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VADE MECUM, VOLVENTIBUS ANNIS

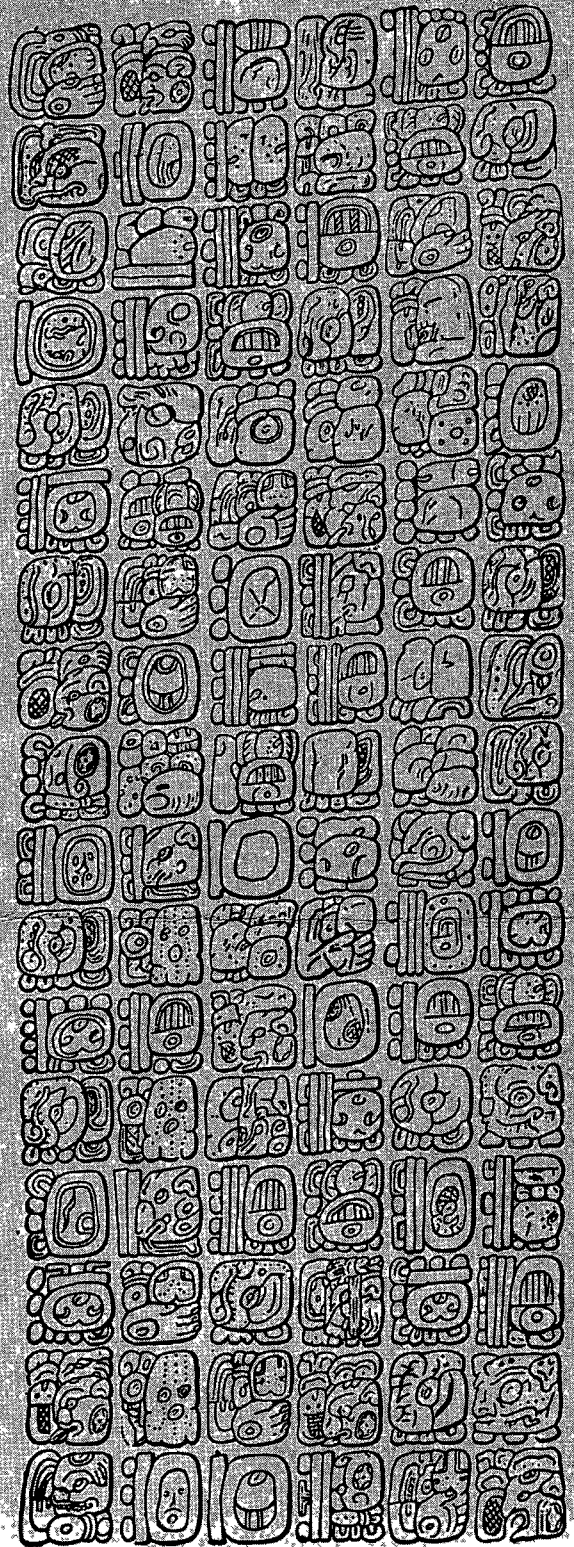
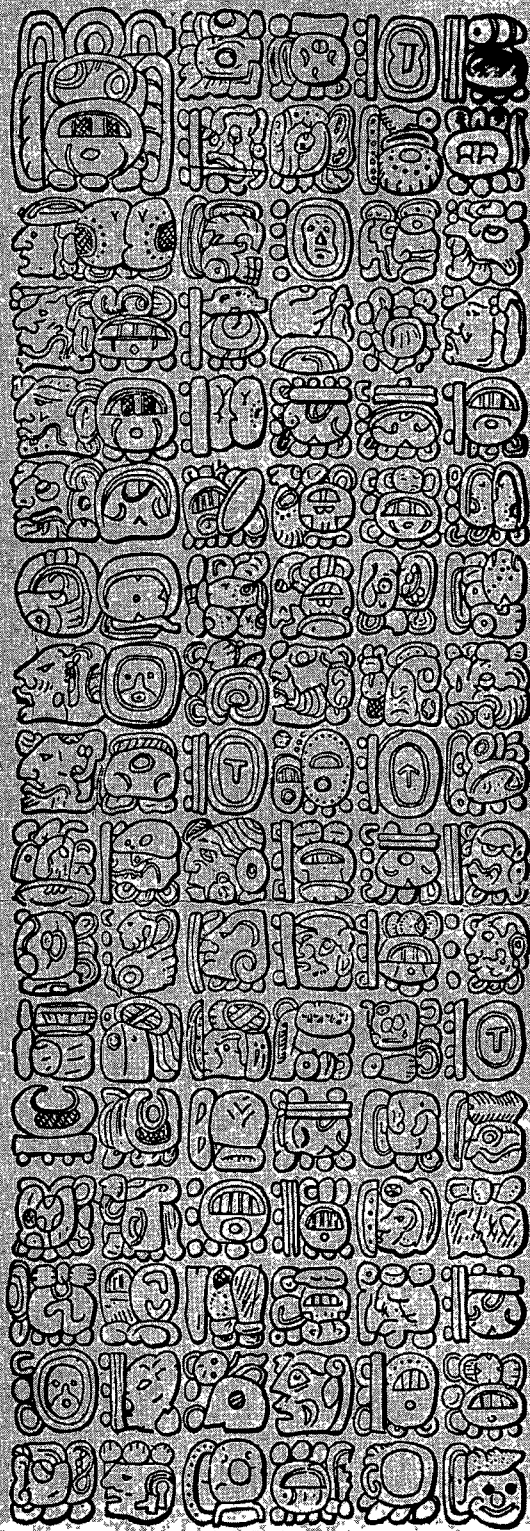
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The Palenque Tablets



Inscription on the tablets of the cross - Palenque

Considered as the most famous inscription of Ancient America, the Tablet of the Cross of Palenque, still only partially deciphered, is believed to be a chronological guide and historical record that goes back to the beginning of the Maya civilization.

There are 6 columns of glyphs on each side. There would be 204 in all (17 x 22 equals 204) were not the first four above on the left occupied by a single character, the superscription, which was customary on all in-

scriptions. The superscription consists of three parts aside from the ornaments added at the top and bottom. The character for the year of 360 days occupies the chief place, on the right and left of it are added the fms, by which the year is increased twentyfold, that is, to 7,200 days; above there is another character to which is ascribed the meaning of 20 x 7,200 or 144,000 days. All this according to Dr Forstemann.

The inscription is read two columns at a time. It is generally accepted as being portraits of founders of the Mayan theocracy with an account of their time and the manner of their ritual activity. Other characters denote lesser periods of time: odd days, 13 day weeks, months, years, sacred periods of nine lunar revolutions, 52-year cycles, and others used in the Mayan System of recording time.

PHILOSOPHY SERIES THREE

6th and 7th Degrees



of a Series of Seven

EXPERIENCING THE DIVINE

(ATTAINING CONSCIOUS UNION)

The Hope Set Before Us ... Let Us Visualize It ... A Few Details ... The Universal Oneness ... Gathered Threads.

Beloved Companion:

With this monograph we complete a THIRD Series of Seven Lesson Courses on Divine Philosophy. As part of your degree work for still higher degrees, this Ninety-ninth Revelation comes to you. Its overtones and even higher meanings will be still richer as you ascend into "Your Second Century." You will, of course, notice that the number of the Three Series of Seven Lessons equals 21, which is a Three number in the tradition of Numerology, a symbol of the Degrees. This 99th Revelation is a double or dual 3 X 3.

This lesson is one of the Stations on your journey, - the 99th Revelation. Your next lecture-lesson will be number 100 which we in Mayanry, in these degrees and in higher degrees, consider a mark of high distinction. All Mayans who have seen and have been permitted to receive and read the 100th Revelation are henceforth recognized as "Centurions". See your dictionary for description of similar honors in ancient Roman history. The lecture following that, your 101st Revelation, starts you into Your Second Century. May you be honored and blessed to complete Your Second Century as ably and as honorably as you have so nearly completed your first 100 Revelations. God Bless You. Let us now consider ---

I. The Hope Set Before Us.

In a former lesson we have mentioned the story of a quest for the Divine as told by W. Somerset Maugham in The Razor's Edge. The story of the central figure, the hero, was rather like yours. An intelligent and otherwise fortunate soul, a young man, as told in the story, had a sense of being out of adjustment. He did not know what was lacking, but kept seeking. Here and there someone told him something that gave him a clue, till at last he found himself consulting a wise man of the Esoteric

Brotherhood. He was sent to a solitary mountain lodge to finish thinking it out. Later, when the teacher visited him, the hesitating report was that one day he had come to a MOMENT when he felt that he and God were one.

That meant for him that the at-onement had been accomplished. Now listen very carefully. It was with him and the Divine as it is with two friends who fellowship until the time comes when there seems hardly any difference between them. They are two people, two BEINGS, but they share an inner life in common. They are like two wells fed by the same vein of water.

The young man in The Razor's Edge found that from that time on his problems were neutralized. There was no more hesitation, no more doubt. People of the world did not understand, but he had found the way of peace and followed it. He had not asked to be led into some road of his own choosing, but that God would choose his road and lead him into it. A road he might have chosen would not have been so satisfying, though others might have approved it more.

Never get in front of the Divine. Never run before God. Never decide what you want and tell Him to get it for you. Put yourself in His hands, and let Him make the choices. That is the way to keep out of trouble and attain what is best for you.



Self-willed people turn the world life into something like a machine all out of gear. When the Great Engineer turns on the power the parts of the machine start chattering and working against each other. The only result is friction and the ultimate ruin and destruction of the machine itself.

The world life should be like a machine adjusted for cooperation, all the parts with each other for a common purpose, controlled by the Engineer. Each unit does not its own will, but the Engineer's will for the good of all. Then good results are produced, and the parts of the machine themselves are at peace.

It must be a pitiful thing for the Creator to energize a world like this into being, only to have the units of the machine - ourselves - start trying to carry out their own petty purposes, forgetting that their own highest interest lies in mutual cooperation under the guidance of their Maker. From the cosmic viewpoint it must be a pitiful thing to observe the human race competing and contending for selfish desires, all the while missing the blessedness it could have in divinely guided cooperation.

YOU are now setting out to do one person's part to change all this, and you may discover that one person's part is larger and more important than you had thought. The reason people struggle and contend instead of cooperating is partly because they have been taught that competition is the way to get on. It isn't. Cooperation is.

Many people who realize the truth of this in part still do not quite know HOW to cooperate. They cooperate on too small a scale, and thus only create new and greater competitions and rivalries. For instance, the people of a nation may cooperate with each other, only to carry on hostile competition with another nation whose people also cooperate with each other.

Do you not see what the trouble is? They are not cooperating in a common union with the Engineer of the whole life of the human race. If EACH part of the machine were in union with the Engineer it would be in harmony with all the rest. That is where the difficulty lies. We try vainly to set up our own systems of cooperation, when it would all take care of itself if we would enter the common harmony of union with the Divine purpose.

Here is the real solution of the whole problem of war and the selfish rivalries that cause it. This is probably the world's chief problem just now, and you are putting yourself in line with the one real solution by enlisting one more human life in the only plan that will ever make the human race a family, living in a simple, comfortable home, under the care of a single heavenly Father. Is that not worth thinking about and trying to achieve? Costly weapons and marching armies only intensify the rivalries of earth. The way out is universal cooperative unity under God. That would take the chatter out of the machine and remove the discord from the music. The BIG problem is to get the backward nations to understand it, - not as NATIONS, but as the people of ONE UNIVERSE, or better still, ONE VAST CREATION.

II. Let Us Visualize It.

Turn to the first chapter of the Book of Genesis and read the first two verses. Meditate on them, then read them again, very thoughtfully. Do not let any old ideas of their meaning you may have had get in the way. Reflect on them more as you might if you had never seen or heard of them before. That way you may get them into a clearer and less obstructed light.

This is a brief but masterful picture of the condition of things at the beginning of creation. The universe is dark, and waste, and void, Only one thing is there - the SPIRIT OF GOD. It is not inactive, but MOVING, doing something. Another rendering of the Hebrew word is "brooding", meditating! It was the Spirit of Love, thinking, willing PATTERNS for an order of lovely worlds and living things.



Then the Spirit of God, the UNIVERSAL Presence, begins to send forth energy, and slowly the darkness turns to light, the void to substance, and the chaos to order. Thus, as the writer says, "in the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." At the time when the writer speaks of the brooding Spirit of God this planet had reached the creative stage of a water world, but naturally it was the same force that had already brought creation from nothingness to that stage.

Stop and think about all this very carefully. Here we have a vast emptiness, only the DIVINE CONSCIOUSNESS moving, brooding, meditating, thinking, planning, dreaming out worlds, life forms, ages and aeons of development and PROGRESS. Then it begins to pour ENERGY into these patterns, and they start taking form like concrete poured into a mould. With the passing of the periods the writer calls "days" just as we speak of the day of this or that, we reach the stage where an infant earth is in existence. Billions of such planets existed before and since.

The Spirit of God is STILL brooding, meditating, bringing things to pass. As it continues to plan and energize its plans, this infant world and Universe becomes

the beautiful dwellingplace of life which the Divine One plans ultimately to shape into a pattern suggestive of His own divinity, love, happiness, health and power. The planet was still only a stage, for the great drama was yet to begin. The development of man and his long struggle through savagery and out of the jungle was yet to take place.

Now let us go from the beginning of the "Divine Library" to its close. Turn to the twenty-first chapter of the last book on the last shelf, the Book of Revelation. Again read very thoughtfully the opening paragraph, then the rest of the chapter, then the twenty-second and final chapter. Meditate on what you have read. Then read it AGAIN and AGAIN until you feel you have CAUGHT THE SPIRIT OF IT.

This is not a picture of life in some other existence, but of life as it was meant to be and will come to be in this world. It is a picture of the POSSIBILITIES of human existence, and an ASSURANCE that those possibilities will one day be realized. It is a description of the time when God will at last have completed His creative work. Creation has already moved from the physical level up to the social and cultural levels. In the future we are now thinking about it will have moved into and through the spiritual level and creation will be complete. The Divine is still thinking out these patterns and energizing them into fulfillment as the centuries and millenniums go by.

The two pictures you have considered represent the beginning of history and its climax. The one is the place we started from. The other is the goal toward which we are moving. SOMEWHERE between these two stages the human race stands today. It has made much progress, but it has by no means REACHED the redeemed world order of which you have been reading.

Somewhere between these two stages YOU YOURSELF also stand, and not necessarily at the SAME stage of advancement with the human race in general. You MAY have pushed farther along than has humanity as a whole, and you may get FARTHER AHEAD of it still. HUMANITY IS SLOW, UNWIELDY, AND UNAWARE. It moves only at the speed of its slowest members. PEOPLE who are AHEAD of their time have to try to be PATIENT while the SLOWER ones lumber along toward the wonderful possibilities the ALERTED ONES can SO CLEARLY SEE. YOUR part is to see the DIVINE PURPOSE and help OTHERS TOWARD IT AS YOU CAN. The human race may not arrive in your day, but YOU WILL NOT LOSE YOUR REWARD.

III. A Few Details.

Now let us take a look at the redeemed world order itself. You have already noticed that it is to be a tearless condition - God has wiped away the tears from human eyes. In other words, the CONDITIONS that made the sorrows of mankind ARE NO MORE.

This condition of tearless happiness has been made possible by the fact that the human and the Divine have at last got together. As you have read, "The tabernacle (dwellingplace) of God is with men, and He shall dwell with (perhaps in) them, and they shall be His peoples (not people), and God Himself shall be with them, and be their God * * * . Union, not of the few but of the many, has been achieved at last. THAT is what has taken all the long centuries of time for man to SEE, UNDERSTAND, and DO SOMETHING about.

The twenty-second verse of the twenty-first chapter makes the amazing

statement that as John looked at his vision of this new world order he "saw no temple (sanctuary) therein, for the Lord God, the Almighty, and the Lamb, or the temple (sanctuary) thereof." The church has at last accomplished its great purpose. It too has merged into the glow of the LIGHT that lights every man coming into the world. RELIGION IS NO LONGER SOMETHING WRITTEN IN BOOKS OR LOCALIZED IN BUILDINGS. It is a PART of the HEART-THROB of HUMANITY, as MUCH a part of life as breathing or the circulation of the blood. The Divine is EVERYWHERE, and EVERYTHING is recognized as HIS work. The WORLD has become a temple, and LIFE ITSELF is WORSHIP.

Get a copy of Charles Rann Kennedy's great play, The Servant in the House, and read again the scene where Manson, who represents the Christ, tells the bishop about his, Manson's church. Ponder carefully that spiritual structure from whose pillars laugh the faces of happy children, which is FILLED with the music of the HEART-BEAT of MANKIND, and away up in whose towers may be heard the sound of the hammers of the brothers who have climbed up ahead.



Hear now a parable. Word was once given out in a certain town that a new and lovely temple of worship was to be built. The people were enthusiastic in their expectancy. Eagerly they waited to see the lovely building that was to rise.

Soon they saw men nailing boards, rough boards, higher and higher. They supported platforms and ladders over which the workmen moved. The thing was made of rough lumber, and it had not much shape yet, the people said, but they had hopes. They were sure the boards would be dressed, and that design would show when the work was at last complete. It didn't look like much now, they said, but it would be a temple by and by.

One day the workmen began tearing down the boards and platforms. A word of alarm went about. "They are tearing down our new temple", people said. They thought something must surely be wrong. Perhaps the workmen were wicked men, working for a wicked builder, who would destroy their temple just when it was ready for use. The workmen went on tearing down the lumber and laying it in great piles on the ground, after which it was carted away.

Then BEHOLD, A GREAT TEMPLE, with shapely masonry, graceful carvings, and lovely window designs, stood there. What the people had been seeing was only the scaffolding, the falsework, on which the workmen had to stand while building the real temple inside it.

Our human organizations are the scaffolding on which we stand and up which we climb as we build the GREAT temple of universal faith. The church's triumph will be the day of its completion, the time when all our broken lights will merge into the "light that shineth more and more unto the PERFECT day." When man finally gets together with God the union will have to include his religion, the same as his business, his politics, his relationships, his culture, and the rest of his interests. Religion IS a life, and it cannot realize its FULL purpose till it is wholly merged with life.

IV. The Universal Oneness.

ANYTHING not yet realized is bound to seem more or less theoretical, but

one walking in the dark HAS to proceed on theory till he can discover whether it IS fact. We have assumed the possibility of the universal oneness. We will not attempt fully to ANSWER the question why, but only to OPEN IT UP ENOUGH to give the student a chance to do WHATEVER original thinking on it may seem helpful in his quest. Of course, the IMPORTANT thing is to FOLLOW the road it opens up. When we do that, theory largely takes care of itself, yet a glance on the theoretical side may throw some light on that road.

Looking through the mystic philosophies of the Old World, a number of modern restatements of them under various names, and even the Bible itself, we find constantly coming to the surface the IDEA of the ONENESS of ALL things. In a Himalayan lamasary one might even be told that man is God DIFFERENTIATED into human form. Elsewhere one would be told that each of us lives as a human soul only because a little fragment of the Divine Spirit has been made the nucleus of his being. Even in our occidental lands we are frequently told that God is all there is, and that everything we see is simply a MATERIALIZED THOUGHT of the Infinite Mind.

Think of these things AS you wish. It is not necessary to choose among them, or EVEN TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT THEM MORE than to KNOW about them. All YOU NEED to know YOU will learn in your own experience, but knowing what others think they have discovered MAY help. The main point just now is that the generality of such thinking at least shows that an IDEA of oneness or unity of souls PERSISTS.

At the beginning of this lesson series we quoted St. Augustine as saying that God has made US for HIMSELF, and that our souls know no rest UNTIL they rest in Him. We know by general experience that this is TRUE, but why? There is some reason why man CANNOT forget the Divine, why even savage tribes in remote times and places have recognized a Supreme Person and sought after Him. If it is not some fragment of the divine life in us always seeking its "COMPANION" part, it IS something that has an equivalent effect. To recognize that impulse and follow it through to whatever realization waits is our present purpose and task.

Occasionally we hear of a man and a woman living in places very far apart finding themselves unable to become interested in anyone else till the strange windings of fate bring them together in a marriage of perfect love. Undoubtedly this does occasionally happen. The poets say it turns out as it does because two COMPANION PARTS of the same life stuff are hidden in their beings, and refuse to let them rest UNTIL they UNITE the two in ONE life AGAIN.

Who shall say the poets are not right? Certainly there is something more than mere physical attraction involved. If the physiologists insist on denying this let us take the case of parent and child or friend and friend who never rest while they are separated, and are at peace ONLY when brought together again. There is some reason for this, and it cannot be wholly physiological. What would account for cases like that of Jonathan and David or Damon and Pythias? Some oneness has been violated by separation, and can be satisfied only by reunion.

MUCH of the physical constitution of the universe is based on attraction of one kind or another. It holds things together, and it keeps the stars and planets in their right relationship and motion. Yet it is always mysterious and unseen. Why is it any less reasonable that there should be attraction between two human beings, or between the human and the Divine? These are ALL parts of the SAME order of things.



In any case these things are indications of that "something" that lures us toward the Divine. We ALL have it, though some honor it and others stifle it. YOU are pursuing these lessons because that feeling has pursued you. YOU have accepted it as at least a vital interest. With some it has become a consuming passion. WHY do people feel so about it? The answer is that it is one of the inevitables. We cannot dodge the claims or ignore the voice of what is NECESSARY to us. You can no more explain it than you can explain love itself, but you know it is there, DRAWING YOU like a magnet.

WHATEVER theory you accept, or whether you accept any, YOU HAVE ADOPTED A PROGRAM. You have sensed a kinship with the Divine, and you propose to find, meet, and KNOW your heavenly Father. You will do this by whatever means seems to promise most success. Lessons, books, and counselors may help you, but you have to make the search for yourself. Remember though, don't go off on detours. KEEP to the main travelled road.

V. Gathered Threads.

In closing this final lesson of this Third Series on Practical Life Philosophy let us take a moment to gather up some loose threads and re-emphasize a few points that may need it.

Think of all the people about whom you have now read as having had experiences of the Divine. Think also of any you have yourself known. Not one was an idler, was he? Most of them were busy, EVEN AT THE MOMENT GOD'S REVELATION CAME TO THEM. God seems to seek out BUSY people, so don't get the idea that this is a program of WAITING. We must wait God's time, but we must KEEP BUSY while we are doing it.

Keep your thoughts not on some nearby way station of the road, but on the ultimate goal. Tennyson called it "the one far-off divine event toward which the whole creation moves." Jesus called it the Kingdom of Heaven. John called it the Heavenly City, the New Jerusalem. Whatever YOU call it, keep your purpose centered in it. The road to it is the one along which people most often find THEMSELVES CONSCIOUSLY FACE TO FACE with the DIVINE.

Perhaps you have already been wondering whether you are fit to undertake this quest. It is to your credit that such a question should arise, but DON'T let it worry you. What BETTER indicates fitness than the DESIRE for God? If perfection were the test, who ever was fit? Not ONE of the disciples was fit when he STARTED. All who meet God feel unfit, SHAMEFULLY UNFIT, when they once see the divine glory, and themselves in comparison with it. GOD, not you, is the one to decide your fitness, and no one ever heard of His REJECTING A SEEKER. Anyway, when you go searching for the REALIZATION of the Divine you will find YOURSELF made MORE and MORE FIT as you go along. St. Augustine's Confessions will show what he was when he started. Such of his works as The City of God will show what he became as he followed through.

How can YOU know you WILL succeed? You cannot except by faith, and it is

about the SUREST knowledge there is. No one who has not been there can tell WHAT is at the other end of a long road, but he can believe those who have been there. Abraham did not know where the Divine was sending him when he left Haran and started on that long road of destiny. Much less did he have any idea along what ways of history his descendents would be led through the centuries. Yet he asked no questions, but ONLY OBEYED the promptings of THE INNER VOICE. Centuries afterward it was said of him that he believed God, and it was CREDITED TO HIM FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS.



That is what YOU will have to do at first - take it by faith. Until you have faith you are not ready to start anywhere. If you have faith, you will be safe anywhere you go, being led, and not by sight, to the land of promise of your OWN heart.

Faith is a positive force, capable of removing obstacles between us and any cherished purpose. The MOMENT one begins to succeed at anything is the moment when he begins to have FAITH in his ability to do it. For instance, what would happen to one walking a wire over Niagara Falls if for a single moment he lost his faith? What keeps him safe on such a strange road will also keep YOU safe, for it will channel the divine WISDOM AND POWER into YOUR life.

REACHING the level where the fulfillment of YOUR purpose is possible is going to take endurance. YOU may succeed quickly, but NOT MANY DO. In case the road is long, it would be a pity to waver and give up when SUCCESS is waiting just around the turn. Remember it is not the start of the race that decides the victory, but the FINISH.

YOU are strong, fresh, and eager now, and you feel certain you can do it; but WHAT WILL YOU DO WHEN YOU ARE TIRED, CONFUSED, AND DISCOURAGED? THAT is JUST the time when you MUST keep on. One runs BETTER after he gets his second wind, and he gets his SECOND wind just AFTER THE WORLD STARTS TURNING BLUE BEFORE HIS EYES and he THINKS HE CAN GO NO FARTHER.

Probably you will be tired and spent when you finally realize your purpose, but it WILL BE WORTH IT. The question now is whether you can endure to the end. You CAN if you DO THIS - set your PURPOSE on the GOAL, get started, and KEEP GOING. That is ALL it takes. The last part of the formula will be the problem, but it is the most important thing. It is KEEPING going that brings the traveler to the end of his journey.

In your progress toward an experience of the Divine you will have MANY compensations, and they will FAR outweigh the struggle and effort. YOU will always be on the victory side, with nothing to lose and everything to gain. You will be helping achieve the most important chapter in world history. You will have contentment, which is more dependable than temporary satisfaction or superficial happiness. So now, follow through, and may God speed you on your way.

Pursue, therefore, most determinedly the completion of your First Century

of Revelations - knowing that your gains WILL far outweigh the struggle, and that your Second Century will surely bring even greater honors and higher degrees in our beloved Mayanry.

This is the 99th Revelation, which is DOUBLE 3 X 3 (3 X 3 and 3 X 3) equals 99. According to the most ancient Hebraic and Mayan evaluations of Numerology, 99 equals 9+9 which equals 18, and 1+8 equals 9 (equals 3 X 3), all of which are degree numbers.

You will have ALL the help you need. And be sure that somewhere up the road awaits the most glorious experience a human being can have.

With Prayers for Your Blessedness,

Your Class Instructor.