

THE ORDER OF THE ESSENES

2527 SUNSET DRIVE

TAMPA 6, FLORIDA

DEPARTMENT OF INSTRUCTION

CALLING ALL
TO THOUGHT: -

If you think about it, recorded history from 2000 B. C. to date, proves that those who disdain the fact that there is a greater power than man, and seek to usurp that power unto themselves always fail, and the true record is ever written "Perished by Egotistical Ignorance."

That is a happy thought at this time.

Biographies are generally written to record the material accomplishments of men. Far too often we are left in the dark as to the thought processes of the world accomplisners. Of course all of the thought processes of a man are known to him and him alone - but they do shine through in his works.

A thoughtful and searching study of the biographies of the great show that univ-ersally they were conscious of a power which they thought of in terms of "above", "about", "beyond", "without", "within" -- recognized it as greater than intel-lectual or "man powers" -- and accepted the guidance which seemed to come in "flashes".

If you have a sincere desire for the better things of life, want and seek happi-ness and the things that can help bring about that state, you should accept wholeheartedly that which science has proven - to wit: - That every human cell is susceptible to thought impressions - because all motive cells of the body have thought impulses.

When you accept that fact and know that you are, or can become by discipline, supreme dictator of your own thought processes, you are on the road to mastery of conditions.

Add to this a complete acceptance of paragraph Two, Page Five, Instruction Sixty-Five and you approach Mastery of Life Science.

It wouldn't hurt a bit to review Instruction Thirty at this time.

This important thing of awareness of your "unity with the infinite" is not some-thing for vague speculation, nor is it a thing that is going to come about as a result of straining or striving - and most certainly mysticism and super-natural-ism will not be helpful. It is a perfectly natural thing - and it comes to you silently as you absorb the truths of life.

The great promises to you, contained in the Bible, you were told would "come about with understanding." This we endeavor to bring to you, ever grateful to those who help to spread this understanding to a world that stands in need of it.

Sincerely,

THE ORDER OF THE ESSENES

By

J. Hamner Davis

Enc. 65



THE Essenes

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INSTRUCTION 65

Assuring to the Acceptable and Accepted
HEALTH, HAPPINESS AND SUCCESS.

"WHILE THE BEE ROBS THE FLOWER OF HONEY, THE BEE ALSO BRINGS SOMETHING TO THE FLOWER - THE BEE POLLINATES THE FLOWER. THE 'FLOWER OF HUMANKIND' IS BEING ROBBED: BUT THE ROBBERS WHO WOULD DESPOIL US BY THEIR SELFISH AND GREEDY DESIGNS, AT THE SAME TIME ARE BRINGING SOMETHING VALUABLE AND SIGNIFICANT TO SOCIETY AND THE INDIVIDUAL AS WELL. WE ARE BEING HURT BUT WE ARE BEING AWAKENED. WE ARE BEING DESPOILED, BUT WE ARE FINDING SOMETHING VALUABLE AT THE HANDS OF EVEN THOSE WHO WOULD HARM US. MAN IS THE PERPETUAL MIRACLE, HE IS NEVER TO BE DEFEATED."

OUR CHANGING CONCEPTIONS OF GOD

Constantly our instructions are being revised and kept abreast of the times. This is one that was written in 1943 and is still timely.

There is probably not one normal adult in the countries affected who has not given some serious thought to the present world situation. Why, we ask, are supposedly civilized and Christian nations at one another's throats with an intensity and to a degree never before equaled in history? Why is almost all of civilized humanity exerting every ounce of effort on a program of destruction? After all the centuries of material progress and intellectual development, why is mankind still spiritually savage?

Regardless of what may be designated by future historians as the immediate cause of this present holocaust, we believe there is a cause behind the usually recognized cause for war, and that cause is the lack of spiritual progress. If spiritual progress had anywhere near kept pace with material progress, the world would long ago have outgrown war.

And who is to be blamed for this lack of spiritual progress if not organized religion? Christianity has been allowed to do just half a job: It was allowed to awaken the latent possibilities within man to the extent that wherever Christianity went there went material progress, but his spiritual conceptions were allowed to shrivel up on a diet of ancient mythology. It has done a wonderful job of making man aware of the fact that there is a God, and there it stopped. It has not succeeded in showing man how he sensibly and logically can use this knowledge to further spiritual growth. To know that a God Force exists and to refuse to learn how to use it can result only in stagnation.

Today the world is searching for an answer to its problems, and many will pin their hopes on the formation of some new World Order. Any new order which may evolve from this present conflict will be even more hopeless than the old unless there is a marked basic spiritual advancement. Any movement to bring permanent peace to the world will succeed only to the degree that it takes into account man's common denominator, God: And to the degree that it accepts an approach to God which does not do violence to reason.

Every one needs a new conception of God.

We humans are continually changing our conception of the things about us. From the time we are first conscious of our surroundings until we finally lose consciousness, our concept of things changes with our broadening experience and knowledge.

Many of these changing conceptions took place beyond the range of our memory, hence we do not recall what our very first impressions were. However, we know that at five years of age we had a different conception of the food we ate, the clothes we wore and the home we lived in than we had at one year. Later on our conception of the more abstract phases of life such as family relationships, our emotions, life itself and the world in general changed also. Most adults can remember their reaction when they first found the truth about Santa Claus. We thought we made a great discovery when we learned that our cousin's mother was our father's sister. The impressions left by our early experiences with love, remorse, joy and sorrow are indelibly marked upon our minds.

Naturally our conceptions of the subjects about which we learned the most in the least time, changed the most rapidly. Upon reaching adulthood, the ordinary material things and common experiences of life are well known and our conception

of them remains more or less static, but in the more uncommon fields such as the arts and sciences and technical professions, our individual conceptions vary tremendously. Our concept of these subjects changes as increasing knowledge and experience in these fields molds our thoughts.

The ancient Egyptians conceived the earth to be like a box, one side of which they inhabited. They believed the heavens to be a gem studded canopy supported at four corners by mountain peaks. They worshipped the sun and held fantastic ideas about that body, and these ideas prevailed for thousands of years.

Ancient Chaldeans conceived the earth to be like a saucer, and their conception of the heavens was far from what ours is today. They were close observers of the moon however, and established the Lunar month of twenty-nine and one-half days. Some think that the practice of calling these lunar periods years prevailed in parts of the ancient world, accounting for the unnatural life spans recorded in the scriptures.

For thousands of years fire and water were considered elements. The human anatomy was a vast mystery and practically all of the physical laws which we have learned to harness and employ for our use were still in the realm of the unknown.

Gradually, down through the ages these conceptions changed as newly discovered truths influenced man's thinking. Today, aided by records and marvelous apparatus, astronomers are actually witnessing other worlds in the making millions of light years away. They have discovered the laws that govern the universe and have proved them to the extent that an eclipse can be perfectly foretold any number of years before it takes place. Today we know that our dear old earth which the ancients believed to be the center of the universe, and which seems so large to us, is only a tiny speck in God's creation.

In most realms of human thinking we rise from a lower to a higher plane of thought. As new truths are discovered and adopted, we shed our old ideas and accept the new. The extraordinary becomes commonplace. To one who never hears of or saw an aeroplane, flying is a miracle. But to the person who understands the functioning of the laws of mechanics and aerodynamics, flying is just a natural consequence of this knowledge. The skilled surgeon performs what to the ordinary layman's mind seems a miracle, but to him, because of his knowledge of human anatomy, it may be just a routine duty. Circumnavigating the earth certainly seemed an utter impossibility to the ancients who believed it to be flat, but since we have learned the truth it has become a comparatively simple procedure. Thus truth always has and always will create freedom.

In spiritual matters too there have been changing conceptions, but these changes have been less rapid. It is said that many great scientists agree that the world's next great progress will be in spiritual matters. It seems to me that there will have to be a wide spread readjustment of spiritual conceptions on the part of the ordinary man who does the world's work. Such a readjustment would constitute a spiritual advance. We must accept the fact that the spiritual and the material are very closely related. We must learn that our lives with their successes and failures are not a hit or miss proposition, but that we ourselves hold within us the power to grasp and understand and use the laws which govern our material and spiritual well being. Jesus proclaimed these mental and spiritual laws, but they have not been accepted.

A noted scientist said that every scientific fact must pass through three stages. First, every one disbelieves it. Second, we say it is opposed to religion. Third, every one accepts it as fact.

Science is organized knowledge. Men and women who specialize in gaining and classifying knowledge are scientists. They are often accused of trying to destroy God. Often they do destroy our old conception of God, but they usually leave a wealth of material out of which thinking people can build a new one. A great many scientists were and are profoundly God conscious, and they have greatly lifted the level of our thinking. The world needs scientific spirituality. It needs some genuine searching for truth in the realm of thought and spirit. It lacks the fearless leadership that could be instrumental in bringing about the adoption of spiritual truth when it is found.

As far back as the most primitive human records reach there is evidence that man is a worshipping being. Man always was conscious of some power that connected him with a beginning; some force that lent continuity to life; some urge which caused him to strive ever upward. In his innermost being he has the feeling that he is endowed with the power to know the unknown or to do the impossible. These emotions were variously interpreted by primitive races, but all of them gave evidence of a belief in some higher and mysterious power. Because their knowledge of this vital element in their lives was so totally limited, they made images which gave expression to their mental conceptions, and called them their gods.

That primitive man had many gods is natural and reasonable. The minds of even the most learned were not able to conceive of one single, universal, all-embracing force, unlimited by the natural bonds of time and space. In fact there are millions living today who still have a primitive conception of the force we are learning to call God. Instead of living in harmony with it, they live in fear of it. The vast majority of the Christian world is still praying to a God "Without" instead of being aware of the Presence within its own consciousness.

We humans dislike change. Down through the ages of our development, every change in our material surroundings meant new adaptations involving physical effort. Every change in our mental or spiritual conceptions means the evolvment of new theories and mental effort, and we are lazy. In matters pertaining to our religion, our progress has been especially spasmodic. We have stood in awe of spiritual mystery. We built up theories based upon our knowledge and experience up to a certain period and then cling to these theories until by sheer force of added accumulated knowledge we are forced to adopt new theories. Something like a stream that bounces and gurgles over the rocks for a short distance and then becomes stagnant in a pool caused by some obstruction, until it rises high enough to find a new channel. There is none of that pioneering spirit which we have displayed in other fields. In the material issues of life we have been more ready to adapt ourselves to the new and have made much greater progress.

In spiritual matters we conduct ourselves like flies around a plate of sweets. We settle down to absorbing what we think is the essence of quintessence. Along comes a disturbing element, maybe a new interpretation of an old truth, or a scientific fact in its second stage when we say it is opposed to religion. We flare up and buzz around and many get lost in the turmoil. Most of us go back to the sweets but a few of the most venturesome are led to look for something even sweeter. They find it and gradually attract others.

At any rate we have been slow about changing our conception of God. But that our concept of God has changed from age to age cannot be denied. History is much more revealing when it is studied with this thought in mind. The actions

of man have ever been very largely influenced by his religious convictions, and these convictions are the product of his conception of God.

Any question involving God is of necessity a profound one. No matter what our conception of God is, it can not easily be described. God is more to be experienced than explained, but the very fact that we long to explain God is proof of His existence. Worship is only the desire to know and to understand and to be understood. Just what mental process takes place in the average Christian's mind while he worships God? What kind of a mental picture does he have? That is something everyone should think about. Certainly that picture is different when we reach an advanced age than it was when we were youngsters. Just what does the act of worshipping consist of? We realize that raises theological questions and we can hear a great many answer that they worship Christ on the cross. It may be that worshipping a mental image is one step nearer the truth than worshipping a stone image, but it is difficult to visualize Spirit. Jesus said that God is Spirit, and when we worship Him it must be in spirit and in truth. For many centuries there has been little if any effort made to really find the truth about God. Instead of allowing the individual to experience the thrill of personally discovering God and developing fully and completely as a result, organized religion has circumscribed our thinking with ecclesiastical dogmas handed down from century to century. True, they have been modified a trifle but it is still mostly a case of believing a few creeds and doctrines or be damned.

Worship should be the natural communion each individual conscience has with the force it recognizes as the source of all life, health, wealth and happiness. That force can be found only within the individual himself. If it does not exist there, it surely cannot exist outside of himself, because it exists only to the degree that each individual can be conscious of and interpret its presence. Logically then, the act of real worship is a matter of communion of thoughts. As we think of God as creative spirit, something within us responds to these thoughts. We have the feeling of being a part of the great scheme of things and we become aware of a great latent power within us. We feel some common point of contact for all creation and we see within our neighbor what we feel within ourselves. Such worship is not confined to any particular time or place and requires no ritual or paraphernalia.

Back of every act there is thought. Thought fathers the deed. "As a man thinketh, so is he," so it is easy to see that all progress is the result of thinking. Right thinking produces good results, wrong thinking produces bad results. Man's innate yearning to reach up, to strive for perfection has resulted in a slow upward progress. That this progress can be accelerated by more universal right thinking is evident.

The old Testament of our Bible is a history of a race of people who believed in One God. What a great step forward this was over the many other beliefs of the time involving hundreds of gods. It unified and inspired the Jewish people to the extent that they became an eternal force in the world. Their material accomplishments have long been forgotten, but their contributions in the realm of spiritual thought will always be apparent. They have made the world God Conscious. But why anyone in this day and age should insist that we must accept Moses' conception of God as final is beyond all reason. In every realm of thought except the spiritual, man has respected the conceptions of ancient masters and used them in the eternal search for truth. When truth revealed their fallacy they had to be forgotten. Only organized religion has insisted that ancient conceptions of God must be believed verbatim.

Let us consider Moses' conception of God as expressed in the writing he is given credit for. Let us remember that Moses wrote about 1350 years B. C. when the scope of human knowledge embraced only the most elemental elements and when only a very small portion of the earth's surface was known to man. Considering these limitations, his story of the creation is a masterpiece, but his story reveals his conception of God. Of course he conceived a God who would make a world just about like he would do it if he were God.

The reason that many people today cannot believe this story of creation literally is because it does not fit their broader conception of God. After learning of the harmony of the universe, thinking people cannot believe in the disharmony of a special creation. After observing and recording the orderly process of creation for centuries and reading the indisputable records in nature itself, scientists have completely wrecked our old conception of God, but in the process they have left material out of which we can construct a more accurate and workable one. They have not destroyed God.

In order to contact God, Moses went up into a mountain, or behind a mist or veil. If some people want to believe that God appeared unto Moses under these circumstances as a man and told him what to do, that is their privilege, but it seems like a childlike conception to us. It would seem rather that Moses found it necessary to seclude himself, the better to concentrate on the methods by which he could make himself and his people useful in the great scheme of things as his communion with the God spirit revealed it to him. Of course the results of these communions had to be interpreted to the masses in terms they could understand. Certainly none of us believe that God has changed since that time but our conception of God has changed.

In the Psalms written about four hundred years later, one can detect a change in the author's attitude toward God. Some of them do depict a God who is altogether terrible, but most of them reveal a conception of a God with whom anyone may develop an intimacy that is soul-stirring and powerful. Witness the Twenty-Third Psalm. The God of this Psalm is a very personal one and comes very near the one revealed by Jesus.

Jesus, in the New Testament, reveals God to mankind more fully and completely than was ever done before. In spite of the fact that organized religion has been concerned mostly about the phases of Christ's existence that mean the least in His efforts to reveal the True God. His gospel of the God spirit within and the more abundant life has lived through it, and it gives us a picture into which any subsequent reconstructed conception of God we may have in the future will fit perfectly. Jesus revealed a God who not only allows, but demands spiritual growth. In fact, any individual who once understands the God of Jesus cannot help but grow spiritually. His spiritual development would be as natural and spontaneous as the development of a fertile seed placed in the ground in the springtime.

We think we must admit that some of the interpretations placed upon the Bible by man have been erroneous. Our numerous creeds and doctrines are all the result of numerous interpretations of the same scriptures, and it is the business of thinking people to separate the wheat from the chaff. It seems that the real vitality of Christianity is practically neglected by the organizations which call themselves Christian churches, and they use for the basis for their belief and teaching the things that were said about Jesus by someone else rather than the things Jesus said himself about God and man's relation to Him. We have clung to the vague and theoretical rather than the practical statements made by Jesus, and the numerous interpretations placed upon them have actually split up the Christian world into hundreds of disunited segments instead of unifying it into a whole. A moment's reflection should convince anyone that any system producing such results must be basically wrong.

Early in the Christian era for instance, there were great arguments and differences of opinion on what was called the Trinity. The Father, Son and Holy Ghost were the subject of great disputes which threatened to disrupt the very existence of Christendom. This question was settled, at least to the satisfaction of the majority, at a council held at Nicea and Nicean Creed is well known and widely subscribed to even to this day. Is there any reason to believe that the good men who compiled this creed in the year 325 A.D. found the absolute and only solution to this scriptural question? We believe anyone at any time is exercising a God-given privilege when he honestly questions the accuracy of this or any other creed. We take that attitude toward every other phase of our existence; why not be sensible about spiritual matters also?

Questions about Christ's life such as surround His coming and going. His apparent ability to defy natural laws and a belief in His physical return have been retained by organized religion at almost the complete exclusion of the things he has taught about the ordinary individual's relationship to God and vice versa.

There are some who are beginning to realize that Jesus did not state a kind of a spellbinding preview of the kind of a show He was going to put on when and if He comes again. He did give us the rules whereby we can bring about the return of His Spirit. He devoted his entire effort to promoting spiritual understanding. He demonstrated the power of working completely in harmony with God's spirit. He said "The Kingdom of Heaven is within you," and He gave many illustrations as to the nature of this kingdom. Most of His examples were objects of tiny beginnings but with unlimited possibilities, illustrating what the proper attitude toward God can accomplish in the life of any individual. He called this attitude Oneness with God. He said, "He who has seen me has seen the Father." "I and the Father are one." and He said that anyone could do the things He did if he would but know the Father.

The need of the world today is not the physical return of Jesus; such a return would accomplish nothing. It would violate God's eternal laws and destroy Truth. What the world needs is the adoption of Jesus' Spirit. We need to recognize that God is within us, that for us God exists only to the degree that we are able to be conscious of His presence within us. We need more to cooperate with the God within than to be begging favors from some God without. Such a God is truly "Our Father" and makes brothers of all mankind.

We believe that Jesus should be studied with an idea of finding God as He experienced and revealed Him. The kind of a kingdom He describes demands that we have a growing conception of God, that is the only kind that can some day lift the world out of chaos. Man must learn that there is no God outside of his own consciousness. There is only one agent through whom His kingdom can possibly materialize on earth, and that is man.

The individual must not only be conscious of this Power within, he must understand it well enough to use it in promoting spiritual understanding. A belief in some supernatural force which somehow by hook or crook accomplishes its aims and a simple blind faith in such a force, has had a value in the past. Blind faith is better than none, but faith coupled with knowledge of the truth has accomplished the seemingly impossible in other fields, and what it could do in the spiritual realm would approach the infinite.

This is a Universe of Law and Order, Cause and Effect. There is no reason why anyone should think that the spiritual realm is an exception. It has been said, "Man will be disciplined, either by himself or by the consequences of his lack of self-discipline." That is truth. We know that our physical and material well being depend upon our obeying the laws that govern these phases of our

life. If we disregard laws of health, we know that punishment will follow all too quickly and surely. Unethical practices in business and professions result in unpleasant consequences in the not too far distant future. It is only in the violation of spiritual laws that we have been taught that punishment will be postponed until the hereafter. This is so vague and indefinite to most people that they break spiritual laws with impunity, gambling on the chance of a death bed repentance or some religious ritual to save them from the much talked about eternal damnation.

This idea seems to completely conflict with what we believe Jesus taught about the Kingdom of Heaven. He said the Kingdom of Heaven was within us. It is like a tiny mustard seed or yeast plant that starts when you start, and wants to grow as long as you live. It will grow if given a chance. "Seek Ye first the Kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added unto you." Obviously Jesus conceived a kingdom here and now not in the hereafter, and furthermore, the discovery of this Kingdom is the cause for a fuller and richer and more abundant life, not the result of an effort to live to be worthy of heaven after death.

A child upon becoming aware of this force within him, and who is taught to understand and train it, will in the course of life develop a thousand pairs of eyes, of ears, of hands and feet, and a thousand tongues to speak of and see and hear and do a thousand things which the "Ungodly" are not even aware of. He will really live the more abundant life. He will seek to do right not because of fear of future punishment, but because consciously doing wrong will kill something within him more precious than anything else, the feeling of Oneness with the Father, the Kingdom within him.

To us this seems the vital part of Christ's teaching. Apparently He was not one bit interested in building up His own prestige. He was interested in demonstrating God's laws which He understood. He knew that upon entering the freedom of spiritual understanding, man would be emancipated from the bondage of the letter of the law. This Kingdom is a mental state, which when once discovered or achieved opens the way to a richer and fuller life.

That His advanced conception of God and His disregard of old established customs and beliefs was misinterpreted and won the disfavor of the authorities of that day is perfectly natural. In fact, the world has not yet accepted His conception of God. It would seem that the chaotic world today had better start paying some heed to the spiritual truths of Jesus if it would avoid complete annihilation. Old traditions and superstitious beliefs had better be subjected to some real honest and sensible scrutiny by the nations who call themselves Christian.

Many religious forms and ceremonies have outlived their usefulness in promoting true worship, and are actually a hinderance instead of a help to thinking people. Actual human experience has long ago passed many of the modes of worship still practiced. The distorted conception the ancients had of the physical make-up and shape of the earth made little difference so long as their actual experience did not challenge this belief. Just as soon as men traveled around the earth and probed the depths of space, these conceptions had to be adjusted. Many persons are still spiritually babes who want their emotions stirred by superstitious fairy tales as a result of outmoded forms of worship which are about as useful as an aid in discovering God as one of Ptolemy's maps would be in locating the North Pole. The one score on which organized religion can be justly criticized lies in the fact that many are more concerned about promoting or defending some denominational system than they are in promulgating truth.

Jesus understood spiritual laws and He stated many positive truths which cannot be evaded or discarded. We are forgiven as we forgive; we reap as we sow; we receive according to what we give. He made many statements regarding man's relationship to man which even the Christian world still views as impractical theory. Was He talking nonsense when He said, "Resist not evil; but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also?" Was He just an impractical visionary when He said, "If any man would take away thy coat, let him have thy cloak also, and whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain?" Was He just talking campaign talk when He said, "Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you?" Was He completely out of reason when He said, "The meek shall inherit the earth?" Or did He understand the functioning of certain spiritual laws the observance of which would positively smooth the way for civilization? We have no more right to say that these laws won't work than the contemporary critics had a right to ridicule the Wrights at Kittyhawk. Haven't Christians been too busy defending Creeds and Isms to the complete exclusion of the real vitality of Christianity? Pre-medieval minds conceived a plan of salvation and ever since, organized religion has ignored reason and insisted on making that plan work. The old Jewish conception established a God apart from man, Jesus insisted that God was the Truth existing in Man's consciousness. We cannot escape the spirit of these and many similar statements made by Him regarding the rules which govern our well being.

When this present wave of insane destruction has spent itself, will there be just another Armistice, a temporary cessation of hostilities? Will it be just long enough for the greed, hate, intolerance and all the other forces that breed war and are born of war to realign themselves into new and more powerful alliances capable of waging even more brutal and more widespread devastation? History is mostly the story of one war after another. Is mankind destined to suffer ever recurring periods of hell? Are the heartaches, the bloodshed, the anguish and suffering of war going to be continued to be looked upon as coming experiences for each succeeding generation instead of awful memories of a dead past? We are afraid they will unless there is a wholesale readjustment of spiritual understanding on the part of the so-called Christian nations.

Almost every other obstacle in the path of progress has been either completely or partially mastered except the scourge of war. In every field except the spiritual, man has advanced, but in that progress he has had to maintain a constant search for truth regardless of consequences to previous beliefs. Only in spiritual matters has it been a sin to doubt. Spiritual laws govern our behavior but they have been buried under a mass of superstition and religious ritual. Too few of us realize that war is the awful consequence of wholesale violations of definite rules of conduct or lack of self-discipline. Too few of us remember that "Man will be disciplined" one way or the other.

Many church members today cannot wholeheartedly endorse many of the doctrines which their belief is based upon. Science has wrecked their old conception of God and they haven't bothered about evolving a new one. If they were asked point blank as to what they believe, they would be torn between the desire to tell the truth and the fear that telling it would be a sin. They are half-hearted Christians. For them religion has lost its punch. Church membership is merely a passport to heaven after death. Somehow, somewhere and some way, some God is going to see that everything is coming out right in the end. They are blissfully unaware that they themselves are the only channel through which God Power can possibly manifest itself. When in reality our churches should be dealing in a dynamic force capable of transforming this world into the peaceful beautiful place it should be, they are lulling us to sleep with the idea that church membership and support will assure us a pleasant hereafter. In the meantime we repeatedly live through hell.

We believe in a God to whom we humans are all alike. We ourselves have magnified our seeming differences by our own false conception of and stubborn refusal to recognize the truth. How absurd to think that some God favors one or the other. How foolish to bicker over small man interpreted differences in creed or doctrine. How utterly tragic, a world divided by a wrong conception of the very force that would unite it. Is there any possibility for wars to cease under conditions like that?

The Christian world had better adjust its conception of God. Men and women had better start thinking about God. The idea that thinking about God is too profound and should be left to the clergy, is the idea which has let the world lapse into chaos. Spiritual laws must be tried, tested and proven without sentimental emotionalism by everyone. Every thinking person should put his belief to the test. "What is my conception of God?" "Why do I believe what I think I believe?" In honestly answering such questions we may be surprised to find that what was formerly shrouded in mystery and diligently neglected will become fascinating and tremendously important in our effort to make the most out of this life.

A Trinity of TRUTH the Father, WISDOM the Son and LOVE the Holy Ghost may be more practical in solving the problems of this modern world. Maybe this is a scientific fact in the second stage of its existence.

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A PREVIEW

We have gradually acquainted you with the sub-conscious mind. Two things of importance with respect to it you should know. It is amenable to suggestion. It accepts without question that which is given it by the Conscious Mind. From that point it works forward - not backward to question. It is not originative but is formative. It has the power to and does materialize conditions which are the logical outcome of the suggestions given it. The conscious mind furnishes the seed the subconscious furnishes the soil and conditions favorable to growth and maturity. --- It is therefore apparent you should not hold thoughts of fear or worry. That which you thus anticipate is the principle of the seed planted in the subconscious. Doubt not! It is fertile soil, and it will be brought forth. Why? Because it is a part of the Universal Subjective Mind and this is the creative principle of the Universe.

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Our happiness today is to so enormous an extent in our own hands. A man is happy when he thinks he is. And why should I not this morning think so? Why should I be gloomy when I can be glad? Here inside me is a force that can drive away the clouds. Our will power, which can call up good thoughts and disperse bad ones; which can fall back on gracious memories as a refuge from present evils; which, in a word, can make its own weather --- our will power, if we will only use it, is our philosopher's stone, that turns all things into gold. The more we give it to do, the better it works.

--- J. Brierley

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