

THE ORDER OF THE ESSENES

212 SOUTH MANHATTAN BLVD.
OR P. O. BOX 10427
TAMPA 9, FLORIDA

DEPARTMENT OF INSTRUCTION

GET THE "FEEL"

OF THE UNITY OF YOU AND THE UNIVERSAL:

There is a false conception abroad. It is that there is an irreconcilable conflict between religion and science. True religion and true science are on common ground. True science is a religion. It is a seeking of the way God (Nature) works.

When the seeking relates to the material it is called science; when it relates to man and his relation to the universal and the way God works with respect to him it is called religion. "Science" stems from the Latin "scio" - to know. Science and religion should have as an objective "knowing" - and blessed are the findings of science - for they reveal a unity.

It is clearly established that things material are not a new creation. They are but the changed form of the everlasting - a new arrangement of the building blocks of the universe - and man has entered the new age wherein he can and does work with the building blocks of the universe and bring forth the new in form. He creates the new from the everlasting - the primal creation.

Likewise Science has determined that all things living have sprung from living things. We establish therefore by the process of reasoning the everlasting qualities of life.

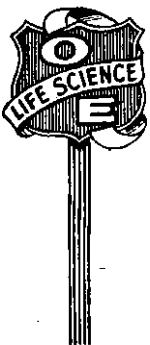
The material by decay or disintegration but changes form. The building blocks of the universe are the same in number, quality, and characteristics. Reasoning forward as we have reasoned backward, life itself but undergoes a change. It lives on. In this life it is given us to create qualities and characteristics.

Life has ever been a progression. Man is ever evolving upward. This therefore must stand as a valid promise -- that as we sow, so shall we reap - here and hereafter.

Get the "feel" of the Unity of you and the universal, the omnipotent and omniscient - - Rely upon it -- and progress must be yours!

Sincerely,

S. Hamner Davis



THE **Essenes**

This manuscript is published by The Order of The Essenes, a corporation not for profit, and always remains the property of the Order.

Copyright 1946, by The Order of The Essenes
Instruction Headquarters - Tampa, Florida

INSTRUCTION 109

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

"THE MIND NEEDS OCCUPATION AT ALL AGES. THAT IS ESPECIALLY TRUE AFTER THE ACTIVE DAYS OF LIFE HAVE PASSED AND RETIREMENT STRETCHES OUT INTO THE FUTURE. IT IS THEN THAT THE MIND SHOULD BE BUSY, AND ITS MAIN BUSINESS IS TO EXPAND AND GROW. THAT IT WILL DO IF IT IS GIVEN SOMETHING UPON WHICH TO STRETCH ITS POWERS. THERE IS NO SADDER SPECTACLE ON EARTH THAN RUST IN THE HUMAN BRAIN."

A GLANCE BACKWARDS - AND A GLANCE AHEAD

By
VOLENTUS
Master of Life Science

We take great pride in the fact that the students of Life Science are selected individuals - and that our student body perhaps outranks in intelligence and human values any other student body studying along metaphysical lines.

It is a source of great satisfaction to us to note in many publications devoted to the philosophic, the religious, and the mental life, articles signed by our students.

We glory in the success of many of our students upon the lecture platform and in the teaching profession - devoting themselves to bringing about a rational understanding of a successful way of life.

The worthwhileness of our efforts and the support accorded this work is daily brought to our attention in our daily correspondence by the universal expressions showing that all are more nearly approaching a "mental peace" and a poise, and are attaining cherished aims - and in their lives demonstrating the effectiveness of our instructions and the possibilities of the scientific way of life. Each letter is in itself an encouragement to us - beautiful as an expression of endorsement of our efforts and an example of the expanding abilities of our students in the art of expression.

Sometimes in the bringing of our material up to date - and modernizing it in the light of scientific discoveries and giving to the world the best philosophic expression of age old principles, without too much of the "symbolic" so extensively present in religious material, we do feel that there are those who might criticize it as too "materialistic" and lacking in "spirituality."

We feel that "symbolic" expression leads to too wide a variation in interpretation. Each naturally interprets it in the light of his own understanding and experience.

One of our students - a Master in his own right, sent us a thesis, which he felt was needed at this particular period of our instructions. He himself is a scholar and a teacher of the better way of life.

He has made a searching study of all teachings - ancient and modern - and even those on the borderland of legitimacy and of some that transcend reason and are well within the realm of the "works of the mountebanks." He named it - "A Glance Backwards and A Glance Ahead" - and we publish it exactly as he submitted it.

For reasons which he best understands - he asked that it be signed, "Volentus" - and here it is -- an Instruction which will doubtless

cast a light in many dark places. Personally, we believe it would carry greater weight were the author's name given in full -- but of course we know not his commitments in his other writing connections nor in his teaching connections.

By VOLENTUS

At this point in our studies it would perhaps be well for us to pause a little while and make sure that certain basic facts upon which the Essene philosophy is predicated, are thoroughly understood.

The criticism has been made that these teachings are too "materialistic" and not "spiritual" enough, and if those terms are used in the dictionary sense, we plead guilty to the indictment. We are interested in enabling our students to live a happier, healthier and more successful life here and now. There is plenty of room for improvement in this world without worrying about a world to come, regarding which we will know nothing until we arrive there. We do know, however, that when we arrived in this world, loving hands awaited us and took care of us until we were able to take care of ourselves and since our whole philosophy is based on the existence of universal principles and laws which exist and have equal effect everywhere, we can safely assume that when we arrive in the "next world" the same loving care will be extended to us.

Our authority for this attitude, if you must have an authority cited, is the Master Teacher, who said: "Take no thought for the morrow ... but seek ye first the kingdom of God and righteousness, and all things shall be added unto you."

What differentiates man from all the rest of creation? The answer, of course, is self-consciousness. Man's body is formed of the same elements that form the bodies of dogs, cats, lizards, gladioli, orchids, worms and trees. In the Catacombs of Rome, for example, there are preserved the mortal remains of some of the early Christian martyrs, highly venerated by large sections of Christendom, yet these remains are nought but dust --- the same kind of dust you can gather by sweeping a room.

From these observations we know that the physical part of man is not the real man, different from all other created things. And since self-consciousness is a mental process, we are logical when we recognize man's mind as his individuality.

For many years New Thought teachers and other so-called "metaphysicians" have prated that "thoughts are things" but if you asked them "How do you know?" they would just stare at you with open mouths. This teacher is speaking from experience when he makes that statement.

But thoughts ARE things, and this can be proven to your satisfaction. Thoughts have been weighed at Johns Hopkins University and in scientific laboratories abroad. Anything that has weight must be

"a thing." The activity of a thought can be seen through the use of a marvelous medical instrument known as the electroencephalograph, (electro-electric; encephalon - the brain, including the cerebrum, cerebellum, medulla oblongata and pons; graph-writing ---- electric brain writing). Certainly anything that can be weighed must have mass or body, and if it has observable activity it must have life - --- so when an Essene student says that a thought is a thing, he knows what he is talking about it and can prove his point.

Thoughts are the products of mind. We now know that thoughts are alive, and we also know that life never proceeds from a dead thing, so mind, the progenitor of thought, must have life and existence too. You see, we don't have to rely on any greasy Thibetans or anemic, emaciated Yogis to prove our philosophy, neither do we have to indulge in any occult hocus-pocus as provided in weekly monographs from some self-styled Imperator. We agree fully with Paul, himself a student of the Mystery Schools among which were numbered the Essenes, who, in 1 Thessalonians, V, 21 wrote: "Prove all things; hold fast to that which is true."

Now, a thought isn't just something that "passes through my head." It is definitely a result of mental action. It has been shown in past lessons that there is a Universal Mind which occupies all space, and that this Mind is the Universal Subjective Mind, of which the subjective part of our individual mind is a part. Man's conscious mind differentiates him from his fellows; man's subjective mind definitely proves his unity with all other men, and is the proof of the brotherhood of man about which so much has been prated and so little understood or practiced.

We might say that the Universal Subjective Mind is Mind in the abstract. By abstraction here we mean that this Universal Subjective is composed of all the elements of all things which can be or will be created --- and these elements exist in the form of energy. This energy is electrical. By the impress of a mental concept upon this abstract elementary "stuff" we create, consciously or otherwise. This all sounds complicated, perhaps, so we will endeavor to clarify our meaning as we go along. But at this point the author would like to digress for a moment to say that this doctrine can easily be proven by the Bible, if the student is interested in that sort of proof.

The story of creation, as related in Genesis, starts off by saying "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." Note, please, that the author of Genesis is speaking about an accomplished fact --- the heavens and the earth are created. In his next sentence he says: "And the earth was without form and void." Now imagine, if you can, anything "without form and void." It is impossible for the human mind to conceive of such a creation unless we realize that Genesis is speaking of latent electrical energy, neutral, and in a state of passivity --- in other words the great Universal Subjective Mind to which we have been referring. "Without form" because it is latent and waiting to be shaped into form; "void" because it has not yet been endowed with shape and activity.

It is from this "stuff" that all things are formed, and to it all things return. When we use the word "things" here we include all matter, and all thoughts and thought-forms. The only "thing" we exclude is man's self-consciousness, his ability to identify himself by saying "I", which is part of the Divine. Man's connection with this "stuff," provided by his subjective mind, enables him literally to "ask what you will and it shall be done unto you."

The Universal Subjective Mind is Intelligence --- but, and this is extremely important, it is UNCONSCIOUS Intelligence. You can control it through your conscious mind, but It can never control you --- for it is not empowered with desire.

This Universal Intelligence is omnipresent. There is no place to which you can go to escape it. Where you are, It is. In his work, "The Subconscious Speaks" Paul C. Ferrell describes this power in the following words:

"The Universal Subjective Mind is the Mind of God, or that phase of that portion of the Mind of God which He has decreed mankind shall use for the purpose of establishing contact with Him. It is in everything, both seen and unseen. It contains within itself the essence of all knowledge. It is the essence of all living things, not only in the realm in which you live, but in the entire Universe. It functions wherever there is life of any kind, anywhere. It is, in a certain sense, life itself, for without it there could be no life."

The late Dr. William H. Woodfin laid down the rule by which this creative power can be brought into action. It is

THERE IS ONE MIND, ONE LAW, ONE PRINCIPLE, AND SUBSTANCE
IN THE UNIVERSE --- AND I AM ONE WITH ALL THERE IS.

There again we have the doctrine of unity--the unity of God, man, and all things. If we bear in mind the fact taught by the Essenes that God is not a person, but is entirely impersonal, and that our use of this God Principle is governed by definite laws, we come to the point of realization where we know that no matter how dark conditions may appear, we have nothing to fear---for our thinking got us into the mess and only our thinking can get us out again.

Remember that we do not use the word "thinking" in a loose sense. Definite action has to be taken. If all a man had to do to create conditions was to wish for them, this world would indeed be a hodge podge far worse than it is right now -- and that is bad enough. But we are dealing with principles and laws -- Universal, Omnipresent, and Omniscient. Once this truth becomes part of our consciousness, we realize the silliness of those who claimed "I talked with God -- literally, my friend" and then tell you that

God is a God Law. Who ever heard of talking to a law?

Now what is the process of creating, or changing conditions? Just let us suppose that this process is somewhat like taking a picture. The image of the thing to be photographed is registered on a film or plate which, when developed, becomes the negative. From this negative we secure the positive or picture, and so it is with mental creating. The image of the thing desired must be registered by the conscious mind, through a process of visualization, upon the subconscious. Give it a time exposure -- repeat the process several times. This is your negative. Your subjective mind then shines through this mental negative and causes the thing to be registered in positive form upon the Universal Subjective Mind which, as we explained earlier, is latent energy or what the religious-minded call Divine Supply. Correct visualization is the secret -- the image conceived in your mind's eye must be clear, distinct, and complete. This requires concentration, and concentration requires 100% attention to the exclusion of all other matters, or what is so often referred to as The Silence.

During your second year's work with this Order you were told to write your desires down on paper in order to get the idea clearly before you. That was just another way of telling you to make the mental picture clear.

The writer of this lesson has had considerable experience over a period of years with all kinds of people suffering from ill health, want, dissatisfaction and other maladies. He has found that there is one universal cause for all these troubles and that is a lack of definite aim or goal in life. Take for example, the fellow who skimps and saves for a "rainy day." He is usually conscientious in his saving and invariably the "rainy day" arrives to take all his savings. On the other hand, the fellow who saves to spend his last days in comfort achieves his goal, too. Both have definite aims. But the "average man" doesn't have any plan of life. He just drifts with the current and tries to keep up with the Jones family. When Mah Jong is the craze, he has to have a set of Chinese checkers or feel that he is a social failure. When golfers wore "plus fours" he would die rather than appear in those "silly things" known as slacks. Nowadays, the process has been reversed and he wouldn't attempt to play pasture pool in plus fours. Subject to all the whims of mob psychology, accepting race thought without question, he is indeed a true member of what psychologists call "the herd." He drifts along and never gets anywhere. But is it any wonder?

Suppose a passenger ship set out from the port of New York on a journey. The vessel had no rudder and couldn't be steered. The captain had no idea of where he wanted to go. A strong southerly breeze set a current in force which carried him and all the other rudderless vessels northward until they ran into a field of ice floes. Fog set in and they became becalmed. The

wind shifted and shoved them southwards again into the Gulf Stream and warm weather melted the ice from the rigging and made life a little more pleasant. And so they drifted until one morning they piled ashore on a reef and that was the end of the vessel and her trip.

Apply that idea to the life of a man whose body is his vessel, and he is the captain. Subject to all the elements and the forces of the winds and storms, he certainly doesn't have a very pleasant existence here. No wonder the preachers have been able to sell the idea of "Jerusalem the Golden" to such failures. Don't blame the Christian preachers for this alone; the Moslems do pretty well by promising their adherents a heaven filled with houris and unlimited wine, while the poor Asiatics whose lot has been nothing but misery and trouble are eased along with a promise of oblivion or Nirvana.

If you have a definite goal in life, and if you protect yourself from race thought or the vast mass of "trouble-thoughts" thrown into the Universal Subjective Mind by unthinking humanity, you will lead a peaceful happy and positive existence.

The purpose of these studies is to help you do these things, and to enable you to teach others how to travel the path.

* * * *

Our comments: -- We do not believe that many ministers now engage in the old descriptions of heaven as a place surrounded by walls, the entrance to which is a "pearly gate," with Saint Peter as gate keeper -- and the interior of which is a city with streets of gold - and within the select are forever sitting about strumming harps - and that angels fly about with feathered wings and therein is a throne and ruler. -- Nor do we believe that they describe who "sitteth at the right hand," and portray in detail a ruler and his subjects and vividly picture the wrathful and vengeful moods of the ruler of the universe, and ascribe to him acts, edicts and condemnations which are shocking and abhorrent to one of decent instincts and with any semblance of moral justice - and which, in fact, would be unworthy of a devil, which some have tried to describe as though his existence and appearance were a matter of knowledge.

Neither do we believe that many now give expression to descriptions of hell as a place of fire and flames administered by a cloven-hoofed devil with horns and forked tail.

The reaction to such teachings by those of understanding is that it is a flight of imagination by materialists. - Walls and gates; pearls and gold; harps and wings; thrones, rulers, subjects; fires and flames; feet, horns, tails and pitchforks. If streets were paved with gold, gold would be of little value (about what cement is worth) for values in a material world are a matter of supply and demand. And why gold in a heaven? To very few would pleasure and attainment be signified by "strumming harps." The modern man might be more impressed by golf courses - good fishing streams - beautiful horses, dogs - trees or flowers.

More careful consideration of such pictures would question the location of these material things with weight, density and molecular construction. It would recognize that flames and fires feed upon the material and that such combustion results in destruction of form and the nature of the substance consumed - it results in a change or transformation of the elements of the consumed.

The pain and anguish supposed to accompany the punishment by fire is recognized as a sensory result, carried over a network of nerves - and that the nerves are physical and a part of the mortal remains.

Some who are loathe to give up the suggestion of a fiery furnace as their conception of hell have in some way reasoned that "atomic bombs" prove the possibility - but we know that an atom is the smallest unit of "formed material." The need of man is a true recognition of a spiritual world, a world of law and order and that results are consequences and that heaven is within us, if we are true builders in the Temple of Life.

From our acquaintance with "Volentus" we know that the spiritual is very real to him and that he has had to break with orthodoxy to satisfy his own conscience and in his search has found an understanding of soul, spirit, and mind which conforms to the higher understanding of religion - and in no way conflicts with intelligence, but in fact is satisfying to reason and does conform to the authentic teachings of Jesus, and solves the symbolic riddles which confound those who call themselves "fundamentalists."

The greatest usefulness of the Essenes can best be served by the avoidance of disputes with any established teachings and by a strict adherence to the known and positives. - We teach that "combat" is a defensive thing - that substitution - or strict adherence to truth that can be demonstrated - is the way to the banishment of error.

--- and in this path we walk and for guidance we utilize "the silence" - and seek to draw from the universal and to have imparted to us the ability "to make straight the Way" to those who seek a better way of life and the "Peace that passeth understanding."

To those who support this work all credit is given. We are but a medium. To Volentus - our thanks. May his light shine in dark places. -- "May peace be attained by you - the student," is our most sincere desire -- and desire is Prayer.

* * * *