



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.

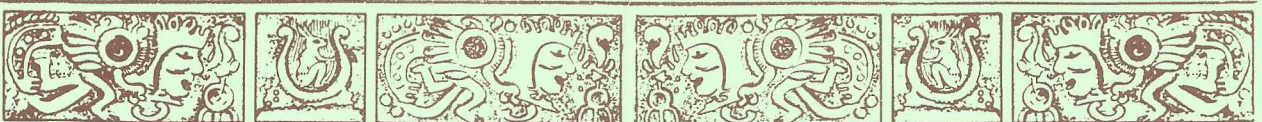
VADE MECUM, VOLVENTIBUS ANNIS

Degree 10

THE MAYANS
SAN ANTONIO,
TEXAS

Number 246

Copyright 1961 by The Mayans





THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
1100 EAST 58TH STREET
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60637
TEL: 773-936-3000
WWW.CHICAGO.EDU



Consider The Lilies

Mayan Revelation Number 246

The Lilies

Contentment

The Lily and its Maker

Peace

Beauty

Wholeness

The Giver



Beloved Perfector:

There is no subject about which I would rather write, or about which I would rather teach, than that of Nature and its effect upon our lives - also the lessons we can learn from growing things. This particular manuscript has been called, "Consider the Lilies", for I know of no more perfect lesson that we can learn than that which we find in observing the Lily.

The Lily is content with what God has bestowed upon it, it is content with what it possesses - and we must learn to be content with what we possess if we would be happy. And if we are at peace with God in our own conscience, as the Lily so clearly shows, what could we possibly fear?

The Lily is perfectly content with the way it is clothed, with the place in which it grows. It does not ask for a better place to live; it doesn't even ask for particularly good soil. If it can have reasonably good earth, light and water, it does not ask for more. It is quite true that the person who is the richest is content with the least, for he realizes that he possesses wealth because he has happiness.

The Lily is so perfect in every respect. It is a joy to watch it unfold, if you are fortunate to have one or more blooming in your garden in the Spring. There is such a perfect air of contentment, of dignity, of purity, as it grows to give happiness to all who may behold it.

The Lily does not know why it was put here. It only knows that it is content, not only with what it is able to understand, but with what it cannot understand. It is a way of thinking that theologians and true Christians call "Faith exemplified".

The Lily, to me, seems almost to have a living personality. Perhaps I have such tenderness for the beautiful flower because it asks so little - it takes the good it finds, asks no questions, just accepting what God has given it, passing on its gift to man in the only way it can, by giving of its purity, its fragrance, its beauty.

What more should we ask from life than to be able to do just this - to share the gifts that God has given us with others, not necessarily material things, but a smile, a kindness, a helping hand when it is needed. These, my good Companion, are the things that make life meaningful. There is no other way. There is nothing else in life really important. Wealth is not the answer. Beautiful homes are not the answer. These things are all very fine, of course, but they do not always bring happiness and contentment.

I can only hope that in the pages to follow we have made our purpose clear in asking you to "Consider the Lilies". They contain a very powerful lesson for

us as we fashion the pattern of our lives. We can be so much happier and give so much more happiness if we try to imitate the habits of the Lily from the time it is placed in the ground by man, until it opens into a beautiful, perfect flower, in its purity, its simplicity, its perfections, and its way of life.

Study it and try to learn its mysteries - and apply what you learn to your own life. It is the sincere hope of your Instructor that your prayer request that follows will be answered abundantly.

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, help me to learn well the secrets of the lilies and all Thy most obedient creatures, and to do Thy will as well as do they. Amen.

- 0 -

The Lilies

The great Teacher of Life once said to those who gathered around Him to catch the wisdom that fell from His lips, so they could use it in their living, "Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin; and yet I say unto you, that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these." Thus He gave to them, and to all of us, a wonderful formula for living. In this lesson, we will enlarge upon it a little and try to bring it within the scope of our lives today.

He might have used some other flower or plant for illustration - a rose, or a tree, or a stalk of grain, or a climbing vine - but the Lily was an especially good symbol because the Lily has itself become a symbol of life immortal. It is pure and harmless, as well as beautiful. So what else could be quite as well chosen for this comparison - the Lily being the pattern, and we the strivers after the pattern?

Ever since that long-ago day, the Lily has been a teacher of all who would learn. Its silent loveliness is eloquent, but the laws by which it lives are more than that - they are eternally significant for anyone who wants to make the most and the best of his life, and wants to observe something that does exactly that in a way as quiet as it is effective. How eloquent is its silent beauty! It teaches life not by what it says, but by what it is.

The Lily never changes its teaching or its method. Its message and demonstration are the same now as when those words were spoken in Galilee, even as when the first Lily ever opened its blossoms to the sun and air. Lilies have been around a long time, so it is appropriate that they should be teachers of unchanging principles and values. We can depend upon them, for their truth has been tested and proved every year farther back than we know.

The teaching of the Lily is not dogmatic nor theoretical, but it is positive because it is completely and finally true, and we cannot rearrange truth to suit our fancy. The Lily teaches what it knows, and this it knows because it has lived it. Its subject matter does not change style all the time, because it is

right, and rightness can neither be revised nor improved upon. Its subject is central - it is life - and all others are only subdivisions and variations of it.

It uses the demonstration method. No teacher can present a subject very effectively unless his teaching is apparent in himself. It is so with the Lily, so much so that it does not need a voice with which to speak. We have only to observe what it is and how it lives, works, and develops. It is like a medical student watching a surgeon or a technical student watching an engineer at work. Let us, then, observe a few of the things the Lily has to show us regarding its own mastery of life and how simply and easily it is carried on.

- 0 -

The Lily and its Maker

The Lily is matchless and perfect in its relation to its Creator. That is what makes it matchless and perfect in its functioning and its beauty. That is all it takes for any created thing to be perfect in all its functions and relationships. This involves a great and wonderful principle it is now important for the reader to ponder till he sees the fulness of its meaning for him.

Why is a Lily so beautiful? Why does it keep so healthy and so well suited to and prepared for every change in the advancing season of its life? It is always ready to be exactly what it needs to be and do exactly what a Lily is supposed to do at any time and in any situation. It is never out of adjustment to time or requirement. This is true not only of a few special Lilies, but of them all. It is not true merely a part of the time but all of the time.

How can a Lily be and do that way? Now attend carefully and consider well and ponder deeply what is about to be said next. It is the great principle by which a Lily fills exactly and perfectly the place of a Lily in creation, and by which every one of us can fill exactly and perfectly our places in creation. It will keep any life beautiful and able to accomplish its mission in the world. It will keep one in adjustment and out of trouble. It is a safeguard against friction and failure. It is the one sure secret of success at anything right and needful for one to do. It is the principle of obedience to the creative will.

There is a wonderful, glorious, triumphant thing that can be said of a Lily, but that can be said of few, if any, human beings. It is this - a Lily is one thing that has never once in its life said, "No," to God. It has never once disobeyed the command of its Maker. Cheerfully and willingly, with no thought of refusal or delay, it does exactly what it is supposed to do, at exactly the right time, and in exactly the place where it was planted to do it. That is why it is so beautiful, and exactly why it never fails. Man is always stumbling into trouble through his will, through his power to refuse and disobey.

One may say that this is easy for a Lily because it has no will. How does anyone know that? Might it not be that in some way it too could rebel, and refuse, and go astray? But it never does. Perhaps it never thought of it. That is where we get into trouble and ruin our lives. We think of too many things that would never occur to us if our whole minds were always concentrated on doing what our Maker placed us here to do. The Garden of Eden story indicates that the

misuse of the mind was exactly what got the human race into difficulty in the first place. Not so with the Lily. It never tampers with the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

The Lily never questions or even wonders about God. It takes Him for granted. His power and wisdom lead it, and it follows and obeys. That is the best the wisest and strongest of us could hope to do and make of our relationship with Him. The Lilies have no religious differences. They all live by complete faith, and that keeps them unified.

- 0 -

Beauty

We have said in the preceding section of this lesson that a Lily is perfect in beauty because it is perfect in obedience. Let us now explore further the principle involved in this assertion. Any flower is beautiful, but a Lily has a beauty of its own, fragile and usually pure white. It has come to be thought of as the floral symbol of life and immortality, perhaps because it appears in the springtime when new life is springing everywhere. In any event, it is an expressive symbol. There is something about it that mutely says, "Behold, I am the picture of a thought of God".

A star is beautiful in its serenity, an ancient cliff is beautiful in its ruggedness, a redwood tree is beautiful in its reach for the sky, but a Lily is beautiful for the divine touch so apparent upon it. In one way or another, a human spirit may possess all these elements of beauty.

Most of us have already marred the perfection of the divine image upon us. The Lily, with the perfection of that image still upon it, stands silently reminding us that we can keep that image as it has done; but that if we have allowed it to become marred, the grace that made the Lily beautiful can help us restore it.

Here stands a Lily in the fulness of the beauty into which it has grown, planned in the Infinite Mind, fashioned by the Infinite Power. Any or all of us might try to the end of our earthly lives to create one like it. We can make an imitation, but it is not a Lily. Only God can make a Lily. But here comes a careless person with a stick, beats the fragile flower to the ground and tears its petals apart. That requires no skill. Anyone can destroy a Lily, but only God can make one. Its loveliness is not imitative, but original and perfect.

Some lives may be like Lilies, others like mountains or cliffs, but each can have its own God-made beauty. True beauty in a human being is in his life and character, built in through long periods of time by the thoughts, words, and acts that add up to the life he lives.

The old minister in Goldsmith's "Deserted Village" was a person who had done this. The writer sketches his character fully, but the few lines in which he sets forth this idea have well been called the finest simile in all English Literature. It runs:

"As some tall cliff, that lifts its awful form,
Swells from the vale, and midway leaves the storm,
Though 'round its breast the rolling clouds are spread,
Eternal sunshine settles on its head."

Meditate on this subject of conformity to the divine will and its beautiful results. We conform to fashions and fads of little or no importance. We imitate customs, some of which are actually damaging. If we are to do any conforming, why blunder along trying to set our own pace when we have available the perfect will and power that created all the beauty in the world to set our patterns for us? The same hand that made the Lilies also created us.

"In the beauty of the lilies, Christ was born across the sea,
With a glory in His bosom that transfigures you and me."

- 0 -

Contentment

One of the great things about a Lily, and doubtless one that also contributes to its beauty, is the spirit of contentment in which it lives its days. Let us not be too sure that it does not in some way know and care where it grows; but we may be sure that it grows there without complaint or effort to go elsewhere until the cycle of its life is completed. It is not like people rushing hither and yon, trying to get somewhere else they think is better or finer, and thereby keeping themselves dis-contented and dis-satisfied.

The Lily makes no demands and sets up no requirements about its place. It does not insist on living in the fashionable section. All it asks is a little good soil and a place where the sunshine and the rain can reach it. Even if the soil is not so rich, it takes hold and does the best it can.

It cannot do anything about it, did you say? Oh yes it can, and does. If a Lily finds itself situated in an unlovely place, as often happens, it just grows up to be so beautiful that its situation is beautiful too. Have you not seen even a humble house made attractive by the beautiful personality and life of someone who lived there? Have you not known people who were ornaments to any scene where they happened to be? They were just doing what the Lily does. No spot can remain ugly where true beauty dwells.

If a Lily could and should spend its days rushing madly about from place to place in search of some elusive idea of attractiveness, it would soon be all frayed out as discontented people become. In some quiet way, it seems to realize the futility of doing so. Instead of that, it centers all its strength in the business of living a sweet and beautiful life where it finds itself, and makes that spot as inviting as, if not more so than, any other it could find.

The Lily is contented. Stop and meditate awhile on that word, "contented". It means "contained", or "being held together". The contented person is one who is able to hold his life together. If we can do that well, we are by no means failing and we are by no means poor.

The word, "satisfied", is a much stronger word, but it is so strong that it is most likely to be out of reach. It means "to make or to have enough". Who ever arrives at that stage? What is enough? Who is there who, if he once attained all he desired, would find it really all he desired? Such a one would immediately begin desiring more. The contented man who has no surplus and realizes he needs none, is the fortunate one. The Lily is contented.

So the Lily holds its life together. It looks fragile, but it is strong. It has to be to keep contented. The strength to do that is wealth within itself, for with that strength, one can solve his problems and get along whatever the situations in which he finds himself may be. No one ever thought of a Lily as being poor. "Even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these."

- 0 -

Peace

There are no contentions among the Lilies. If anyone should mention such a thing as a war among the Lilies, his sanity would be doubted. The Lilies are content to make the best of what they have. When each one already has everything it really needs, why struggle for more, especially when it belongs to others? Only things that are not enslaved by self-will do this; those with self-will find it hard not to choose the self-interest way.

It is the spirit of rivalry and self-seeking that keeps man forever at strife. Because of it, he wars with others - sometimes even with his own better self. The trouble lies in putting the emphasis on self-interest, rather than the brotherhood that we all share as children of a common Father. It is said that man becomes savage at the point where his power equals his passion. If he could only reach the point where his passion is solely for the good and beautiful, the problem would be solved. The Lilies have reached that point - their only passion is to be beautiful and good.

St. James writes that the reason for wars and fightings is the desire for things. We pray for them, and do not get them because we ask amiss in that we pray for things we do not need and do not pray for the things we need. Of what war and strife is that not true? What one is not a contention for the failing, decaying, disappointing goods of the earth? Lilies have material needs too, but they know each will get all it requires without covetousness or rivalry.

The so-called lower animals contend for food and shelter only when it seems necessary to them. The flowers and plants never contend for anything at all. Men contend over anything - position, territory, money, advantage, recognition, even right-of-way on the road. Man has so organized his life that he thinks this is necessary, but the Lilies have not. They build no spite fences between their hearts and put no padlocks on their sympathies and understandings. We wish for a pattern by which to build a world of peace. We have it in the Lilies.

Could there be some connection between peace and beauty? Could beauty be the spirit of peace coming to the surface? If peace is the root of beauty, and it may well be one of them, surely we should realize that essential beauty is

something that must rise in the inner life. No face is ever very beautiful so long as it is irritated and unkind, nor very unattractive so long as it is gentle and kind. The Lily has found this secret and solved this problem also.

The Lily and its flower companions even suggest the possibility of an army of peace that would seek to tame savage hearts and neutralize cruel intentions. It would march under the banners of innocence, purity, and beauty. Its chief weapon would be a handclasp and a friendly smile.

The essentials of the formula for the new earth were sounded in the angels' song over the hills near Bethlehem - "peace on earth and good will to men". If a great convocation were called to subscribe to it and begin immediate action on the basis of it, the Lilies might well be the first ones to sign, not merely as those who carry out the principle but also as those who have taught it to the rest of us.

- 0 -

Wholeness

This is a world of starts and stops, starting and quitting, irregular progress, maybe getting there and maybe not. The Lily, with its quiet steadiness, is among the things that begin and never stop until they have exhausted their possibilities and become all they were created to be. It never boasts about this. It simply does it. That is the way creation, becoming, was meant to be and continue. Man, the uncertain, does not often do it that way. The Lily, the reliable, never fails to.

The Lilies seem to understand something few humans ever do. It is the nature of holiness. Man thinks holiness is some perfection of goodness one must resolve, and struggle, and suffer, to attain - and then not attain, or attain and not hold onto. The Lily's Creator has whispered to it the facts. It knows holiness is merely another form of the word, "wholeness", that it means nothing more or less than completeness, and that it is not something one attains by arbitrary struggle but into which he simply grows, as the Lily develops. To grow as the Creator meant us to grow, is to become what He meant us to become.

The holy thing is the whole thing, the entire and complete thing. In the source languages, the words "holy", or "wholly", and "health", come from the same derivation. Their original meaning was the same. In the New Testament, we do not read of the Master curing people, but of His making them whole. That is what health is. To be complete is all one can be. That is the basis on which the Lily develops, and it is one of the lessons it has to teach us.

The Lily knows no such thing as being stunted or of suffering that sad condition of moronism or arrested development. It starts and keeps growing according to the laws of Lilyhood, until it has filled out the perfect pattern into which it was made to fit. One trouble with us is that we try to do things ourselves, instead of merely submitting to the developing touch of life; we make them hard, when they should be as easy as the growth of a Lily day by day.

The Lily can do this partly because it never becomes impatient. It never tries to hurry things. It knows that is the way things get wrecked. It takes so many weeks for a Lily to develop, as it does for an oak, or a continent, or a star. It takes that number of weeks to the day, having first, of course, taken the right start. Shoot, stem, leaf, bud, blossom, and seed, all come exactly right in the appointed time, because it keeps going and never tries to pull around and beat its neighbors. No Lily tries to get ahead of the rest. They all get ahead together, and none minds in the least what another accomplishes.

Thus the Lily always has something to look forward to. We are always wanting the climax now, which leaves us nothing to attain. We never hear of a Lily failing to attain its goal. It is content to keep unfolding a little every day, which is the sure way to arrive.

- 0 -

The Siver

In closing this lesson, we approach one of the very most wonderful things about a Lily, one of the very chief reasons why it is so beautiful, and one of the very topmost facts that make it so well beloved. It gives out good, only good, all the time. It has given out good so long that it has only good to give.

We do not mean by this that the Lily is a great philanthropist, and yet it is. It does not give relief to the needy in the form of money, supplies, or other material assistance, for it does not deal in these things. It gives the only thing it has to give, a smile; and in some situations that is worth vastly more than anything else could be at the moment. That is the gift God has given it, with the nature that impels it to dispense that gift. It could not do otherwise. A Lily cannot frown, nor can it withhold its smile. Its Maker knew that people would pass by who would need that more than anything else in the world.

This program of smiling at people who have been frowned at until they are weary of it, is something the Lily does all its life long. Maturity and age do not change it. What the weather is or what the conditions are makes no difference. Neither does the recipient of the smile, or whether he deserves it or not. You will never go near a Lily and be greeted with anything but a smile; and while it will always seem good, sometimes you will know that it is what will help you most.

What has the Lily to smile about? It does not have to have anything. It is its nature to smile and its disposition to be pleasing. It can no more keep from smiling at people than the sun can keep from rising in the East.

Its offering to the happiness of the world is distinctively its own. It does not give food, or raiment, or money, because people can manage in some way to get these. It gives the choicest product of its own nature, something in which it is rich and of which the world has all too little. Its gift is beauty and kindness, and of these who ever had an oversupply? It gives what many rich people would gladly pay a very great deal for.

Beauty in one form or another is a quality needed by everything everywhere, and it can express itself in almost anything we know, including a smile. What a pity that real ones, expressive of loveliness of spirit, cannot be obtained from the beautician! It is what the aged Emerson meant when he said at Longfellow's bier that "this man had a beautiful soul". We have no surplus of beauty to spare from our thinking, our speech, or our actions. The Lilies might show us how to make daily living a lovelier thing.

Life can be beautiful, even when it has been ugly. Something brings about the change and makes the difference. It may have been a smile on the face of a friend, a loved one, a child, or a Lily. Who knows where or how far the warmth of a smile will travel? When a star smiles its smile, it lights the way for people trillions and trillions of miles away, and a smile on the face of a Lily or a human face is more animated than the light of a star.

Consider the Lilies then. They are wonderful teachers, and their lessons are of vital significance. Their instruction is profitable too. It will pay you richly in values you can obtain nowhere else.

AFFIRMATION

I look into the many faces of Nature and listen to her many voices. One of my most profitable classes of instruction is when I consider the Lilies and plan to live according to what they teach.

Blessings,

YOUR INSTRUCTOR.

