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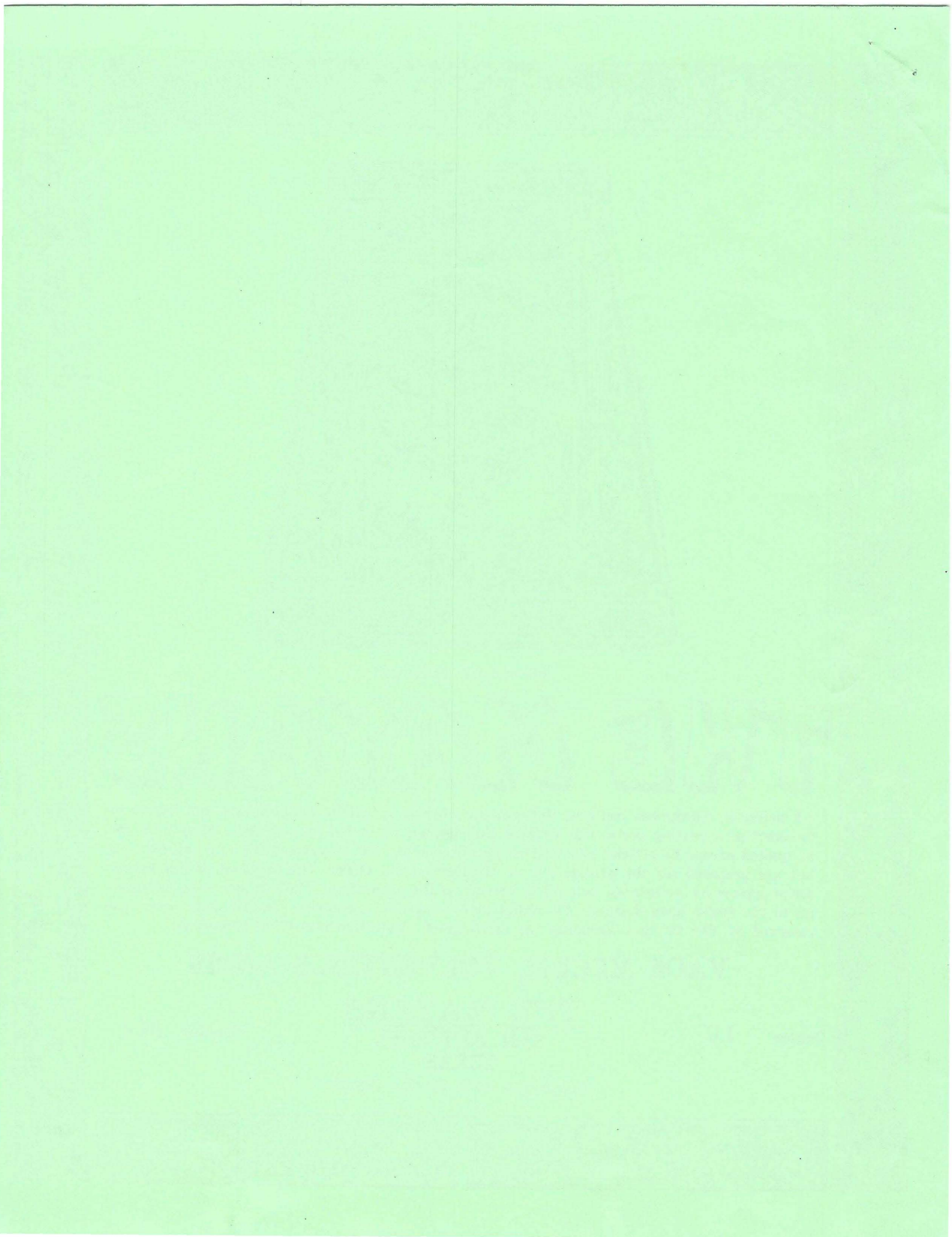
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# Some Inescapables

Mayan Revelation Number 242

Right

The Past

Truth

Fellowship

Consequence

Ourselves

## The Infinite

Beloved Perfector:

The title of this lesson, "Some Inescapables", may seem somewhat puzzling to you at first glance; but as you read on, you will understand the Truth we are endeavoring to bring you.

As you know, in this life there are some things that are right and some things that are wrong. Right is, of course, one of the inescapables. We cannot escape right - it is what it is and can be no different, nothing can change it. One of the things that made Abraham Lincoln great was the principle by which he lived - his belief that right made might and that all should have faith in it to do their duty as they understood it. And I have many times quoted Henry Clay when he said, "I would rather be right than be President." Yes, Right is inescapable.

Wrong, on the other hand, can be escaped, even though in the course of life we are sometimes sorely tempted - it sometimes seems much easier to take the wrong way because, in one way or another, we seem at the moment to benefit by it - but, in the end, we are always much happier when we escape doing the wrong thing. This is why we call it escapable.

A man who commits a wrong will, ultimately, see the handwriting on the wall although in the eyes of the world he may not seem guilty. Wrong is wrong, and nothing can hide it and no subterfuge or excuse can change it cleverly enough but that an all-seeing Power will discover it. And because we know this, we are unhappy and there is no gain worth it. This, we can escape and avoid.

Another quality that we cannot escape is Truth, so we call it inescapable. Right at this point, I am reminded of a telephone call I had recently from a member, a good soul who, in speaking of her troubles, said, "I know that life is made up of troubles. I am not complaining. I know that I am a stronger person for having had troubles and burdens." And I thought what a fine outlook on life she has and, furthermore, she has learned to accept that which

life has bestowed on her, the good and the bad, and she has learned many truths that have enabled her to be happy in spite of difficulties when they arise.

I wonder if you have ever seen a pearl diver. This is very much like the search for Truth. Usually, the person who possesses it is the one who has plunged into the depths of life and has torn his hands on the rocks of time, but he has obtained the pearl - he has found the Truth.

Regardless of what has happened in the past, always remember that we have the Now and the Future; and if we have indulged in an escapable such as Wrong in the past and are now profiting by our mistake, then we can look upon the error as a blessing in disguise, a lesson learned, and determine that since it is an escapable, we will escape it in the future.

With this thought in mind, we will proceed with the lesson, first repeating the words of the prayer that precede it.

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#### PRAYER

Heavenly Father, the elements in my life that I can control, help me to manage in the best and wisest way. To those I cannot control, help me to adjust myself without frustration or loss.

Amen.

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#### RIGHT

There are some avoidable things in life, and others we cannot escape. There are good and bad among them both. This is a survey of some of the inescapable ones. One of these is the principle called Right. It cannot be seen, yet it is built into the very constitution of the universe and the very fabric of existence. We can neither change nor escape it. It does not have to pursue us. It is always there wherever we are.

Wrong is escapable. We do not have to accompany it nor be accompanied by it. It seems to us very strong and brave, but the fact is that it is very weak and cowardly. We have but to bid it be gone. It is the opposite with right. It is a part of the constitution of the universe, and cannot be avoided, dissipated, nor defeated. It is more than impregnable. It is inevitable.

Right is associated with the Latin syllable, "rect", as in rectitude, rectangle, and correct. A rectangle is a figure with only right angles. A correct answer is one that is right or true. A correct life is one that moves in straight lines, so to speak, with no irregularity, nothing to hide, nothing to fear, and nothing that cannot be depended upon. It is a divine law, so we try, as we say, to live rightly. But whether we do or not, we have it to deal with and finally be judged by, just the same. Right cannot be improved upon - we can only approach it.



Right is changeless and eternal. It is not subject to fancy as modes and customs are. They can be altered or improved. It is not so with right. It is already perfect. Reckless souls may replace it with wrong, but it will still be there to reckon with sooner or later. As pillars support a roof and are indispensable, right supports the very structure of life. To try to replace or dispense with it is ruinous.

In speaking of conduct, especially in the Bible, the words "right" and "just" are interchangeable. A just man and a righteous one are alike or identical. To do right, then, is to deal justly, to go straight, and to deal squarely. This kind of program keeps things in balance and proportion, so we no longer waver and have to struggle to keep ourselves in line.

This we cannot escape. It is wherever we go, just like the air and the light. No matter what may be our attitudes, desires, or efforts, we have sooner or later to deal with and come to terms with it. Those who have sold drygoods over the counter know that always near are two little brass tackheads just a yard apart, and that every piece of goods sold must go past those marks on the counter. So does everything in our lives have to go past a standard of rectitude, of Right.

An irreligious man facetiously asked a religious one for plain directions for reaching Heaven. The answer was direct enough, "Turn to the right and keep straight ahead".

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### TRUTH

Another inescapable we must recognize is Truth. Truth is the expression of Right as Right is the principle of Truth. Truth is another thing that never leaves us and to which we must keep adjusted if we hope to make much of life. Like the word, "right", the word, "truth", means something very much like a straight line. A true line is one that has no twists, a true course is one that has no swervings, a true statement is one with no crooked language in it.

Truth takes two forms, that of expression and that of being. The old form of the word, "troth", was a supposedly true agreement between two people, and is still used in connection with marriage vows. An honest person's word should be his troth, to be sacredly kept.

Truth in being means that some things are or may be true, like a life, a building, an act, or a condition. Such ones are dependable and permanent. They are not conditional. They stand sure. A true man, a true teacher, a true plan, a true endeavor - such things are priceless. They are parts of the ages that will not crumble.

We relate our lives to Truth by building them, or any part of them, along true lines and according to true principles. Somewhere in the world life today could be found the things for which every really true person lived all through the ages.

A certain man promised to build two short pieces of true roadway on an

old road that had repeatedly worn out. He did so. That was more than sixty years ago and he has been gone for forty of them. The rest of the road has been worked over several times, but those two sections he built are good today, monuments to a man who had true ideas of roadbuilding.

It is said that "truth will out". This means that the truth will always come to the surface and prevail, no matter how small it is or how deeply hidden. Each of us has to meet this fact sooner or later, so why not at once? Men now have ways of moving mountains, and our inventions have even changed some of the upper air currents; but no one ever changed or stopped a truth, nor has it ever been suppressed for long.

Truth is not related to anything in the sense of dependence. It is absolute, like the result of a correct solving of a mathematical problem. Two and two made four before anyone ever knew it, even before the numerals were devised to visualize it. They will always make four, even if numbers are forgotten. It is just as inevitable and indestructible in terms of life values as in terms of number or quantity.

Is your house of life being built on solid foundations and of solid materials? If not, lose no time in making a change of materials and methods. Only then can you be fearless of storm or earthquake such as sometimes come in life and history.

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#### CONSEQUENCE

The word, "Consequence", means following together, or one thing following another. We are using it here as another name for the Law of Cause and Effect, which it is. Each act or force set in motion is a Cause, and it will be followed by an Effect. That is as sure as that day follows night or as that the sun rises in the East. We cannot escape it or change it. We must accept the results of what we do or fail to do. There is no other way. We cannot control all the future, but we can control much of it by what causes we do or do not set going.

The Law of Consequence is the Law of Judgment taking place right here in our lives every day and hour. We are writing our own judgment books all the time, like our deposits and withdrawals at the bank. What we are at any given time is our current balance. If the balance is favorable, it is due to our good efforts. If we are overdrawn, no one has caused it but ourselves.

Consequence is as inescapable as the passing of time. Hercules, Ajax, and all the rest of the strong men of history, would only forbid and try to stop it in vain. In His Parable of the Sower, the Master illustrated well the Truth that whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. We can change the kind of seed we sow, or mix something else with it, then the Effect will be different but only because we altered the Cause. On this basis, life and the universe operate. We can only accept it and live by it.

Since everything we do becomes a Cause, and everything that happens is



an Effect; and since every Effect becomes the Cause of another Effect, we can see that we hold great power in our hands - power to affect not only our own lives and times, but also the lives of others and future times as well. That should remind us of the seriousness of the responsibility of decision and help us to exercise great care in our use of the power to choose, for it is a mighty scepter.

That is one of the ways in which the Ruler of the Universe has created us in His own image. It is also an evidence of the confidence He has shown. To trust us with such vast authority is something only a parent would do.

Our use of the Law of Cause and Effect, or Consequences, is shown in the directions in which we travel in living. We choose a road and a direction, for every road leads two ways. It is very foolish to start West on a road when we wish to reach a town to the East, or vice versa. We do not go over a hill by starting down the slope. The progress of a person, a generation, or an age, is not a matter of motion, but of direction. If one starts the wrong way - the faster he goes, the sooner he fails.

This raises the ancient question of free will. Do we choose, or does Destiny decide things for us? The answer is partly both. God gives us a set of circumstances in which to live our lives, but what we make of those circumstances we determine. He gives us the starting point, but we choose the point of arrival. He gives us the setting of the play, but we write the theme and the climax. He gives us the forge, but we shape the Causes - and accept the Consequences. He provides the ship, but we chart the course and accept responsibility for the port.

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#### THE PAST

It is easy to see that one of our inescapables is the time already lived and the road already traveled. There was a time when we had something to do with them, but that time is past. They are our own workmanship, but we chose them and accepted them, and we can only live with them now. A poet has said of the Past that strong are the barriers 'round its dark domain. Whether its domain is dark or not, there are barriers around it; and they are more than strong, they are insurmountable.

The most changeless thing we know is Yesterday. Yet, only the day before, it was as pliable as putty in our hands. Then we could make of it whatever we wished. You see, it has changed its name twice since we learned about it. Day before yesterday, it was Tomorrow, and completely in our power. Yesterday, its name was Today, and we still had considerable power over it. Now, its name is Yesterday, and it is a part of the most unchangeable thing we know, a day that is past. All we can do with it is to remember.

The Past is an image already carved. Then, the sculptor could choose his pattern, but nothing can put the marble back in its place now. The prisoner has been released from his granite fetters, and nothing can confine him there again. It is the picture of a little space of time, but that time is no more;

only the picture remains.

But look! Tomorrow is another block of raw stone. It is a thing of hope, of pure potentiality. What we can make of it is limited only by our skill and desire. A single false stroke would spoil it, but we have not yet made that stroke. It is still a dream, and a dream can be made to come true. We can change the Past only before it becomes the Past.

There is one thing, and a wonderful one, that we can do about the Past even after it is gone - we can learn from it. It was a time spent in life's great experimental laboratory where mistakes are sometimes made as reminders not to make them again. Who is there who has not made mistakes, and who does not still do so? But if a mistake keeps us from ever repeating it, and makes us careful about making others, it has brought some profit, perhaps very important profit.

The years are friends we meet along the way. They are new. We never saw them before, and we shall not meet them again, for to them and to us, though traveling in opposite directions, life is a one-way road. That means that we have to perceive their goodness and receive their benefits in passing. It also means that the passing of each one can teach us how better to receive, enjoy, and profit from those still to come. Think of them as friends. It will help.

We need to be at peace with the yesterdays, good friends of the Past, but the only way we can do that is to make friends and be at peace with each Yesterday while it is still Today. To be at peace with life helps us to be at peace with all things, including God, fellow human beings, and ourselves.

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#### FELLOWSHIP

A fifth inescapable is Human Fellowship. We are all members of the human family. To live in the world at all, we have to be a part in some way of the great kinship called society. Even if we were isolated from them, which becomes more and more unlikely and unusual, we are still related to the rest of the members of the human race and affected by their presence in the world. We have to live in relation to the conditions others have built and are building, and we have in one way or another to adapt our efforts to theirs and have ours affected by theirs.

This involves us in a great number of relationships, ranging all the way from the newsboy and the milkman to the heads of government, even the heads of other governments in this closely knitted age. We may so act and work as to affect these relationships more or less, improving them or damaging them, but in any case they are there, and they are inescapable. No matter how we might try to ignore them, this would still be true. Our relations to others are a part of the living of our lives, like the way our houses have been planned or our gardens have been laid out.

Many of these relationships obligate others to us, and many of them



obligate us to others. At least some, possibly many, of these obligations are carried out in some measure; and in each case, it makes a difference in our plans, habits, possibilities, and directions. This is so true that even the existence of a hermit is not a completely independent one. As the Bible says, "No man liveth unto himself, and no man dieth unto himself."

Three grades of management are apparent in the way people manage these inescapable relationships. Some manage them badly, and do damage both to themselves and the general situation of their lives. Some manage them indifferently, perhaps because of neglect more than anything else, but with results matching their indifference. Some manage them well, because they are aware of them and their sure effect on society as a whole as well as upon themselves.

These relationships, as we have said, are inevitable and inescapable; and being a seeker for truth and good, you naturally want to conduct yours effectively and well. Fortunately, it is as easy to conduct them well as in either of the other two ways, and the consequences are much more beneficial. What can be more rewarding than maintaining a good relationship with family, friends, acquaintances, and the human race in general?

Keep your human relationships on a high level. Thus you will not only pass over many of the rough places in the way of life, but you will have the joy of never failing to have a friendly voice or a helping hand when you need it. Human relationships are rebounding balls or echoing voices. They send back to us what we have sent to them, with the added value of repaid good will.

Nothing ever goes very wrong for a friend of humankind; and if anything does, he has no lack of comforters and helpers. For him, the winds of life are mostly favorable; and if now and then one blows unfavorably, he does not have to meet it alone.

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### OURSELVES

There is another inescapable we must not fail to mention in our brief list. It is a rather surprising one, but perhaps the most inescapable of all - Ourselves. Do you never find yourself resisting what you are convinced you ought to do? Do you never have to argue with yourself about anything? Do you never find yourself trying to induce you to do something better than you are planning to do it? If not, then you must be the only person of your kind in the world.

Getting along with one's self is the most exacting job of relations in the world, partly because you and yourself are always together and partly because it does not hesitate to tell you exactly how it thinks. Yourself requires the most constant attention too. You have to keep after yourself like a teacher after a pupil, a parent after a child, or vice versa. That is, sometimes you need to give it guidance, and sometimes you need to accept guidance from it, all of which goes to prove that You are the most inescapable of your Inescapables.

One thing each of us owes himself is to set a standard for himself and insist on that standard being taken seriously - being lifted if it seems possible, but never lowered nor disregarded. We can and should be kind to ourselves, but we should be sure whether it is kindness or something else we are offering. It is only right for us to treat ourselves with consideration, but to remember that between consideration and indulgence there is a difference.

Remember the obligation of Self-Respect. It is one of the most essential norms of living. True Self-Respect and true respect for others together can keep one from making more mistakes than almost anything else. Self-Respect keeps one reminded of the duty to deserve not only the respect of others, but that of the one who knows most about him, himself. One who really respects himself will do anything or sacrifice anything necessary to keep himself from shame. Being ashamed of one's self is about the saddest of human emotions.

To make your relation to yourself a success, you must observe yourself in thought and action. Try to see yourself at what you do. Listen to yourself talk. What do your voice and your speech indicate about your nature? Notice the results of what you do. Are they what you could wish or not? Think of yourself as a schoolchild showing you the current grade card. Is the report satisfactory? If not, what does it need to make it so?

We have to live with ourselves. That is one situation in which we can surely determine the kind of company we keep. A great deal of importance is attached to that. How we manage it shows us whether we are good judges of companions. If we need practice along that line, we can always practice a little with ourselves.

Shakespeare's Polonius said to his son, Laertes, "To thine own self be true; and it must follow as the night the day, thou canst not then be false to any man." Here is a good principle in life management, and in what we can do with one of our inescapables in whom each of us has great personal interest.

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#### THE INFINITE

One more of our list of inescapables remains to be mentioned. It, like ourselves, is as inescapable as anything can be. It is the Infinite One, Life at its highest, the Source of all things. God is not distant from us, and it is not true that we do or can get on without close and constant contact with Him. As St. Paul said, "In Him we live, and move, and have our being" and He is not far from any one of us.

Tennyson puts the power of poetry into the idea when he says that God is "closer to us than breathing, and nearer than hands or feet". To search for Him is like a fish searching for the sea, or a flower searching for the garden, or an eagle searching for the sky.

Speak or think of God under whatever name you will - the Divine, the Eternal, the Infinite, the Creator, the Origin, the First Cause, the Father - it all means the same, the Personality, the One, the Pure Spirit, in whom all



things consist. We might also call Him the Great Inescapable. Whatever we call Him or think Him to be, He is the Factor in life of whom it is supremely true that we will meet Him, deal with Him, and have to come to terms with Him, on any road we go and anywhere we may arrive.

We cannot escape the Divine by unbelief, for He is real whether we accept the fact or not. No one can change the fact that where there is an Effect there is a Cause, that wherever there is a design there has been a designer. Refuse to accept God if you will, but you will have to reckon with Him just the same. You might as well walk with Him knowingly, for you already do it and will just the same. You might as well work with Him willingly, for He is the Source of your inspiration and the Secret of your success.

One cannot avoid the Infinite by changing places, for every place is within His presence. You cannot argue Him away, for He is Himself the Source of all reason. You cannot put anything else in His place, for it would only be something He, Himself, has ordained. You cannot decide whether He exists, for He is the reason why you, yourself, exist.

Try to escape God, and you lose not only your realization of His presence but also the blessings He is always trying to bestow upon you. Recognize Him in your life and all that is good and lovely is yours. To refuse God is to declare yourself an orphan, but you are not one and cannot be. Every child has a father, and so does every soul; otherwise, we would not be here.

You would not think of assuming any such negative and unreasonable attitude, of course; but some people do try to travel the road without realizing the great companionship, missing the help and enjoyment of the richest and best in life. The most necessary thing to real living is keeping adjusted to and in harmony with the Presence and the Power.

Keeping on good filial terms with the Father helps to make all those other inescapables more meaningful and valuable. The most important thing one can do is to walk with God in the kind of faith that caused Abraham to be called His friend.

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#### AFFIRMATION

I accept the inescapables of life as blessings and assets for my earthly journey, and I find them priceless.

Blessings,

Your Instructor.

