

THE ORDER OF THE ESSENES

2527 SUNSET DRIVE

TAMPA 6, FLORIDA

DEPARTMENT OF INSTRUCTION

HOW TO SOUND THE CALL  
IS THE THING

FOR YOU TO ACQUIRE:-

"Knowing ourselves superior to the anxieties, troubles and worries which obsess us, we are superior" - Read that again on Page Two of Lesson Fifteen accompanying this letter. The whole context of that thought gem can be a comforting thought in the troubled days ahead.

Do not skim over Instruction Fifteen lightly. It may come to you in a troubled hour, like an answer to a prayer, as it has to countless others. It gives a foretaste of many presentations calculated to acquaint you with that something within you, which, when discovered and utilized, will materialize your ambitions so naturally and simply you will wonder why you ever thought in terms of "the mystery of life."

Man is no longer the sport of inanimate nature; he has penetrated the laws of the physical world and harnessed its forces to his own design.

The need is for a charting or recharting of the sea of life; for a compass that will ever point true to the divine principle within; - a sextant, that by the stars of faith and love, will prove man's relation to the infinite.

There is a call for individuals who feel an ambition to understand and control the forces which make up their own personalities and determine their destiny.

The enlightened know that there will soon be a world-wide need for such individuals to help steer the thinking of the multitude. Countless individuals fear that civilization is about to be destroyed. It may appear that we near the brink. To quell that fear will be the divine sanctifying, regenerating and preserving influence.

It is the aim of this Order to provide the torch bearers, as far as humanly possible - - drawing upon omniscience - - and depending upon the aid of those who benefit in small things and in great, from the understanding of truth.

As we give to the world it is given to us. Upon this principle alone we carry on - and when men learn that it is not a matter of religion but a workable life principle available to all - and live accordingly - they will survive and be triumphant in the new era we rapidly approach. It "makes straight the way."

Read "Just Talking it Over" Pages Thirteen to the end - and may you grasp early in these instructions how to sound the call -

The blessings of the infinite be yours,

THE ORDER OF THE ESSENES

*S. Hamner Davis*



# THE Essenes

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## Instruction 15    Assuring to the acceptable and accepted HEALTH, HAPPINESS AND SUCCESS.

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*If you have experienced disappointments, discouragements, and defeats, your spiritual metal has been tempered. All Who succeed in life, have thus acquired their most valuable assets, for every adversity brings with it the seed of an equivalent advantage.*

*The turning point usually comes at the moment of some great crisis—when you meet your other self—the real YOU—with whom it is our purpose to acquaint you.*

## . . . . THOUGHT GEMS . . . .

There can be no question that, had all been easy, man would have stayed where he was at the dawn of history. The menace of nature, of the beasts, and then enmity of his fellow man furnished the incentive to his upward climb—the lesson is that difficulties had **VALUE**.

There never was an emergency yet which the life principle was not equipped to meet—when all existing methods were used up it invented new ones.

Now for the application of the lesson to our lives and conditions.

The more we conquer, the more we are enabled to conquer.

We form a habit of conquering as insistent as any other habit.

Victory becomes a state of mind.

Knowing ourselves superior to the anxieties, troubles, and worries which obsess us, we are superior.

It is a question of attitude in confronting them—it is mental, not material. It is just being in harmony with the life principle, and that is a contact with power; and to be in harmony with power is to be strong. Naturally, the life principle is the seed from which you spring—your blood, your breath, your brain.

You cannot cut yourself off from it, and it cannot cut itself off from you.

It is a question of your own orientation.



The life principle is ever present, in every cell of our body. At the instant we have a cut or a bruise or a broken bone or any physical injury, the life principle goes instantly to the spot to repair the damage, to renew, to restore, to make good.

## **"Making Straight the Way"**

Before taking up the third step to a correct understanding of attaining health, happiness and success, it is well to understand that countless thousands—the great majority of people in fact, have sought this understanding.

Many have tried—many have failed. It brings to mind the Bible passage—"Ye receive not, because ye ask amiss."

In every search, grains of truth are found, but the full law—the complete list of principles—the mental chemical formula, in its entirety, must be mastered to make certain the attainment of cherished ambitions.

We are going to set forth in this set of instructions excerpts from various sources, to show the mental processes some have used in the search for truth.

A preparatory ground work must be under any worth while structure—and nothing transcends in importance, your own life structure.

Two corner stones have been laid—

- (1) proper visioning or purposefulness.
- (2) putting behind it the power of intense desire.

You will consider a third, when you have been attuned, and made ready for it.

What other moderns have found in the search is of interest—and we pause just long enough to consider some intensely human examples.

In a small book called the "Inner Secret"—

marked by "X" as the author, we came upon a story of one who started out with the conviction that there was an "inner secret" of success—and he interviewed every possible successful man he could contact to try to find this secret.

His experiences as related were enlightening. We quote.

"As I grew older I came in contact with a number of comparatively successful men, and I lost no opportunity of tactfully sounding them concerning this subject. Most of them, at least at first, poohpooed the idea; but afterward, in moments of unusual confidence, a number of them somewhat reluctantly and almost shamefacedly acknowledged to me that at times they were convinced that there was "something about" them, or rather "something outside or above" them, which aided and assisted them in their success—something which inspired and guided them often in spite of their own previous ideas and convictions concerning their course of action. This was rather a new idea to me, or, at least, a variation of my old idea. I determined to investigate the matter further.

As I grew still older, and was thrown more and closer in contact with men of affairs and of prominence in the world, I found that in the secret heart of most of them there existed a silent, indefinite, but still strong feeling that there was a "something outside" which was "on their side," and which was always working silently in their behalf—a brooding something which was a fount of strength and an

unfailing resource. This seemed to be the fundamental idea—the essence of the thought of experience; but nearly all of these persons had each his own interpretation of the essential fact.

Those of strong religious convictions held that "the Lord is on my side; He has been good to me, and always has responded to my call." Others seemed to believe in a favoring Destiny, or even a "lucky star." Others spoke vaguely of "higher powers," or "beings on the other shore," who were working in their behalf.

Others had rather gross superstitions concerning the case—incredible superstitions they seemed, considering the standing of the men holding them. One and all, however, held that "that something about" them was really a "something above" them in which they had come to believe and to trust, by reason of their own experience in the matter.

A few points, however, were impressed upon my mind, in connection with these cases, namely, that (1) the greater the degree of faith in the "something above" held by the individual, the greater seemed to be his degree of success attributed to such influence; (2) that it seemed to make little difference just what the person believed to be his beneficent and powerful "something above," provided that he believed in it whether it was Divine Providence, Destiny, or a Magic Charm; it seemed to work provided that he believed in it "hard enough," and (3) that the more faith and

belief the person had in that "something," the greater grew his faith and belief in himself.

When the person got to believe that the "something" and himself were in partnership, the former as silent partner, and himself as active partner, then the firm became a mighty one, and he, himself, as the outward front of the combination became filled with self-confidence and self reliance. It was all merely the variation of the old theme of "Gott und Ich," "Gott mit uns," or "The Lord is on my side," notwithstanding the fact that the idea of the helpful Supreme Being was absent in the conception of many of these firm believers in the "Something."

I sometimes thought that if one of these persons firmly believed that "Something" to be an old brass door-knob, and provided that he believed in it implicitly just as the others believed in Providence, or in Destiny, or in "My Lucky Star," then that doorknob would "do the work" for him in like manner.

But, in spite of all of my speculations and theorizing about the matter, the thought never occurred to me that this "Something" might be found **within** the being of the individual himself, rather than "about" or "above" him.

I seemed to have a mental or spiritual "blind spot" which caused me to ignore that immediate source of Reality and Power—that Something Within. I don't know how I happened to miss this important point, but miss it I did. I was like the man

who fruitlessly sought all over the world for many years for a certain buried treasure, only in the end to find it in the garden around his own home to which he had returned in his old age. Or, like the shipwrecked crew, parched with thirst and dying for want of water, who had unknowingly entered the extended current of a great seaflowing river, and who perished though they had but to dip their pails over the side of their boat." Thus ends X's comments.

One of our dear friends—who has been one to encourage the modernizing and making readily understandable the ancient truths taught by the Essenes,—brought us a page from some magazine which he said he had cut out and saved for nearly ten years.

The article was entitled "Make Straight the Ways", and was by Celia Caroline Cole. We have no means of knowing the publication from which taken that we may give due credit but we quote that splendid article just to show the searches for health, happiness and success, and that many answers are evolved—all with their quota of truth—and all having through them the thread of self-confidence, faith.

Here is Celia's story:

"One night in a hotel gay with people and music I sat in the lounge talking with a man about prayer. He was an internationally known lawyer with a mind as clear as crystal and as ordered as the stars. And he was telling me an astounding



tale: that his life was controlled by what he called two-way prayer. He prayed, "talked the whole thing out with God"; and then he listened. And sometimes he had to wait long before an answer came."

"But it always comes?" I asked him.

"Not always; but nearly always."

"How do you know that it isn't your mind talking back to you?" I cried. "Not just your little conscious mind but the unknown mind, all that undiscovered country we call by so many names—the subconscious, the superconscious, memory, intuition, prescience? Or maybe the emotions answering? How do you know?"

"I didn't at first," he explained. "I don't always now. I made mistakes. What of it? I had made more—and worse mistakes before I learned to pray. When the answers don't feel right, I hold my expectancy steady and say, "No, You speak!"

I wasn't very clear about God at the start, but I was convinced of **Law** behind the Universe; and a law functions for not only the big things but the little things as well—which included me. So I talked to that **Law**. And soon I found out that if I made my mind a blank and directed my listening toward my heart instead of toward my head, a clear, definite answer would come, worded not at all as I word things but with a style all its own."

"And you felt that it was from no remote part of you?"

"What is God and where?" he countered. "It

was not from my conscious self, I knew that. And **what difference does it make what answers**, so long as it is good answering? **The answers come.** And they work. They are not always exact, but they are the most exact things in my life. And now almost invariably I know when it is the Voice speaking, for there is a spaciousness, an energy, a ring about it. It works, this praying and listening. Believe me, it does!" He grinned as he bade me good-night.

In my room, I stood looking out at a black night. And then I prayed. And after I had "talked it out with God," I listened. Many thoughts darted through my mind—some, wise and pertinent, others trivial.

And then came slow, distinct words, as clear as if spoken, though they were not spoken, only there, rising up from my heart, clear round words:

"Make straight the crooked paths. Feed my sheep." All over my head and shoulders there was an electric tingling as the words came. I waited but nothing more came.

I had prayed, "Help me to find the Truth, help me to do your will!"

"Make straight the crooked paths." Was that the way? And had I crooked paths? Yes, in the sight of God I surely had; measured by a good uncompromising yardstick, I certainly had. And the more I looked, the more I saw how many there were. All those things that burdened me so were crooked paths! Obligations and duties, faults and mistakes,

some of which I expected to carry to the end of my life because I had let myself in for them—all were crooked paths. And then there were even more subtle crooked paths, the drifting, careless, winding ways of my daily life. (Review your own self estimate—2nd section, instructions No. 4.)

It took time, but little by little my life straightened out, my devious ways grew fewer. Within a week a burden that I had expected to carry through the years fell off my back; within a few months a habit from which I have tried to free myself for years dropped away from me. The beloved house I live in, the work I am doing, dear to my heart, came to me as guidance in "two-way prayer." And guidance came as a result of making straight the ways. For some time or other answer would come but "Make straight the ways." And then later:

"Do not strive, only desire above all things to be one with Me. Nothing fails thee, nothing can fail thee but thy desires. Keep them alive and high. No one can move forward who has not purpose. Feed my sheep."

"You hold in your hands the gift of life. It is made of Me,—fulfilled. The way is hard, take My hand."

If I am faithful, the voice is faithful. I lose it only when I stop wanting it enough to ask for it and to obey it when it has spoken. I have learned that lack of power is lack of prayer; that the prayer which is needed is not "Send me this or that" but

"Keep me sensitive, so that I do not miss seeing and taking that which You are always sending!" I have learned that all progress is spiritual, that when you take the human way out of difficulties you are torn and tossed about uncertainly and emerge only partly victorious and nearly always worn. And I have proved that miracles of healing and activity and joy will come for yourself and for others out of faithfulness to two-way prayer."

Spread your problem before Him as on an altar, unlock yourself with gratitude that such an opportunity can be, then unscrew all the screws of your mind and heart, close your eyes, shut out all outer sounds, all darting thoughts. Go deep into the silence of your inner self and, relaxed, expectant, listen for the voice.

"Feed my sheep" was not so clear to me as "Make straight the ways." How could I feed His sheep? I have lived among people who were not interested in spiritual things, and I have never been sympathetic toward those who bear down upon you with firm radiance, tracts in their hands and precepts on their lips. What could I do?

Again I prayed. And the answer came:

"Loneliness in the heart of man is need of Me. See that need and ask for the word to be spoken. Put light in dark places wherever you see them. Be so lighted yourself that no one shall ever go away from you still in the dark."

My heart smote me. That very day, there had

sat before the fire with me one with unhappy eyes; and I had not made it easy for her to speak. She looked so chic, she had so much,—beauty, wealth, a fascinating life—I had talked to them, instead of to her unhappy eyes. And she had gone away unfed.

So little by little, I came to know what "Feed my sheep" means. To become so sensitive to other people's needs that not even the smallest unuttered cry in them can go unheard by you. And don't, oh don't confine God to a definition! Their need may be for only an invitation to dinner—a seat at a festive board of affection and laughter and caring—or an hour talk stripped of pretense. Or maybe a lent book, or money — or all that you have. It doesn't matter; pray for insight and sensitiveness; then feed the need that you see.

It's an adventurous life. It's a light-hearted quest. As surely as we live, we have within us that answering voice, only we have never listened to it or even cocked an ear toward it. But it is there, calling, calling.

Make straight your ways—you know where they depart from the straight, better than anyone else can know! Power will come in, and peace and answered prayers. This I know, God has not said His last word yet!

— And thus we are led to the third step in our program for health, happiness and success:

- (1) Vision, (2) Power of desire, (3) ?

## . . . JUST TALKING IT OVER . . .

In this set of instructions, we are giving you no second section. We are setting you no task, asking no new exercise.

The problem of attaining health, happiness, and success has been given serious consideration by countless thousands, and herein we have given you two approaches by others as a sort of attunement as suggested on Page 3.

The instructions of the Order of the Essenes present to you the true path of attainment, no matter what it is you most desire.

Opportunity knocks! Opportunity is a visitor who rarely calls on those who neglect to provide a suitable welcome.

It resembles the Traveler in the old German Tale:

"One stormy day a rich man entered the wretched cabin of some poor peasants for shelter. The peasants were dazzled by the costly jewelry and sumptuous armor of their guest, and were fain to rejoice at the honor shown them.

"The Traveler, however, brought along with his other luggage a goodly store of fine provisions which he allowed them to feast upon. So great was their enjoyment of these that they forgot all about the duties of hospitality. Their delight in the good things, aided by their natural indolence, caused them to neglect making a fire, and the guest was left to shiver in his wet clothes.

"Noticing all this, the Traveler hurriedly gathered his things together and, in spite of the deluge of rain, departed forthwith, never to return.

"Now the peasants had neighbors who proved to be more intelligent than they.

"Perceiving the stranger who was now approaching them, they hastened to throw vine branches upon the hearth and invited him with smiles to come in and make himself at home among them.

"They prest around him and would not consent to partake of the provisions that he had brought until they had first made sure that he was comfortably installed.

"Revived by the pleasing warmth and touched to the heart by the fineness shown in the welcome, the Traveler tasted the sweetness that comes of fine hearts and home surroundings.

"He did not leave on the morrow as he had intended to do, but prolonged his stay, and did not depart until he had by largess and solemn promises assured the future of his amiable hosts."

If we go into the philosophy of this Tale we instantly perceive that the peasants first mentioned were the more favored, since it was at their door that Opportunity in the form of the Traveler first knocked.

Opportunity is like this Traveler. It does not permit us to profit by its gifts unless we try to deserve them.

It is the law of nature—that as you give, so shall you receive.

Have you given, and do you give in the measure in which you desire to receive?

One of the most difficult tasks in teaching people how to live and attain is to get over to their inner consciousness a true understanding of the fact that man is unity and multiplicity—that he is **one** with the universal—that each and every organ of his body is related to every other—and that what he does, whether it be labor or love, he does with all his organs, if he does it well. To know this as a fact, is a rebirth.

A knowledge of biology teaches us that our body comes from a minute egg, composed of one cell. This cell divides into two parts, and in turn these two and all succeeding divide, and soon you have millions and billions of cells, and yet you have the original unit or unity.

The male sperm that fertilizes the female ovum or egg is

so minute that it is said that all the sperm required to produce the next generation in America could be contained in a pin head.

At the instant of fertilization a new individual is in embryo and the possibility of future generations.

Such wonderful facts of life, when rightly understood, open the casements of the mind to acceptance of the teachings of this Order.

Some of the modern writers, in giving directions for the attainment of success, health, and happiness, bolster their statements or formula by a form of testimonial, showing that Carnegie, Schwab, Ford, and all the great industrialists agree that the formula outlined is the secret of their success; yet as outlined on Pages 4 to 7 in these instructions, most of them unconsciously followed the true path of attainment we are outlining—the third, and a vital element of which comes to you in instructions 16.

You have been taught that desire power is a real and efficient thing—it is, so to speak, a sperm that fertilizes the egg of your aim or purpose.

See if you can get this idea. Your vision, plan, or mental child of what you want to be or do is as the female ovum or egg—it needs but fertilization.

Desire is one element of which this fertilization is compounded. The other three will come to you in due order, and then the life principle takes hold.

The marvelous mechanisms of the individual must be understood to appreciate what unity and multiplicity mean.

Your consciousness and your organs are harmoniously harnessed together by a network of nerves. You have chemical messengers called hormones, which each gland sends to all parts of the body.



Every part of a motor is a separate item; there is a multiplicity of them, but they function together and are a unit in producing power—that is unity.

The body is wonderfully adaptive, which is proof of its unity. Thus, when external temperatures go up, automatic mechanisms of the body prevent our inner temperatures from increasing.

Again—when man faces danger or a crisis, the glands, prompted by the mental appreciation, immediately secrete in the blood stream substances that increase the pulse, the blood pressure, and the necessary sugar required by the muscles as fuel, for an attack, a defense, or a flight.

The wonderful adaptivity of the human body is evidence that nature, the life principle, meets every emergency, and as in the ages past—through all the ages, as heretofore explained in our instructions relating to geology—creates new instruments, if those at hand are insufficient.

This should teach not only the unity of the body, but its unity with the universal or omnipresence.

How to sound the call is the thing we must acquire.



#### . . . . THOUGHT GEMS . . . .

Many people act in daily life a character not their own, and they are so busy playing the part that true thinking has neither time nor space; and the desire to appear, instead of really be possessed of certain qualities, vitiates thinking.