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VADE MECUM, VOLVENTIBUS ANNIS

THE MAYANS
SAN ANTONIO,
TEXAS

Degree 6 - 7

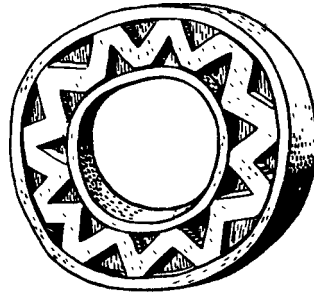
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PHILOSOPHY SERIES ONE

(Part Two)

6th and 7th Degrees



SPIRITUAL CULTIVATION

GUIDING LIGHTS

Beloved Companion:

May the Great Effulgent Light of the Universe illumine you and bless you richly with understanding wisdom, so that you will always be guided safely and wisely through your journey in eternal life.

Since the earliest times, mankind has recognized light as the symbol of wisdom. In darkness we grope, but when light is turned on we see our way and understand our surroundings.

Among most ancient peoples the Sun was the symbol of the Great Spirit. The Moon was often considered to be a feminine counterpart, as were some of the stars. Sometimes they were considered to be symbols of various aspects or spirits of Nature. But men, beasts and vegetation lifted their heads toward the light and, by the light, living things were able to see.

In very ancient lodges the Lights were torches. In Mayan initiations the Lights are candles. In their living flames mystics have seen strange things, as you shall be taught to see also "in the light" of later Mayan Lessons.

In modern lodges, the Lights may be various objects, such as the Bible, certain insignia or emblems, or symbols of meaning known only by "the wise"; that is, the Initiate. The Bible speaks of Initiates as those "who have seen the Light". An enlightened mind is a mind that has been illumined by wisdom and understanding.

One of the world's great religions in the far East was that of Mazda, whose name was appropriated by an American manufacturer to describe his bright electric light bulbs. A lighthouse, whose guiding light helps prevent shipwrecks, is a popular symbol today used by many religious organizations.

There are many guiding lights which all people use either consciously or unconsciously, and some of them do not always guide upwards. Some of the lights

that truly guide to higher things may be like great beams, strong and clear, even blinding. Others are like candles, gentle lights, visible for miles, yet one must look for them in order to see them. Some of the candles may flicker, dim and uncertain; but the candles of Initiates radiate their light from strong, steady flames. It is well for us to pause to consider what kind of guiding lights we are following and whither they are leading. One thing is certain, we need Lights along the way. Like the wise virgins of the Bible story we should keep our lights ready, we should examine our personal lights that The Way will be shown clearly.

We have to make our way through a strange world and along unfamiliar years as best we can. We are like tourists who have some road maps, but who find that they do not always indicate what is around the next bend or across the next hill, nor do they prepare us for the many detours and road blocks we are likely to encounter. The journey is full of surprises, changes, and barriers. We need more guidance than the road maps give us.

Some may not realize this need, and others may not realize its extent. The blind will try to take the road, and even try to lead the blind, never realizing their blindness. Some insist that they are getting along very well, simply because they have encountered no difficulty as yet. BUT EVERY PILGRIM WANTS HELP BEFORE HE IS THROUGH.

Let us change the figure, and say that we are traveling on a dimly lighted road. We have certain lights to go by, but they are not enough. We depend on the senses. That is good as far as it goes, but the senses are too limited. Those who congratulate themselves because they walk by sight are only admitting that they are trying to make the journey by the light of a very feeble candle. Only a very small fraction of truth can be perceived by sense. For instance, one can only tell that a wire is heavily charged with electricity by the sense of touch, and by the time he has applied that test it is too late. He cannot walk by sight at that point. In a thousand other ways the senses will deceive one.

Others try to go a step beyond this and walk by the candlelight of judgment and reason. That is good insofar as it is accurate, but the trouble is that our processes of judgment and reason are very human. We are not nearly such rational beings as we imagine ourselves to be. IF WE TAKE STOCK OF WHAT WE CONSIDER THE ALL-WOOL FABRIC OF OUR THINKING WE WILL FIND IT SADLY MIXED WITH THE SHODDY OF PREJUDICE, CUSTOM, ASSUMPTION, SELF-INTEREST, STEREOTYPED THINKING, AND MANY OTHER VERY IRRATIONAL ELEMENTS. The human race needs to awake to the fact that it really does very little thinking and needs to do very much more.

We have the candlelight of experience. It is said that a burned child dreads fire, which is sometimes true but not often enough and not sufficiently. The guidance of experience breaks down especially at the point of profiting by the experience of others. The race has built up a vast amount of more or less valuable experience through the generations, but new generations tend to reject it. They insist on making their own mistakes and learning things for themselves. That is rather dismaying when it comes to daring a rattlesnake or trying a beverage of carbonic acid. It is much better to profit by what has happened to others in like circumstances. If each generation were to insist on learning EVERYTHING for itself humanity would not advance far, for all the past has learned would soon be thrown away. THE WISDOM OF THE AGES WOULD HELP MORE IF WE WOULD USE IT MORE.

Many of us are guided by the influence of the people around us, our social environment. This is worth something if that influence is wise and good, but it is not always so. Something WITHIN OURSELVES needs to discriminate and decide that, which is one of the indications that the guidance we really need must be received by something within ourselves. Only the weakling follows the crowd, and only the foolish assume that the preponderance of opinion is always right. The Israelites entered Canaan on the strength of a minority report of the returning spies, - quite a small minority, too.

When all these candles have shed their flickering and uncertain light on the road it is still not well enough lighted to travel safely. We need a strong, sure, guiding beam, and we have it in certain powers and possibilities that man has long neglected, powers and possibilities that begin where all our human perceptions leave off. We have the privilege, if we will, to travel the road under the guidance of the One who surveyed and built it. What could be better than that?

It has been pointed out in a previous lesson that what we call the Mind appears to be a unit something like the deep, silent ocean, with lapping, sparkling waves of sense perception and conscious thought on the surface, but with MEASURELESS DEPTHS ordinarily referred to as the Subconscious.

It has also been suggested that in this deep level are powers and understandings the brain is too gross and limited to clear, but that the individual is not necessarily denied the use of the powers that lie in those greater depths. He may ask for their aid and get it. Sometimes they will even thrust their help on him, and give him reports he has not been wise enough to ask for.

These powers are evidently closely akin to the Divine, and are perhaps in direct contact with the universal. We have some mysterious mechanism, physical or otherwise, for using this deeper consciousness. Perhaps it was the day when these powers emerged that it was recorded that man was made in the image of God. Here we have what seem inexhaustible resources of guidance, access to a wisdom which does not originate with us. The deeper mind areas only perceive, translate, record, and report it in terms we can understand and use.

Who has not known people who gave up a problem, let us say in mathematics, and went to bed, only to wake next morning with the principle worked out? It had been taken over by the mind that never sleeps, and the report handed to him in the morning. HAVE YOU NOT PONDERED LONG ABOUT THE QUESTION OF WHAT TO DO ABOUT SOMETHING OR WHEN TO DO IT, AND SUDDENLY ONE DAY, OR PERHAPS IN THE NIGHT, REALIZED WHAT TO DO OR THAT YOU WERE READY? That was a REPORT handed up into consciousness by the subconscious mind.

Sometimes these guidances come as intuitive flashes. If you will watch closely what goes on in your inner life you will find that now and then you have this amazing experience. You will be confronted with a question. It may be mathematical, a question of fact, or one that has to do with the business of living. You will find an answer in your mind the moment the question arises, but you will push it aside as a guess, and one not to be trusted. Then you will start to work the matter out. Perhaps after long labor you will decide upon an answer. Then examination will determine that your laborious answer is wrong, while that first impression that came with the problem was correct. Watch and see how soon and often that

will happen. That is your deeper mind reporting to you.

Of course the difficulty here is that it might really be a guess. If it is an intuitive flash it is dependable, but you have to be sure it is one. One should try to break up all habit of guessing, and learn to recognize the difference between a guess and an intuition. The guess is slower and requires a conscious effort. The intuition is quick and comes without conscious effort; that is, an intuition is quick when it comes, but it doesn't always come at once. It may spring into the consciousness minutes, hours, or days after the question rises. It comes, as does all guidance, through some such process as takes place in the tuning coils of a radio receiving set. You get the manifestation when the tuning is right, and that may come about through careful relaxation and concentration, or it may just happen that some day you will unconsciously fall into tune with the powers of revelation. It may come with the question, or it may require meditation.

Religious groups in what is known as The Oxford Movement recognize this means of guidance and use it regularly and extensively. All members are encouraged to have daily what they call "a quiet time", which is the same as a silence. The person sits quietly, alone or with others who are congenial with the idea. Using notebook and pencil, he jots down the impressions he receives. When the quiet time is over he studies his notes - sentences, or perhaps only single words - and finds in them his guidance for the day, for future plans, or for questions and problems with which he has been working. The use of a notebook is a good idea, as this is an inspirational process, and since inspirational impressions are not ordinary brain operations, they are easily and quickly forgotten.

Guidance sometimes comes in forms some people try to discredit; for instance, dreams. Anyone who denies that God may speak in dreams denies some very important parts of the Bible, and thus calls the whole record into question. If the Bible is true, a dream may certainly be the vehicle of a revelation.

We all know, of course, that some dreams are caused by physical conditions, but that does not mean that all dreams are so caused. The dream arising from some such cause as heavy eating is different in both form and content, and anyone who tries at all can distinguish it. The guidance dream is sure to relate itself to some condition, problem, or need. It is the answer of the subconscious to some life question, after consultation with the Universal Mind. It may be literal or it may be symbolic. It may picture something known or unknown, in the present or the future. Be careful, though, about interpreting symbolisms correctly.

Another form of guidance some deny comes in the form of visions. These are rare, but they do occur. In such cases some power stimulates the visual centers in the brain to see just what is intended. In a way, it is an unreal sensation, and in another way it is a truer one than ordinary. These guidances will come often in the silence when the eyes are closed, but now and then in the open light.

This may be a good place to say a word about guidance by Astrology. Many people still reject this, and still think they believe their Bibles, or that they are scientific-minded. If it is not Biblical, how was it that three Eastern astrologers found the sign of the birth of Jesus in the heavens and were guided to Bethlehem by the stars? And if it is not scientific to think the planets affect conditions on the earth, how is it that so small a body as the moon pulls the ocean

several feet and the earth several inches on its constant journey around the earth? Science itself will one day discover and announce the power of the stars among us.

Sometimes guidance comes simply as a deep, inescapable compulsion. One feels that he "must" do a given thing or go a certain way. No reason can be found except that he feels that way, and cannot help or change it. Reread the gospels, and notice how often Jesus explained some course of action, some decision, or some journey, simply by saying, "I must." That was because He was subject to those deep impulses of compulsion. They are all about us, but some of us do not get them, and most of us get them too seldom. They registered in the consciousness of the Master because He was so sensitive. We all need to cultivate that sensitiveness, and we do so by honoring its impressions.

Sometimes what that compulsion demands seems foolish or impossible, but who are we to decide what is wise or possible? Jesus once demanded that some empty water pots be filled with water so He might turn it into wine. To the "common sense" mind that would sound very foolish, and some probably demurred when His mother said "Whatever He says to you, do it." That is the important thing - not to question our guidance but to follow it.

"So nigh is grandeur to the dust,
So near is God to man,
When Duty whispers low, 'Thou must',
The youth replies, 'I can.'"

We are like radio sets with built-in aerials. To get what is throbbing through the universe we have to do two things - keep the aerials functioning and keep the receiving mechanism in tune with the vibrations coming from the Infinite Mind.

Here are some instances of what is meant. They are all personally known to the writer of this Lesson, and he can vouch for them:

A mother and her little boy, three years old, were alone in their home in the country at night. The nearest neighbor lived a half-mile away. Suddenly the child had an impulse to go into the yard, and asked his mother to go with him. Since he could give no reason, she refused to go. He pleaded, finally in tears, and to stop the noise she took his hand and they went outdoors. A flickering light was playing on the ground, and looking up she saw a spot in the roof on fire. She put it out, but it would soon have been beyond her control.

The father of a sick daughter had business in a town fifty miles away. She seemed better, so he decided to go. At the railroad station something forbade his buying a ticket, but he brushed the impression aside. The same feeling persisted, but in spite of it he boarded the train. Just before the train departed, he yielded to his feeling, alighted, and went home. He found the child had suddenly grown worse, and her life was saved only by taking her to the hospital for an emergency operation that night. It would have been too late by the time he returned next day.

A supposedly desirable position was to be open, and was practically promised to a certain man. He very much desired it, and was bitterly disappointed when another person secured it by underhanded methods. It turned out to be a very uncertain

situation, and soon ceased to exist. The man who got this position was left unemployed, while the disappointed one was appointed to a much better place. He had been guided flatly against his own will and what he thought to be his desire.

A man was offered a seemingly desirable position a long distance away. His family and friends all thought he was extremely fortunate and should accept at once, but something within him raised a forbidding voice. At last he went to the telegraph office and wired his acceptance, but felt so miserable on the way home that he turned back and cancelled the message. Later he decided he had acted foolishly and accepted the place after all. It turned out to be the mistake of his life and resulted in nothing but regret.

A man driving out of Chicago one day planned to stop for lunch in Freeport, Illinois, a good-sized city. He enjoyed the drive. Hour after hour passed, and he began to get hungry. He was surprised that it was so far to Freeport. He decided to stop and look at the map. He found that Freeport was more than ten miles behind. He had driven through a good-sized city, observed the traffic laws and stop signs, and had no trouble, all without knowing it. The powers of guidance had taken the wheel when they realized he was not keeping his mind on what he was doing. He said afterward that he seemed to do a better job of driving when he didn't know what he was doing than when he did.

People all around you have had such experiences as these, and no doubt you have had them yourself. You will find that they multiply and grow in power and meaning if you keep the way open to your guiding influences.

When you enter your room at night you do not expect to see light unless you press the button. You could be stubborn, and insist that it is foolish to have to press buttons, and that you can't see why it couldn't be done some other way. No one will argue with you. No one will deny you the right to have your own way. You will merely find that the darkness remains.

If the room is a strange one to you, you may not know where the switch is. You may feel around in the darkness and find it, or you may give up and let it remain dark. You have your choice. But the fact remains that you do not see light unless you press the button.

That is true because pressing the button closes the circuit, enabling the electric power to pass through it and make the filaments glow in the bulbs. The power circuit over which guidance comes has to be closed too, and there is a button to press to close it, and thus illuminate the world we live in and the road we have to travel. The name of that button is Prayer.

The word "prayer" is not used here in the narrow and conventional sense, however. We do not mean "assuming a certain posture, in a certain kind of building, and repeating a certain formula of words in a certain tone and manner." We mean something much more vital and strongly activated than that. We mean "contact and communion with the Infinite Mind", no matter how it is accomplished.

In human relationships anything that enables one mind to perceive and understand the thoughts of another is communication. It may be done by words in any one of many languages, - by writing, by movements, by facial expression, or even by

understanding silence. This understanding, arrived at by communication, determines what two or more people will do in relation to each other.

In the same way, whatever enables the human and the Divine to unite in understanding and purpose is communion. The test is not how the impression is given, but whether it is given. Very formal and correct praying may fail to do it, and very informal methods may succeed.

If you give place to a silent thought, or entertain some deep and strong desire, or lift a simple petition in either words or silence, do you not think the Father knows? No matter what the form, manner, or method, if it throws the switch and establishes the contact by which the power can flow. That is why prayer at its best is so mighty a power. It releases the mighty energies both of the guidance and the strength to follow the guidance.

You are able to press the button and flood a dark room with light because you have hands to use in the process. Some means to use the power mechanism is necessary. There is something with which we press that button of prayer and turn on the light and power. The name of the instrumentality is Faith.

We have noted that some insist on walking by sight. At best they never go very straight or get very far. Those who walk by faith are the ones who go with confidence and without limits. They become tourists of the universe. All things are theirs, and they have nothing to fear. They have the three greatest things in the world - the hope that lures them on, the love that overcomes everything, and the faith that empowers and finds the way.

Is the Creator a guide to be trusted? Is the infinite wisdom to be believed? Does God know the way, and will He NOT deceive us concerning the road that leads to our hearts' desire? If so, the thing to do is to reach through the dusk, put our hands in His, and BELIEVE. What is faith but the perfectly simple and human business of trusting the Guide?



Now let us close this Lesson with a few SPECIAL OBSERVATIONS about the nature and use of this high privilege of guidance and the instrumentality by which we receive it.

In one way the subconscious mechanism of guidance is like a muscle or an organ of the body. It grows strong by normal use, and it atrophies or degenerates by not being used or by being abused. There is reason to believe it was once very strong in human beings, and that this is the explanation for many of the wonderful accounts we read in the Bible and other ancient records. Man has neglected it until it has lost much of its power. IT CAN BE RECULTIVATED at least to considerable extent, BUT THE CULTIVATING MUST BE DONE BY TRAINING AND NORMAL USE. That is one of the uses of your silence and meditation.

Do not seek more guidance than you need and can use, and do not fail to ACCEPT and USE WHAT YOU GET. Our powers of discernment are not given us to use snooping around in the universe, but to HELP OTHERS and GAIN THE RIGHT GOALS FOR

OURSELVES. Do not fret if your guidance is only for now. Now is all the time you are living, isn't it? YOU WILL BE GIVEN MORE GUIDANCE WHEN YOU NEED IT. You will be given as much as you need, but no more. It is not good for one to try to keep the total journey in mind all the time. Its upsetting influence is enough to defeat your purpose and keep you from your goal. Put your whole effort into one step and one day at a time. You will have guidance for it if it is needed, and that is quite enough.

Do not expect your guidance always to be what YOU THOUGHT IT WOULD BE, or what you think YOU WANT it to be. If guidance were only an expression of your OWN thoughts and purposes, then no deeper or higher powers would be needed. You may sometimes find yourself led in strange and even unwelcome paths. Often too, when you get far enough along with it to see what it means, these will be the VERY EXPERIENCES for which you will be most grateful. How can the shuttle know from the beginning the plan of the pattern on the loom? When the weaving is done the pattern will be better than any the shuttle could have planned.

Never try to force guidance. Not only will you spoil it by tension and impatience, but you may build up a false pattern from your own desires and be deceived by it. Keep relaxed and watchful. WHEN YOU NEED IT IT WILL BE GIVEN YOU WITHOUT EFFORT ON YOUR PART, AND YOU WILL GET IT IF YOU ARE IN TUNE. That was what Jesus meant when he told the disciples not to resort to impulsive speech when persecution came, but that it would be given them in that hour what they should say.

Yet do not despise knowledge in the ordinary sense. Too many, when they begin to find things revealed to them from Infinite sources, decide that all human knowledge is thereby made useless. That is a sad mistake, and leads to too many ignorant people trying to talk about divine things and making a sad mess of it. Get all the human knowledge you can - scientific, historical, literary - AND KEEP ADDING TO YOUR STORE. It will be of value in interpreting and expressing YOUR guidance and other spiritual experiences in such a way as to command respect for them.

Keep striving to increase your sensitiveness, for that, like in a fine radio set, is what makes the difference between fine reception or limited reception. The writer sat in a student prayer meeting on a hillside at sunset. As the sun went down a senior stood with his face to the sky and asked that the hearts of the group might be made so sensitive that they would catch the slightest whisper of the divine spirit. He was probably asking more wisely than he realized, but that is what makes our response to guidance possible - to keep a sensitive soul. It is the aerial that must receive the impressions which might go on forever unrecognized by coarse and careless souls. It is ourselves who must transform the vibrations received and transmit and amplify them to our consciousness.

A radio receiving set that tunes in several stations at the same time is of little good. The sound coming from it is confused, mixed up; it is simply nerve-racking noise. But the receiving set that tunes in ONE station at a time and brings it in clearly and harmoniously is a joy. It is working right, as it was designed to operate.

Read these closing special observations again and you will see why, in May-anry, lessons are sometimes delayed, - for your benefit; for these reasons and

sometimes for other reasons, but always for your benefit; one set of instructions at a time; at a time when you are harmonious and judged ready to receive. It is not how many lessons you receive, but how much USE you make of what you receive. It is like a test of faith to wait for a time even though you are enthusiastic for more, or impatient for more. YOU, and YOUR PROGRESS is what we are interested in. Certain ground must be covered when you are free of tension, when you are harmonious, when you are ready to receive and the transmitter is able to send.

The Lessons are an important part of Mayanry, but they are INCIDENTAL to your ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP. These Lessons are NEVER sold. That is why your Order maintains ownership of them as stated on the front cover of every Lesson or lecture or monograph issued by The Mayans as a part of Mayanry. If, by some chance, some Mayan Lessons fell into the hands of someone who would sell them, it is illegal for them to do so. That is the chief purpose in your Order claiming ownership at all times, to protect you and all Mayans. It is also an indication of the fact that Mayan Lessons ARE incidental to active Membership and are not bought with payment of dues.

New members sometimes have difficulty in understanding this, but Members in these Higher Degrees have long understood and approved it full well. This distinction is for your benefit and for the good of Mayanry, and for this reason we know we have your full approval too.

May the Great Effulgent Light of the Universe illumine your path, your Mind, Spirit, Soul and Body ever more brightly, forevermore.

Your Instructor
in Mayanry

YOUR NEXT REVELATION

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SPIRITUAL CULTIVATION - VI - EFFECTIVE PRAYER

Philosophy Series Number I, Part II. Your sixth lesson in Spiritual Cultivation, discussing Effective Prayer.

THE IMPORTANCE OF PRAYER

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THE NATURE OF PRAYER	AFFIRMATIVE PRAYER
THE POWER OF FAITH	WISDOM AND THOUGHTFULNESS
THE KEY TO ACHIEVEMENT	HOW TO PRAY
THE UNIVERSE ON YOUR SIDE	GRATITUDE

PRAYER - A WORLD-MOVING FORCE

These are the principal thoughts and revelations contained in Your Next Mayan Monograph Number 84.