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INC.
TAMPA-FLORIDA

Lesson 215



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INITIATION

Beloved Companion:

Long before one is aware of definite progress there seems to be born in each one of us a determined feeling that we are at last treading the Pathway that leads to more of happiness, understanding and contentment. In other words, the subconscious mind recognizes the Pathway that we tread before the conscious mind is aware of the actual process taking place. It may be, of course, that this awareness of the right direction comes from the memory of a past life, being the subconscious recognition of familiar landmarks. On the other hand, it may be simply that in drawing toward a better understanding of life thru persistent effort, we unite ourselves with the Group Consciousness of the Race which of course is constantly growing and developing.

One point which we must keep in the mind is the fact that thruout all of our study we have been investigating what formerly was known as "the Mysteries." Those things which have been discussed with you constantly, were in past ages held inviolate in the secret archives of Occult Schools. It is scarcely possible for us to realize exactly what the past few centuries have meant in regard to the promotion of free speech and free, unhampered thought. Truths which ancient students sought for an entire lifetime are now publicly discussed in a few lessons, or books, which are available to all who manifest a sincere interest.

You remember that Luke referred to these changes when he said "Many Prophets and Kings have desired to see those things which you see, and have not seen them; and to hear those things which ye hear and have not heard them."

In fact, it was the struggle of the early Initiates, their constant battle against defeat, mistrust and camouflouge that built up the Racial Karma which we now enjoy. Their struggles made it possible for the bans to be lifted, so that now it is possible for us to talk about those things which were whispered in fear and secret several hundreds of years ago. There still remain many aspects of instruction which are purely of Inner Plane origin; these cannot be discussed under any circumstances, but are familiar to those who have walked the Pathway, who have passed their initial tests, whatever those tests may have been, and have perfected their method of contact with the Inner Plane Masters.

The lessons are replete with suggestions concerning the Esoteric approach to Initiation; we have discussed the various studies aligned with intellectual and Spiritual development, we have taken up many of the outer Teachings. It is quite possible, therefore, for each student to recapitulate the progress which has been achieved at this particular point, and to ascertain by a mental resume of the territory covered spiritually and intellectually, as well as in more practical ways, exactly how progress is advancing.

Many times we are asked for a sign that will conclusively indicate Initiation, or reveal the identity of the Initiate. It is not possible for us or anyone to do this for the Initiate is never one who adopts flamboyant signs of unusual qualities. Such trivial indications as the flowing cloak, the eerie abode and the mysterious talis-

man are all things confined to the pages of fiction. If I were asked to indicate one quality of outstanding prominence in the demeanor of each Initiate I would say that that quality was serenity. Not a serenity in the passive sense of the word, but a serenity fraught with controlled power, for the Initiate is, after all, at peace with himself, with the world and with God. He is not serene because he has been defeated and has nothing further to look forward to, but he is serene because he has mastered himself and Nature's Forces, he understands all of these things for what they are, and is capable of reserving his power. He is disciplined to the point where his reactions are thoroughly trained. Discipline has not meant restriction, it has meant growth and expansion.

It would be difficult to think of an Initiate as one who is over-sensitive or delicate, as far as the nervous system or the emotions are concerned. The student who trains (or mis-trains) in collegiate athletics can so increase his nervous tension that all unusual shocks or disconcerting circumstances need be avoided. We have heard of athletes who are shielded from strain and shock in very much the same way as neurotics. Although such so-called "Stars" may be very capable on the athletic field, their development has been incorrect for disciplining should have been such a nature as to make them capable of withstanding the shocks of life as well as those on the football field.

In the same way, the developing Occultist should have full, complete and healthy control of all faculties. Occult Training is not given for the purpose of minimizing the value of the physical organism; we are not told to "retreat within" in order to avoid physical plane responsibilities, and indeed we can't expect Inner Plane Development unless physical plane development, at least in regard to a discharge of our duties, proceeds apace with Spiritual Unfoldment. So the Serenity of which we have spoken includes a balance of Man's seven vehicles.

Another indicative trait of the advanced Occultist is a certain degree of mental alertness. If Occultism does anything it should broaden the mind, it should give us wider interests in all manner of studies. There isn't any subject closed to Esoteric study. The Occultist is not narrow minded; he is tolerant, and in every case enthusiastic in his search for knowledge. His versatility of accomplishment is remarkable to behold; he perceives all aspects of Life as a manifestation of Universal Mind, and is interested in each and everyone of them. He makes it his business to be conversant on many topics. It may not be possible for him to have a professional knowledge of all manner of sciences, Arts, and occupations, but at least he knows their purposes, he perceives their achievements as well as their problems, and in all things is a sympathetic observer. Not only, then, does Occultism give us a real zest for living, but because of training in methods of concentration and meditation Memory is developed and we retain vivid and clear impressions of all with which we come in contact.

In speaking of this matter of varied interests, I wonder if you have thought about the personal interests of many of Esoteric leaders. In almost every case there is, accompanying the development

of mind and spirit, a similar development in some phase of manual labor. For instance, the Master Jesus Himself was a Carpenter. Of course there is an Esoteric explanation of His trade, but the fact remains that He found joy in working with His hands, and in creating thru His own loving effort, things of beauty. This is a natural expression of the desire in the physical self to manifest skill in harmony with the increased faculties of inner Perception, by which the higher vehicles give voice to the growing desire for activity.

Far from despising the work of the material plane, the Initiate finds a certain amount of pleasure in using the excellent tools for physical plane construction with which he has been provided in the delicate mechanism of the hands. Sometimes this desire shows itself in the cultivation of a hobby of some sort; at other times in the perfection of skill in playing some sort of musical instrument; whatever it maybe it gives infinite satisfaction.

Quite contrary to one's expectations, the Initiate is not always one whom the average person would call a "lover of Humanity". In fact their actual demeanor upon first acquaintance is sometimes rather austere. Because of the fact that the Occultist views conditions in a different light from the average individual his understanding has a tendency to set him apart from his fellowman. It may be that he does not always extend the sympathy in times of difficulty or trouble that one would expect, for there are certain occasions which demand criticism, rather than comforting, and when such conditions develop the Occultist is the first to recognize that fact. Entry to the higher stages of Initiation is gained only thru rigid adherence to the laws and regulations laid down by Inner Plane Masters. These rules and regulations are irrevocable; each individual is obligated to adhere to them, and the sooner they recognize this fact the sooner they are going to be able to enjoy real happiness and peace.

And so when conditions have developed in an unsatisfactory way, and when the Occultist perceives that this inharmony is due to lack of understanding in the individual, to actual carelessness, or misuse of power, he perceives that after all it is not time for indulgent sympathy, but it is a time for strict criticism. Those who resent criticism, constructive as it may be - hurl imprecations at those who have sought to help. But in spite of occasional difficulties with those of little understanding (and what Master has been spared this problem?) the Initiate is respected and loved. Above all such a one is just, and this overwhelming appeal he has for others is based upon his honest and unflinching adherence to Truth. In this lecture we have been attempting the impossible--to describe the outward demeanor of the Initiate--in addition to these characteristics which are all that it is possible to describe in words, there still remains that indefinable quality which is certainly stamped upon the countenance of each one who has reached a state of Attainment. To describe this distinguishing mark of dignity and majesty, would be impossible; it is engraven upon the features thru experience. No one particular experience is responsible for the development of the Initiate; but each step thru his or her many lifetimes paints with subtle colors and subtle shadows the countenance which reflects all that Life has taught.

In the Bonds of the Eternal Brotherhood.