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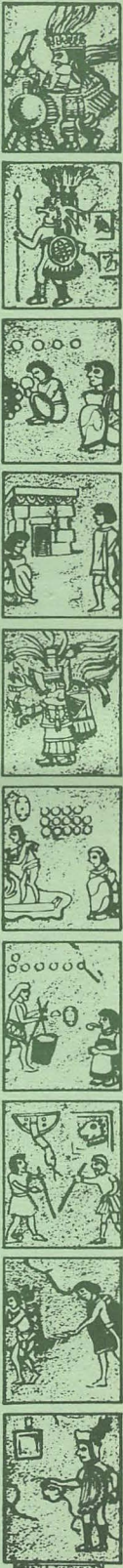
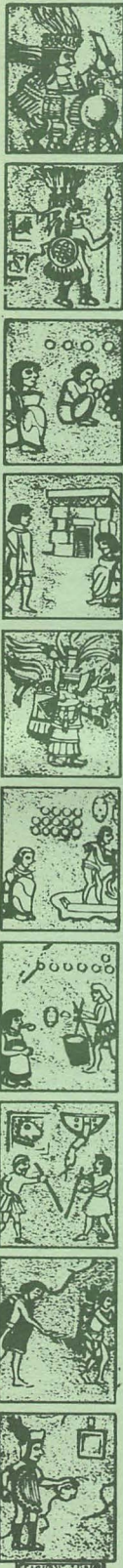
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The Praying Hands

"They Shall Lay Hands On the Sick, and They Shall Recover"

— Mark 16:18

I cannot impress upon you too much, this, your four-fold nature of Being. Nowhere is it well understood outside of Mayanry. Dictionaries, churches, the highest ecclesiastical authorities continually confuse the Spirit with the Soul. Draw the Mayan Symbol of Being. Write in it these four distinct parts of you. Study it. I know you have done it before, but as your Instructor I am not satisfied that you have studied it enough. Even in Mayanry, we too on occasions use the word Spirit in the sense commonly used in the world though we usually avoid doing so. Spirit is the Eternal Life within you. Soul is the Eternal Substance. Mind is the Eternal Intellect. Physical body is the temporal habitation of consciousness. The three Eternal parts make up your real personality, the Ego, the I Am. As they are developed, the I Am unfolds, the whole Being that is You evolves; your Selfhood, your Pyramid of Being grows greater.

There is a type of incorporeal developed being in the astral plane beyond the present degree of consciousness of most people, about whom we hear little nowadays. At one time these beings were spoken of as "Angels", at another time as "Masters", and, in very ancient times, as "Christ".

It became the custom of artists during the Middle Ages to depict angels as bright, pinkish cherubs, a sentimentality of the times which in this day has led most everybody to dismiss the word "angel" as a superstition. In this day of airplanes it is little wonder that few relish the idea of sprouting feathers and bird-like wings. Remember that was the artist's conception, his imagined portrayal of a now-forgotten teaching about a very real aspect of Being, one to which any of us can evolve in time.

Even in the days of Egypt this concept was clouded by "realists" who could not conceive of a form of selfhood moving through space, the earth as well as the heavens, unless it had wings. The spread wings of the oldest hieroglyphics symbolized this freedom of movement in the astral. But the masses, ignorant and "too busy" to seek to understand, took the symbol of wings as being simply that, wings with which to fly. Astral movement is accomplished without flapping wings or feathers, it is accomplished by the simple exercise of Will, a department of Spirit directed by Mind.

Jesus is often called "The Master", and correctly so. But very few people know what is meant by that appellation. The word "Master" when thus used means one who has gained understanding, one who has mastered the teachings Existence offers, one whose wisdom is indeed profound.

With wisdom comes the state of "goodness". A Mastery of Understanding, an Angelic goodness, is the same as Christhood. Yes, the Christhood is a state of being.

The man Jesus is not identical with Christ. Jesus was a man. His Angelic goodness, His Masterhood, made Him a Christ.

Christ is a principle. At certain intervals a Christ always re-appears on Earth. Christ is Eternal, a Principle. The body of Jesus lived a mortal life, as did the body of Buddha, the body of Zoroaster and others. But the Christ Principle never dies. It is with us always, ready for our call, and when the world's need is great and The Time is right, it manifests in the body of a person.

Your eternal incorporeal self, according to its own distinct nature, follows a similar path. At certain times in eternity it is embodied, incarnated, enters what we call "material existence". Just why, or when this shall happen again remains an inscrutable mystery just now. But there is a reason, a reason well founded in Infinite Wisdom. All we can "know" now is that which we are conscious of. That which we have passed through remains in our "unconsciousness."

We who are "on the path" seeking a higher development can only know that here and now we have opportunity to evolve. By directing our Mentality ever toward the good, we shape our character in the shape of Good. Character, you remember, is a department of Soul, the very form which shapes the Soul Substance. This life, then, for us, is the opportunity to reshape our Soul, to suit it for the realm of Higher Harmony.

Heaven is not a "place". It too is a state of being. When one thinks of the satisfaction, the harmonious joys we can now experience even with our physical senses and through our physical consciousness, we should, however, dimly grasp some idea of the much greater joyous bliss; the eternal pleasurable harmony, our finer, incorporeal, FREED, ETERNAL Being is capable of enjoying. The higher we develop ourselves the greater our CAPACITY for appreciating the High Harmony.

A bird, undeveloped mentally can look at a lovely painting. But it does not sense the harmony of the colors. It derives no pleasure from it. But an average man looking at the same painting sees some beauty in it. A developed man, who understands harmony, ENJOYS the painting.

Similarly, a dog hearing a wonderful symphony may be moved sufficiently to join in with an off-key howl. An average man may listen and like it. A developed man really appreciates it and derives genuine pleasure from it.

The degree of our pleasure is governed by our appreciation; our appreciation by our understanding; and our pleasure itself, by our being in harmony with it. Thus you see, the first key to Harmony is Appreciation. Another word for Appreciation is Thankfulness.

Every bit of Appreciation that you gain within yourself, - is all gain. The more you appreciate, - EVERYTHING, the more you will have; the more you will receive; the more you will understand; the more you will find the delights of Harmony; - and - the more you will move on the path toward Mastery.

Mastery is seldom if ever obtainable in the short span of a few years. It is doubtful if it is to be attained in a few embodiments. But each lifetime, each year, each day and hour and minute are opportunities to move nearer to it.

We speak of a low person as one "without character". That is almost correct. Those who move in the opposite direction, in degrading paths, first create an evil character, then the very evil itself turns upon itself, suffering, suffering, suffering, until it annihilates and destroys itself. This is the "only death" that Jesus spoke of. Such a one can destroy the physical body in a short space of time, but the incorporeal parts of being suffer through various embodiments before they can destroy their immortal nature.

Each embodiment is a new opportunity to reverse the trend toward self-destruction. The downward path must be retraced on an upward grade. That which has been destroyed must be built again, purer and better. With each progressing step a suffering is gone and a new harmony is attained with its attendant greater bliss.

Yet on this Pilgrim's Progress, at any stage of it, we are given the privilege of calling on The Father for relief, for help, for guidance; and if we call in Faith, the path is made easier and your progress more rapid.

In Mayanry we speak of a Mental, a Spiritual, and a Soul BODY, as well as a physical body. Yet they are not separate BODIES; they are one. They permeate each other.

You who have demonstrated "Astral Travel" know how it is possible to project the incorporeal through space, leaving behind the element of Time.

Your physical body is fettered by time. It requires a certain number of hours for you to go from New York to Los Angeles in the physical body. But you can project your Mind, your thoughts, there in an instant. That is the freedom of your Higher Self.

Your Character is projected beyond your physical body; and Character is a part of Soul, your realest substance. The Character of your Instructor has touched you, and you have sensed that Character many times. Yet only a few members of this class have I touched with my physical hand.

Your Spirit is projected beyond your physical body. The energy that plays through my Mind and Soul also flows through my physical body and out beyond. The energy I give as I think and as I pencil these words reaches out and touches your Spirit and Energizes it to go forth and accomplish. It is like a spark imprisoned on these pages, that when your eye and mind establishes contact, leaps forth and meets an answering spark within yourself. Yes, beloved, we ARE Companions.

The Spirit Energy and the Soul Substance, like the mind, may be projected. More, Mind can shape the Soul Substance by simply Willing it, and direct the Spirit Energy by a similar effort of Will.

With a gesture of the hand you can project a tube-like form of Soul Substance forth from you and into or through the person of a sick person. With an effort of Will you can send forth the healing, cleansing, fierce energy of Spirit to burn out the evils of disease. And, with Prayer in Faith, you can draw in the Healing Power of the Creator.

By the laying on of hands the expectant attention of the patient is drawn to the place that is disordered or out of Harmony. By your manner, the degree of your Faith is sensed by the patient. By the degree that your faith impresses him, to that ratio will the patient feel Faith himself. And to the degree of his faith will the healing be made manifest.

If the patient had previously possessed true understanding or true Faith he would not now be in dis-ease. Therefore a degree of that which you possess

must enter into him.

You can do this by Willing the projection of your Soul substance and Spirit energy into him; by laying on of the hands and Willing it; or, by simply projecting it without direct contact from your Self.

This is generally spoken of as "magnetic passes". That is an incorrect name for the process as you shall see.

Let the power within you converge in your hands. Project the ethereal substance of the Soul forth from the fingertips as though they were tubes, through which the fiery Life Energy of Spirit gushes forth. Then, pass the hands slowly from head to toe an inch or so from the body, literally combing the pain or disease forth from the body. Repeat the passes from head to toe, and again from head to toe until you sense the change. Then, humbly pray for the Healing Presence to come in and complete the work.

Remember that your projection of Soul and Spirit should not simply reach to your patient, but through him. Remember that what you yourself do, the best that you can do is the process known as "cleansing". The Healing is of God. Yes, even the cleansing is of Him, for He created you able to do this part if you have Faith. It is the Christ-Within given to us all by The Father. "Christ maketh thee whole."

Every Companion in this class should read carefully and understandingly, the Biblical book of Acts, immediately upon completing this Lesson. See how in every instance Faith is necessary. Read in particular, Acts 8:17 to 20, the Laying On of Hands. Read Mark 16:18,

"They Shall Lay Hands On the Sick, And They Shall Recover."

Remember that Fear is the opposite of Faith. If there is fear present there cannot be Faith too. Faith means Confidence. With Faith all things are possible. "The prayer of faith shall save the sick; and the Lord shall raise him up." - James 5:15.

The Laying On of Hands, and the Projection of Spirit Energy and Soul Substance given unto you in this Lesson is according to ancient methods. Many other forms for bringing Healings will be given to you as you progress. Some seem almost mechanical as in the basic technic of Chiropractic; others may seem supernatural, but they are all, in the final analysis, based on the same thing, that the means for Healing are within ourselves, - they need only be set in motion. Faith and Power do that best.

But if the patient's faith lies in physicians or the reactions produced by drugs and chemicals, we Mayans of the ministry should not object. We may not approve perhaps, but we should not object. Our work will only serve to make the healing sure. Our part is not to Will the way in which he shall be healed, - we may quite safely leave that too, to God.

Let us go over again, some of the points of this Lesson while it is still the prime subject of our thoughts together. The Department of Flesh and Blood has its own dignity and importance and in most Healings it is our field

of action. There is no reason to apologize for loving material, physical life, so long as that love does not exclude a greater love for the Higher Life in the immortality of Eternity.

As to the means you should use, they are many, but they are all dependent on one thing: Faith. Regarding the question of means, or conveyance, let us take a definite example:

Suppose that you are going on a trip to a certain city - the city of your heart's desire. You have yearned and longed to go to this lovely place and you have visualized the place itself and imagined what you would do there, what you will experience within its beautiful gates. Your anticipation of all this is without question of the greatest concern and interest to you. But for all your enthusiasm and anticipation, your dreams and planning, you must "come down to earth" so to speak, and decide by what physical means you will use to convey your physical self to this city.

Will you go by airplane? Will you go by locomotive or by bus or electric car, or by automobile? How, by what means of transportation, will you reach the desired location? I am sure that you realize the importance of this part or function of the endeavor. Think how foolish or strange it would be to see a man with his traveling bags all packed, himself dressed for travel but when asked how (by what conveyance) he was going, - think how foolish it would seem to you if he should reply: "That will take care of itself, - my whole being is given over, aflame with, and consumed by, the 'City Beautiful' itself."

Yes indeed, it will take care of itself if your desire to reach the City Beautiful is strong enough but it will also take care of itself by your deciding (or accepting another's decision) upon some express, definite means of conveyance to take you there and the actual employment of that conveyance.

We have spoken in the previous Lesson about methods and approaches - of their not being of paramount issue. Do you now understand just what I mean? The method or approach is to healing just what the airplane, bus or train is to the geographical site one desires to reach. And while it is very important that you keep this distinction clearly in mind at all times, yet, it is also necessary that you decide upon, or rather, probe your being until you find which conveyance can use you to best advantage for the true cause, Healing.

Let us take another example: You wish to become a musician - it is your heart's desire. It calls and beckons to you night and day, it stalks your dreams, it dictates your thoughts - it becomes an obsession. Well and good. You might study, you might yield yourself fully, and mentally and spiritually conceive the very spirit of Music; it might race through your veins and flood the heart to bursting and yet, to convey it to another, you, of necessity, must choose some instrument to transmit that which is within you, to another.

True enough, you would of your Music-embued-soul radiate harmony and melody but it would of scientific necessity register its own essence and according to its own essence. It would ring, I grant you, upon those invisible ear-drums of the spirit - but upon those grosser, physical organs termed the human ears, - what of them? The human ears with their far coarser registers would never pick up these ethereal waves, would never echo these divine radiations of

"spirit to spirit" . . . or at least, not until through Illumination your body itself is Sublimated and prepared and ready for Ascension. We are not now studying this advanced topic, we are not now standing upon the lofty, dazzling height of Transfiguration. Later perhaps we will discuss humbly, we will contemplate reverently that greatest of all mysteries - the ONENESS of Flesh and Spirit. But now, back to our example:

If you wish to convey music to others you must choose an instrument of conveyance. Here definitely is choice - (Always remember that our life is a continuous choosing - we are wholly and utterly creatures of choice - God gave or imposed upon Man that awesome privilege, that tremendous responsibility - free-will-agency).

Yes, here definitely is choice - will it be the piano? Will it be the violin? Will it be reeds, brass, percussion or strings? Will it be by the pen and paper of the composer? Perhaps it will be the voice, singing or the orchestral baton? You must choose some means of transit for that which is going to go forth from your being.

First you realized that you wanted to become a musician - you accepted or chose music as your field of labor or expression and now you realize that you must choose an instrument of expression or conveyance. Let us say then, that you make the choice. Let us say that you chose the violin, a marvelous instrument offering almost limitless possibilities to the inspired performer. But now that you have chosen, are you now ready to give a performance? Can you immediately play even a simple melody upon this violin you have chosen? There are some that are so richly endowed with musical talent that they actually can play some or many instruments on sight or first attempt.

There are many that seem to have the natural "bow-arm" or the deft left hand that appears to be a part of the slender, magic fingerboard of this all but human or angelic instrument. Yet, to become an artist or become even proficient enough to be a pleasing entertainer, one must practice for hours, days, months and even years. Yes, all of this must the violin student do if he would attain skill and mastery enough to even convey pleasingly and effectively the music that is literally raging and surging in his breast.

And so, dear Student of Healing, look long and unflinchingly at the foregoing example for in it you see most surely the inescapable curricula of the student healer.

Most certainly I do not mean by choosing a "vehicle" or an "instrument" that one can nonchalantly say, "Oh well, I believe I'll take this one." No, it is not done just that way. In fact, although we have used the word "choose" it would be more nearly correct to say that you lend yourself to, that you accept and faithfully serve, the vehicle or instrument that has chosen you as its operator.

When Jesus sent His Apostles forth, He commanded them to heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead and cast out (d)evils. But he did not insistently specify any particular physical procedure. Clearly that was left to the inspiration, judgment or divination of the healer. Throughout the Scriptures we find account after account of the healing power being transmitted by

or through the hands or, if you prefer, through the sense of touch:

"SO JESUS HAD COMPASSION ON THEM AND TOUCHED THEIR EYES. AND IMMEDIATELY THEIR EYES RECEIVED SIGHT AND THEY FOLLOWED HIM."
--(Matt. XX, 43)

Again in Mark VI, 56:

" . . . AND THEY LAID THE SICK IN THE STREETS, AND BESOUGHT HIM THAT THEY MIGHT TOUCH IF IT WERE BUT THE BORDER OF HIS GARMENT: AND AS MANY AS TOUCHED HIM WERE MADE WHOLE."

You will remember too, the instance in Bethsaida when they brought Him a blind man and besought Him to touch him. For unexplained reasons Jesus took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the town. He spat upon the man's eyes and put His hands upon him. He asked the man if he saw aught and the man replied that he saw men as trees walking and "after that He put His hands again upon his eyes, and made him look up: and he was restored, and saw every man clearly."

The "laying on of hands" or the use of the hands as the transmitter in healing is as old, and doubtless older, than our records of Man, and here it might be well to remember that the hand has been not only the dispenser of Good but of evil as well. Even through the fables and myths of long past civilizations runs the stories of this fairy or that god or goddess, of how they touched this or that thing or person and straightway "changed" it into something utterly different from its original form or character.

Certainly, those are but fables and myths, yet, through the fables and myths and legends do we come into possession of a far more intimate and faithful account of a people than we ever can from the static pages of history. And, through these fables and myths, we learn that these peoples recognized the hand as a channel through which might flow good or ill - a channel used by healers to send forth the power within them. Save for the special senses of hearing and sight, the hand is Man's best agent and servant, the most faithful and most powerful.

Surely you must have observed that people transmit or show themselves through or by some particular organ, member, gesture or feature: this one discloses his thoughts or entity through his eyes, another through his speech and still another by his facial reactions. Always he is prone to some one "outlet" for his inner self and of these the hand is by no means least.

Have you ever sat fascinated by the hands of an artist pianist as he plays? The poet who speaks of the "inspired hands" of a sculptor or of the "soulful fingers" of a musician is not merely being poetical. The impassioned flood within the musician's soul has flowed into and seized those hands and fingers and sublimated them into singing angels of harmony and melody. He, the musician, has left himself, or rather his whole being has converged in his hands and from them issue the full power, the flaming beauty of his spirit.

When you see someone suffering does a feeling surge up in your breast, a longing to reach forth your hand to the sufferer? - Do you have this impulse,

this urge? Is there an inner "something" that bids you lay your hand upon the sufferer? Do you feel power in your hands? Does your whole being sometimes seem to converge into your hands? If it does, - if your hands seem to lead you or beckon you, my student of Healing, follow this lead, this beckoning. Let the power within you converge in your hands, let it seize and convert them into delivering angels of His mercy and love.

Even as the musician could at the beginning perform only the simplest etudes, yet with patient practice and faith, attained mastery of his Art, just so can you cultivate to mastery your ability to transmit through your hands the renewing, restoring power of God to the sick and afflicted. And once you know that the Christ-within, the Healing-Force, flows through your hands to the suffering patient, your course is clear:

"KEEP THE CHANNEL UNOBSTRUCTED."

I do not need to tell you (an advanced student of Mayanry) that this does not mean that you should pet or pamper the physical hands, massaging them with expensive oils and lotions or that you should refrain from doing dutiful physical work with the hands. No, my dear Companion, your "etudes" differ somewhat in this respect from those of the music-student. See the work-worn shape of the hands depicted in the picture, The Praying Hands, at the beginning of this monograph. Your etudes consist of perfecting the "trill" of Inspiration and Faith; of "scaling" the walls of doubt and fear; of keeping in constant vibration the harmonious "chords" of sympathy and understanding. And,

"OF SENDING FORTH THAT GREAT MELODY OF LOVE"

- that Melody, Pure and undefiled, Everlasting and Infinite - even the Holy, Creative, Restoring Spirit of God,

THE LIVING CHRIST.

Yet, even as we thoroughly realize that it is the water that quenches the thirst and not the channel or river bed that bears it or through which it flows, still, let us never for a moment despise or belittle the channel - how had that life-sustaining water reached you without the channel? We are expressing in a material world and so long as this is true, we must continue to use material vehicles and let us not despise but reverence them - they too are of God, they too are "chosen" and "cleansed" - so do not fall into the error of calling them "common". Virtue may flow through them: healing may flow from your hands. Never allow the derision of the would-be-learned nor the criticism of the smug, fashionable but insincere churchman to shake you from your God-appointed mission.

Do you recall when Peter, fearing the criticism of the Church Fathers or swayed unconsciously by the customs and practices of his own people, spoke back to the Lord, saying: "Not so Lord, for I have never eaten anything that is common or unclean."? If so, you well remember too the rebuking words of the Lord:

"WHAT GOD HATH CLEANSED, THAT CALL NOT THOU COMMON."

So dear Student of Healing, do not let the narrow, prejudiced viewpoints

of neighbors or associates lead you like it did Peter of old, to the act of spiritual insubordination. Never be ashamed of or backward or timid about a choice or gift that God has made. Why should one be glad and proud to let God speak through his tongue, his lips or voice, yet hesitate and fear to let Him speak through his hands? Does not the same absurd pride that voiced the words of Peter, now provoke this hesitation and timidity?

If God has thus graciously blessed you, thus chosen you, do not allow anything to veer you from His will and purpose for you. Practice the gift He has entrusted to you:

Cast out aught and all of the little-self, the petty human prides, the desires, the lusts and appetites, the worldly ambitions of the finite mind; cleanse and make spotless every thought and emotion within you - banish all except the God-within you:

Then bless your hands, bless your hands and fingers, bless them as God-wrought-agents, as vibrant-living-tubes through which the Healing Principle (the Christ within you) can flow to the broken, blinded, lamed or erring fellow creature before you: lay your hands upon the sick and lifting your trusting eyes to Him speak even the words that He spoke:

"FATHER, I THANK THEE THAT THOU HAST HEARD ME. AND I KNOW
THAT THOU HEAREST ME ALWAYS."

The power of God has not lessened, dear Companion; the Healing-Principle has not diminished. God is the same today, yesterday and always. The God-Principle pervades, permeates the entire Universe, the myriad stars and the solar systems - all, all has emanated from Him, the All-Powerful, the Omnipresent, the Always-Available-GOD! And remember the precious words of the Christ:

"LO, I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS EVEN UNTO THE END OF THE WORLD."

Do not hesitate my Companions. Look about you and see the great need, the literally "crying need" for healers, particularly at this time. Do you not recall the words of Jesus:

"THE HARVEST TRULY IS PLENTEOUS BUT THE LABORERS ARE FEW."

May The Father Greatly Bless Your Ministrations,

THE MAYANS