieving ones. Let us now think of the first. Anyone who is accustomed to meditation will know at once what is meant by the mention of them.

Anyone's life follows the course and takes the form of his thinking. That is, the life grows with the mind as the mind grows with its understanding. Our true selves expand with our thoughts or wither with the lack or the poorness of them.

An old Aryan proverb ran, "Man is he who thinks". We could coin another akin to it, and say, "Man is as he thinks". Reason and contemplative thought are indeed the marks of the human, partly because the amazing development of the human race has grown from the use of that very quality and ability.

We cherish the idea of freedom very dearly, and we should know that the key to it is understanding, the fruit of contemplation. Spinoza said a man is free as far as he knows, and Jesus of Nazareth said we should know the truth and the truth would make us free. The free person is not the one who recklessly does as he pleases, for he is only enslaving himself to worse masters. The free person is one who knows his way around, where he can go, what he can do, and what is desirable. Freedom of action can never be absolute, but the freedom to operate on the right side of things is as absolute as right itself.

This gives life a growing edge like a leaf, or constantly increasing amplitude like the wood rings being added year by year to the trunk of a tree. One day the writer was looking at a section of the trunk of a redwood tree that had been a good sized tree when Jesus was born in Bethlehem, and had kept growing until a few years ago. But even a redwood has its limits of growth, while the adequacy of a human life has none. In the sense of true greatness one can become as great as he will.

GROWTH IS THE MEASURE AND THE PROOF OF LIFE, AND IN  
HUMAN LIVING GROWTH IS WHAT THE MASTERY OF TRUTH HAS  
MADE IT.

When you begin to explore your life and its possibilities you will be amazed at two things - how it has grown in character, ability, and worth, and how much it is capable of growing still. This is one thing passing years and snowy locks cannot stop, and in heart at least those who avail themselves of it are forever young. There are always enough new fields to explore to keep us all busy and interested as long as we have the disposition to explore them.

Your mind is the light with which you go forth seeking these mines of contemplative value that belong to you and await you. Let it shine, follow it, and avail yourself of what you find. The process of doing so will bring about another form of growth which we shall discuss presently. Meanwhile, remember that all the equipment for thought has been furnished you, and that it is improved by use.

## The Creative Personality

**A**S we have said, the contemplative personality is the growing one. In like manner the creative personality is the achieving one. Few are wholly either the one or the other. Most of us are both, which is as it should be, for each works with the other for a well-rounded personality and a really worthwhile life.



Roughly speaking we might distinguish them by saying that the contemplative element in personality carries a lamp, while the creative one carries a pick and shovel; the one to find these hidden mines of worth and the other to open and operate them. That is not complete living, but it is the basis for it; not the structure but the foundation.

One of the ways in which we are made in the image of God is the presence of this creative element in our nature. It is not limited to things alone. We also create conditions, situations, and forces of various kinds. We even create the trends that determine history and make personal and collective destinies. Look at the influences that have been sent up the years by Socrates, St. Francis of Assisi, Jesus and His disciples, and many others. The new world that keeps developing springs from minds that carried their contemplation on to creation.

We are constantly pouring this creative element into the world life whether we are conscious of it or not. Though we probably never know exactly how or how much, our presence in the world makes a difference. This is true no matter how humble or remote our lives may be. The mother from among her household cares is investing more in the life of the world and the course of the years than could ever be calculated. The same is true, in one way or another, of each and all of us.

This difference one's presence in the world makes, however, should be guided by purpose so it will not be a haphazard one. Moreover, its purpose needs to be a beneficent one so it will not get into channels that are neutral or negative. A life grows results as a tree grows fruit, and therefore should be cared for at least as well as a tree. We cannot see this virtue that goes out from us, but we do know that it is exactly as good as our motives and management of it, plus our use and conservation of its effects.

What unworked mines of creativity are there in your nature? Some of them can be very surprising. In a certain rural community it was discovered that a trapper who never made any display and went about in rough attire had a very lovely tenor voice and read music well. Soon the community had him directing singing and conducting a class, which he did well. Thus an unworked mine was opened.

This is a splendid way to rescue life from boredom, and also to serve the world and to be conscious of being of some value. All these are good morale builders.

Search out the gleams and the high yearnings in your life and follow them. Note your deeper ambitions and follow them as guiding lights or open them up like mines and see what they hold for you. Do not judge the results in terms of material profit. If they result in the improvement of your financial condition, well and good; but one thing is certain - they will improve you and your daily life, and the value of that is incalculable.



## The Highest Reward

**W**E cannot consider all the benefits of this habit of finding and working these extra mines of value in one's life, but we can sum them all up into one and consider that. Its name is happiness. If life is truly happy it is a success; otherwise it is a failure. The showcases in the markets of life are full of artificial happiness, but the real kind comes only from wise living. That is, we dig it from our personal mines.

Unworked mines of happiness are everywhere. Some of them are at the very doors of people who think themselves unhappy. Others are at the doors of people who think themselves happy, but only because they do not really know what happiness is. The makings of happiness are supplied to each of us, but they might as well not be unless we avail ourselves of them. That is, unless we work our mines.

We are also given the tools with which to mine happiness for ourselves. Some of them are health, cheerful attitudes, and right relationships. Still more fundamental ones are: home and loved ones, a right philosophy of life, and a consciousness of the Eternal. With these anyone can have that satisfaction with living, which is happiness.

All really happy people are busy at something worth doing, so good work is another means of opening the mines of happiness. To keep occupied with something holds the mind steady, but to be occupied with something with true value in it gives us the consciousness of service, which contributes greatly to happiness.

There are available mines of usefulness almost everywhere, because there are needs almost everywhere. They are in the form of neglected groups, discouraged hearts, helpless people who see the light and cannot reach it, children who do not have a chance, old people who have been forgotten, invalids who long to hear reading, see flowers, or have a little friendly conversation. In a certain college town, for instance, a group of women students dedicated their Sunday afternoons to visiting sick and aged people, bringing flowers and talking with or singing for them. They were happy because they carried happiness where it was needed.

If you can serve the world in great and important public ways, do it, but if not, do not think you have no mine to work. Probably nothing really takes the place of doing the little kindnesses that are so likely to be neglected or overlooked. Even those in great places do such things for a special pleasure.

A special word should be said about the happiness of knowing and doing the will of the Eternal. The Psalmist had this principle right when he said,

"In thy presence there is fulness of joy, and at thy right hand there are pleasures forevermore."

There are plenty of people, and you may already be one of them, who can say from personal experience that this is true. This is treasure that moth and

rust cannot corrupt, and that thieves cannot break through and steal.

## All Ground is Good For Something

**T**HE technique of a diamond miner is simple - find, dig, and refine. That of the forty-niner gold seekers was equally so - find, dig, wash, and assay. Mining the values in our lives is no more complex, and one thing about it is far less so. There is no uncertainty. The ore is always there, and it is always good. The technique always works if it is used.

In the use of land the realization of one fact would save a vast deal of loss if it were applied. It is the fact that all ground is good for something, though maybe not the thing assumed. One may plant some arbitrarily chosen seed, only to discover that his ground was not adapted to that kind of crop, when all the time it could have been producing a quality harvest of something else.

Suppose it is not adapted to agriculture at all. Well, why insist on agriculture? It may be adapted to something that would pay much more richly.

In pioneer days a certain part of the country was settled by people who assumed that farming was all any land was good for. They worked hard and produced just enough to feed and clothe their families. They accepted the assumed fact that they could not expect much from that red clay, and let it go at that.

Then men who knew mining came in, looked at the plainly ferrous earth, made some tests, leased large tracts of the land, and developed a richly paying iron industry, while the men who might as well have done it themselves looked on in surprise. All land is good for something, and so are all of us.

There is no need to try to develop talents by force feeding when you have real ones ready made, nor is there any need to force what you have out of their normal channels. You can't tell your talents what to produce. Cultivate them and let them produce what they are made to do. The result is likely to be something much better than you either expected or thought about. These talents are divinely created. You are only the husbandman. The best patterns they can have are the ones they do have.

Round pegs and square pegs insist on being fitted into their own kinds of holes, holes for which they have natural affinities. Aptitudes are the same way. Don't insist on finding a mine like one in someone else's field. There is one your heart and mind both will recognize when you find it. That one will yield pay dirt, and it will be your own product. Every soil is good for something - on its own.

Mines old and new can be made to work together, so do not think you have to limit yourself to one. St. Paul was a good tentmaker as well as a missionary. Many people have turned successfully to an avocation when, for some reason, their



chief profession or trade had failed.

Don't think you have no such hidden treasures. Everyone has. Search your nature and find what all you are good for. You may find deposits of treasure more beautiful than gems and more valuable than gold. In time, those that had no material value at all may turn out to be the ones you value most.

So work your mines, for you have them. Do something with your endowments, for you have them too. Whether you use or give, let the product be your own. That is one phase of God's ever-continuing creation.

AFFIRMATION

I seek to make my life productive of the values it was made to create, and to use its products for the common good.

Blessings,

YOUR INSTRUCTOR.