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THE MAYANS

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VADE MECUM, VOLVENTIBUS ANNIS

Degree 4 - 5

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SUPPLEMENTARY LESSON NUMBER ONE

For the 4th & 5th Degrees
Before Initiation
Into the 6th & 7th Degrees

SET YOUR HOUSE IN ORDER

Beloved Companion:

As you and the other Members of this Mayan Ministry approach the time of your Initiation into the Higher Degrees, certain preparations should be made. The weeks preceding Initiation should be occupied with much meditative thought and prayer.

For yourself there should be special daily prayers of thanksgiving for all the blessings you have received. In giving thanks, all our blessings are multiplied while our burdens become less.

For others there should be special daily prayers for their well-being. Special prayers, for this is your Ministry. The Master Mayans of the Highest Degrees especially call upon you during this interval before the celebration of your next Initiatory to devote daily prayer at frequent intervals for those who have sent their written prayers to the little Mayan Chapel of Prayer. Many miracles through prayer have come through there; now you are asked to take your place among the invisible throng of those whose prayers make this place sanctified.

From this time henceforth your daily prayers for those who have placed their prayer letters in the Mayan Chapel become a part of your duty as a good and true Mayan Minister. We who are your Companions in the Beloved Mayan Companionship know that you will look upon this sacred, daily duty as a blessed privilege. In this daily practice you will feel the growth of your Soul and Spirit and, as your psyche evolves into higher spheres, your Mayan Ministry will bring much merit unto you. More and more blessings come to all of us as we grow to merit them.

And so the daily practice of prayer for those whose pleas repose in our Mayan Prayer Room will help you, as you help others. This is according to The Law of True Development. And this is why we ask you to make special observation of Meditation and Prayer during the time before the ceremony of your entry into the 6th & 7th Degrees of our Beloved Mayanry.

It is your preparation for these degrees.

It is your demonstration of knowledge of the passwords which you received when you entered the present 4th and 5th Degrees; the passwords whose initial letters are \square and \square .(□)

If our destiny hinged and turned on one word, that word would be Love. The "Prime Minister" who came to light a pathway through the world for wandering feet held this blazing torch above all others.

Listen! "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength. This is my first commandment. And the second is . . . Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." Thus spoke the greatest Prince who ever dwelt in mortal clay as He labored patiently to provide a foundation upon which to build an earthly heaven.

Love has indeed played a beautiful part throughout our religious history.

Love flowed gently from the adoring heart of Ruth, the Moabite, who plead so tenderly to remain with her mother-in-law; it was manifested in the sublime friendship that existed between David and Jonathan; it was flashed to the darkest ends of earth on that holy night when a star hung over Bethlehem and a smiling Babe was born.

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We can choose the heaven that suits us best.

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We can build heaven anywhere in the Universe, far or near. We can fill it with flowers more glorious than have yet blossomed on this earth. We can make it brighter than the sun. There are some who think of Heaven as a great hidden city in the ether around us, visible only to spiritual eyes. But it is not a place; it is a condition, a happy, beautiful condition that we ourselves create, not out of wood nor brick nor stone, but out of Righteousness, Peace, Joy and Love.

To build an earthly heaven we must be God-like and see each other, not darkly through a glass but in the shining open, heart to heart, partners in the gold and wealth of life. If I have not affection, deep and sincere, my professions will be idle, "though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels." Heaven must be rooted and grounded in Love as a rose bush is planted and nurtured in rich soil.

Some labor and sacrifice and suffer to follow their notions in search of the Promised Land. A Beautiful Spirit is often dedicated to the effort; a fine life is given over to a course of conduct and solemn preparation for a joy to be somewhere out across the bar, under the evening star. Many look forward to a New Jerusalem, "as fair as the moon" and as clear as a summer sky; a land which awaits their coming as "a bride adorned for her husband." They have a place in mind as glorious as a dream castle.

But Heaven must spring up within us like lilies that send their blossoms

out of the swamp's dark waters.

To enjoy Heaven we must live a worthy life; we must have qualities of divine pattern acquired through studying the sublime traits that adorned the Soul and Mind of the Nazarene. We must realize that the whole supply for every need is within us and that we must stand on holy ground above all that is despicable in the sight of God. We must have a heart with an outpouring of purest faith.

We can make a heaven here on earth with spiritual thoughts flashing from soul to soul like blue butterflies flitting among wild flowers. But the mind must eliminate all hate, envy and strive. There must be "living streams of love" like the foaming waters that pour in sparkling grandeur from the cliffs of Yosemite. All the clean and honorable and faithful attributes of life must be cherished. Each deed must be so attuned to the purposes of God as to produce harmony and keep the bells of sacred thought ringing. There is no room in a heaven built upon clean, white pillars for a cold heart, a warped mind or a hardened soul.

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Every sweet word is a star in its sky; every good deed is a pearl.

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Our Abode may be made as rich in blessings as the highest thoughts of mortal mind. It may be as big as all the spiritual beatitudes that have rolled down the runway of time since history's twilight dawn. It is bounded by Brotherhood, Happiness, Duty and Love, and may hold every joy that right has earned and every security that God has given.

Heaven is where we lay down the Cross of
Fear and pick up the Crown of Security

Heaven is where the moon shines the whole night through and lovely orchids waft their fragrance on the wings of wandering winds; where a sky of golden stars reflects celestial beauty in the waters of a glassy lake.

Babies smile there, children laugh and mothers kneel to pray. In Heaven "the soul shall be a watered garden" and hope shall be a bloom that time will never fade. Winter sun will warm it and December flowers beautify it. Jehovah's songs will be heard in it and the music of harps will ring through the corridors forever.

We can have a heaven to match our highest willingness. We can draw strength for it from God's might, for God and man are one and can work together and do all things. We can conquer every doubt with Faith and drive out every hate with Love. We can have a heaven wherein creative energy is accessible for the building of great character; where we can live on a high spiritual plane and labor to make a more beautiful world. We can create with thoughts that spring from the mind like golden daffodils from Mother Earth.

In such a heaven the atmosphere becomes charged with a desire to live a true life; to make people happy; to keep our souls as fresh as an April flower bed. We can look into great hearts and find beauty for an earthly heaven as pure as the vesper thoughts of a seraph at eventide.

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Someone said: "God gives to every man the virtue, temper, understanding and taste that lifts him into his heaven." He provides for a condition that can make each dawn the unfolding of gates opening into Beulah Land. Every man's life is an opportunity to make the kind of a dwelling place that is desired. He can have a safe seat near the throne or sit at the outer-edge as insecure as a dew-drop trembling on a quivering leaf.

You can create a desirable heaven by living a life that will merit celestial favor. You can think right, be right, do right, and win your "silver wings".

The man of pride and will and enterprise directs the building of his home. Likewise, he would choose to direct the creation of his heaven. He would put beauty where he thought beauty belonged, and strength where he thought it belonged. He would build for his security and his happiness.

He would build with the spirit of God in him watching his work.

Life is a great warehouse in which is stored the materials for every character of structure. We have access to that storehouse and can withdraw such materials as we need. The cost will be according to the quality of the lumber we select. It may be "heart" or "knotty pine". We pay in service, and if we render poor service we will, of course, have a poor building. Our heaven will be without any of the divine touches that God gives.

You can have golden flowers smiling into the face of the sun or bitterweeds and bullnettle. You can have vines and fountains and babbling streams or the desert sands and cacti. You can have sky-hawks or nightingales.

If you create a selfish heaven, the foundation will give way and the walls will fall around you. One must consider to what ends this life is shaped and order it harmonious with the great divine plan. We can live upon a happy hillside robed in green or dwell in the swamps. If you want to know how to make a heaven on earth, listen to the words of one who wrote beautifully concerning it.

"Live in deeds . . . in thoughts . . . in feelings . . . count time by heart-throbs." He who makes his heaven a place of glory "thinks most, feels the noblest, and acts the best." He writes the record of his achievements in the hearts of the people; he embellishes the inner walls of his abode with the burnished gold of unselfish love. He touches human cords as gently as a whispering breeze fans the curls on the brow of a sleeping babe.

Heaven is but a vision of the beauty that flows from a great life. It is a purple cloud in which we hold our heads when we stand tip-toe to reach the thousand jewels that may adorn the human Soul. It is the round-up ground where

goodness is gathered from a far-flung range.

I would water every lovely plant in my heaven with a pouring out of the Soul to God. We can look to Him for every need if we have that faith which glorifies a mother's love. But we must approach the throne with willing hands stretched out and lips whispering a prayer. The sincere appeal backed by affirmation, winged with desire and made with full belief in the divine willingness to respond to our needs, never returns empty handed.

We can speak quietly and often to God for He is in us and we are in Him. We can appropriate the greatest blessings with Love. He listens to the humblest petition as the robin listens to the song of the South wind coming back with the melodies of springtime.

The Father cannot be pictured as a great Material Figure, wielding the government of the universe as the head of an empire directs its affairs. He is a mighty Omnipotent Spirit giving breath and action to all things, controlling all things, and being in all things, from the white blossoms that smile in the bride's veil to the black cloud that bursts over the sea and lashes the waters into the wildest fury. His power is as unlimited as the forces of Nature. His Love is beyond our feeble understanding. We are one with Him in our earthly heaven and can enjoy His infinite gifts and His healing power. There are no limitations to the treasure of the Almighty and no frontiers so far flung as to be beyond His care.

If you want to find Heaven on earth, and enjoy it while here, set out with an understanding of the spirit within you; know the things that are of God and the things that are of Satan, and choose between them. You have the power for great achievement; you have eternal possibilities. In the 19th Verse, 10th Chapter of Luke, the Saviour said: "Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions and over . . . the enemy! and nothing shall by any means hurt you."

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You are one with the Father and can do wonderful things in His name.

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Learn to be useful and unselfish, working for and with One whose beautiful love for the world led to the greatest sacrifice that was ever made.

To make your heaven sweet, restful and holy, bow at the Father's knee, seek His love and obey His commandments. Remember, James said in Verse 27, Chapter I: "Pure religion, and undefiled before God and the Father, is this - To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep . . . unspotted from the world."

James also said:

"Are there any sick among you? Let him call for the elders . . .

and let them pray over him . . . and the prayer of faith shall save the sick."

Make Love shine in your heaven as Mars shines in the spangled blue. Keep Love sweet and beautiful with prayer flowing from the heart like silvery dew from a garden at daybreak. Dry tears with it, bind up wounds with it, comfort friends with it. There is a power in that precious affection great enough to spin the world beneath our feet. There is a tenderness as touching as the mating song of a Persian nightingale.

Fill your mind with a constant desire for understanding. Be faithful, patient, true and spiritual in your heart. Learn God's requirements for the enjoyment of His Kingdom and incorporate into your life every great principle that He laid down for human guidance. The thoughts that you plant will grow and bud and blossom, and one day will direct you into a new haven where you will find every joy for which the Soul longs.

Can you imagine a more enjoyable retreat than one in which Love rules like a gentle queen? It would be a broad field full of God's fairest lilies. There would be smiles to light as orbs of night, and laughter would resound like the tinkle of silver bells. All would be peace and happiness within. The moon would smile above and every whispering wind would breathe perfume.

Ah, what a Celestial Bower, what a Paradise kindness, truth and Love might create under a rainbow of perfect trust.

It would be a boundless realm; a place for great hearts to rally, a health resort. Men and women would gather to learn of "the great and only life." They would enjoy the beauty of the real divine touch and hear the notes of an organ played by cherubs. Angels would gather to chant their immortal "Abendlied" beneath the evening star.

In such an atmosphere life finds space for glorious growth; God becomes less distant and less mysterious. We climb the heights of greater understanding. The hidden springs begin to flow and we find the rich value of spiritual blessings. We start to live our noblest. The desert bursts into bloom.

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Many thousands, from the beginning of history, have tried to present us with a picture of God the Father. They have invaded every corner of imagination with the painter's brush and the writer's pen. They have dreamed dreams and endeavored to draw the curtains aside and catch a holy vision. But each effort has been in vain. As you have learned before, God is not a person, but a Creative Force. He is the Infinite and Eternal All. He is in the mountains and in the dew-drop; He is on the wing of the vagabond wind and a part of every golden beam cast from the regal sun.

He is the Master Physician who can cure all ills and He has given the healing power to whosoever believes in Him, whosoever adores Him, and whosoever is willing to be His disciple.

If you love Him with all your heart, and all your Soul, and all your Mind you will be a Citizen of His Empire. You will have the keys to a heaven on earth, and nothing will be impossible for you. In the 12th Verse, 2nd Chapter of I Thessalonians, we read that God calls us to His kingdom and glory.

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We can find Him by opening our hearts to His great truths.

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Commit your ways unto Him and read His reaction in Ex. 3:12: "Certainly I will be with thee." Through His love He will meet every need of your life. But you must have a heart bubbling over with holy wish-thoughts. You must honor Christ and match His perfect life by giving the finest in mortal devotion, the purest in Love, the truest in effort to establish a condition born of sanctified thinking. You must be noble in your conduct as a neighbor, a citizen and a friend; meet every challenge with the beauty of a soul kept unspotted before the world.

You must "let your light shine" not only where it is already bright, but in the dark and lonely places filled with grief and want.

My first night in Washington I looked out of the hotel window and saw powerful spot-lights playing upon the heroic capitol building. Every curve, every line of beauty, every crevice was visible from the foundation to the glorious figure on top of the great dome. The white flood swept from recessed positions and covered every inch of the building. There wasn't the faintest shadow.

As that light was complete, thorough and effulgent, the light of Love shines profusely like a mighty beacon showing all that is sweet in a great heart and all that is glorious in a fine life.

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We make our own heaven.

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God furnishes the Creative Substance and leaves the rest to us. By thinking right and living right; by measuring up to divine requirements, our heaven is enlarged and beautified. The birds sing more gloriously; the flowers put on richer blooms; the stars shine brighter and the blue in the sky is bluer.

Our Love increases and our heaven expands.

We do not have to go to God or have Him come to us to find Heaven. God and man are one; each dwells in the other and the Shepherd is always with His sheep. By reading and thoroughly digesting the words of Jesus recorded in Verse

17, Chapter I of John, you learn the truth. God is a part of every leaf on the fig tree and every rock on the mountain side.

Christ said: "He that hath seen me hath seen The Father", and I say to you that he who hath seen a purple cloud rolling on the evening horizon or a redbird flying through a green grove has seen The Father, who is in all things. He whose mental eye can peer upon the Soul within us has seen God in His eternal dwelling place.

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I wandered into a virgin grove one day. The patriarchal oaks spread their long branches over my head like the rafters of a high roof. Beneath, holly filled the aisles with green leaves and red berries. Birds sang in a hundred trees; squirrels scampered here and there through the underbrush, and, where the sunbeams penetrated the tight-laced grove, they threw stripes of gold across a brown and gold carpet. It was like a holy place. I seemed to feel the presence of seraphs and I wondered why there were not harps of gold hanging in the bowers.

A great heart in that grove could fancy it a physical retreat in which the spiritual had gathered for worship.

The things that electrify the Soul; the conditions that glorify life; the beatitudes, - all seemed to fit in with the worldly, under those trees. It was an empire of real and imaginative glory; it was a wayside haven of dreams and I was tempted to wander back at night to see if celestial hosts did not really assemble there.

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There is a bible quotation that should make us think: "I in you and you in me."

When we can meet a neighbor with such in mind; when we can say to him: "We are both of God", the walls of our heaven will rise as high as the morning star; we can overcome that which is of mortal clay and press onward in the light of a holy lamp; we can lay aside the worldly and remember that we are too close to the Eternal to give offense with the faintest doubt.

Heaven is a place of divine action, infinite thought, majestic beauty. The Tabernacle of God is open to all who believe in the truths of God and all who honor Him through obedience. The words of God flow out to sprout blossoms in the Soul as the waters of a river spread over wide areas and fill the valley with grass and flowers.

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Wherever God is, Heaven is.

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No place would be Heaven without Him and his wondrous Love. When we can

forgive each other's faults; when we can help carry each other's burdens; when we can give full, rich and glorious Love to a Christ enthroned in our heart; when we can step out of the darkness of the world and walk in a pathway brightened with spiritual light; when we can overcome temptations and have peace and joy and the sweet fellowship of the Great Father, we dwell in an environment precious to the angels.

We have a heaven in which the Soul can
dwell happily throughout eternity.

If you desire to create a heaven of your own, an earthly Paradise fashioned out of ethereal blessings, remember that you have a wonderful example in the life of One who went about doing good. The smile that finds a sad heart to cheer; the handshake that gives new courage; the word that strengthens, - these are spiritual calisthenics that will give strength and loveliness to character. They will open the fair, sweet buds in the garden of the Soul.

No jewel worn upon the breast ever shone
like Love lived within the heart.

Heaven is where we build with immortal thoughts. It will be as glorious as the mastership of the Mind over human frailties. It will be as pure as the snowflake that falls untouched upon the petal of the mountain laurel. It will be glamorous with pearls formed in the tropic zone of the heart. It will be as dazzling as Israel when her glory was sustained by light from the golden lamps of God.

In Romans, Verse 10, Chapter 13, we find these words: "Love is the fulfilling of the law."

Jesus placed much emphasis upon it. He established its value above burnt offerings. He called it the great commandment, and in the midst of His glorious ministry, when He had seen a cold world reject much beauty, He presented it again as "a new commandment." It was precious to Him and He saw the need of it if human selfishness was to be conquered.

We might briefly describe Heaven as a condition in which Love, Obedience, Prayer and Faith constitute the four great walls. It is written that "He hath made everything beautiful in His time." He trims the stars with lashes of gold and causes the cactus to bloom in the desert. He requires humility, gentleness, loving kindness and a heart clean and true.

He set us a pattern of life fashioned out of the finest in human conduct. He gave beauty to speech, thought and action. He taught untiring zeal, and promoted goodness to the very shadow of the cruel cross on which He died. He stamped a code of honor upon the heart of the world, like the orange stain upon the boulders in the sun-kissed West.

Let us create a heaven free from the taunts of an accusing conscience; a paradise in which there need be no remorse; a kingdom with broad gates through which we might wheel some of the gilded settings pictured in the beautiful City of God. The power is in our hands; the building materials are accessible. We can raise a shining temple with spires bathed in a shining sun.

We can plant its gardens in rarest flowers
and fill its groves with song.

We can give our heaven an atmosphere of holy goodness and a touch of supernal glory; we can embower it in starlight grandeur and fill it with purity. We can gather materials from the great thoughts of the past and the immortal teachings of our King to create a climate of Divine Healing, of Infinite Help, of Supernal Love.

With faith we can climb the higher slopes of Spiritual Glory and, beyond them, find the Golden Fields of God.

GOD IS ALL. ALL IS GOD.

Blessed, Blessed, Be Your Ministry

Amen,

THE MAYANS

The Principle Prayer Observance Times are at 9 A.M., at 12 Noon, at 3 P.M., and at 9 P.M., in All Time Zones. Try to observe one or more each day. A prayer breathed while you are otherwise occupied, or a moment or two of relaxed meditation will do. At least one period of real meditation in faith each day will change your whole world.