

THE ORDER OF THE ESSENES

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DEPARTMENT OF INSTRUCTION

Dear Friends:

As we send forth this lesson we send word of encouragement and steadfastness that will sustain you as you come to understand the depth of these lessons on the growth of the Soul.

We, too, are being strengthened with you that we may all catch the larger vision and perceive some of the ever new things that await those who open the door.

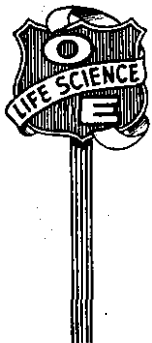
These things are shown to those who have the head and the heart in perfect agreement for thereby one becomes creative. This agreement is harmony, the Kingdom of Heaven from which all things are added. There is less to be said but more to perceive, so let us each observe our times of Silence in perfect agreement. The law of the Lord is perfect, delighting the Soul.

Sincerely,

THE ORDER OF THE ESSENES

# 126

*S. Hamner Davis*



# THE Essenes

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INSTRUCTION 126

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

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THE STRONG MAN SAYS, "I WILL", THE WISE MAN  
SAYS "I KNOW", THE PERFECT MAN SAYS "I KNOW WHAT  
TO DO, AND I AM ABLE TO DO IT, THEREFORE I WILL  
DO IT."

THE SPIRIT SUPPOSES NOTHING, IT BELIEVES ALL  
THINGS. SPIRIT BRINGS ITS FOUNTAINS OF POWER TO  
ALL WORDS OF "I AM" AND "I WILL".

Emma Curtis Hopkins

## THE DEVOTION OF THE SOUL

We are living in the midst of history's greatest crises, but to those of understanding it is not a crisis of destruction. Science has laid hold of a gigantic power to master the physical world. Civilization has been busy in creating abundant wealth, conquering disease, pushing back death and planning international organizations. Religion as a whole is just beginning to share in this accelerating progress.

Will the student please read the second chapter of Acts and consider how so long ago the people were amazed that through the power of the Holy Spirit every man was able to hear in his own language. There could be a logical explanation of this in that the Holy Land was the cross roads from the rich lands of the East to Egypt, and no doubt many people could speak and understand several languages and dialects. Those of higher education also traveled this great caravan route and there were interpreters along the way also. There is an ancient Church in India that claims to have been established by Thomas, the disciple, on a missionary journey. Paul was a student of Gamaliel and he must have spoken to the men of Athens in the Greek language, and being a Jew he could speak Hebrew and must have been able to use many tongues or his missionary journeys would have been to no avail.

This writer had the privilege of being shown through the Peace Palace at the Hague along with some twenty-five other people. The guide gave the same talk in four languages right then, and before the tour was over the French, Russians, Germans and Americans were smiling and friendly because we were hearing the same thing. This writer was astonished to hear how quickly the guide switched from one language to another. As man is a spiritual being all that man does is of the Spirit and all of the Bible must be spiritually discerned. No thinker can say "I do not read the Bible because I do not understand it." Does this not give you an understanding of an All Knowing Mind in which abides All Knowledge that can be tapped by man under certain conditions?

It is no less Holy because it is by education. To know these certain conditions and to use them is not only the purpose of our study but the purpose of Universal Mind. The Churches are related to each other around the world in a continuing fellowship in a visible and organized form, more truly as the one body of Christ throughout the world. This is a great world wide company made up of people out of every nation and race, people who know one God. Could we not believe that this is the very soul of the new world order, a feeling of mutuality that will put this soul into the United Nations Organization?

All groups are composed of individuals and the awakened individual is coming into a new sense of responsibility as to where he stands in his own soul growth if he wants to really be of help to the whole. Every man is a cell in the body of God and when a cell goes on a rampage it is a disturbing element, but in harmony it dwells in the rhythm of the whole body and partakes of health and peace as well as the wealth of the Universe.

The story of the prodigal son is a universal story, true in all ages, illustrating the experience of the one (anyone) who separated his portion from the whole, cutting himself off from the true source and was starving. But when he came to himself he returned to his father's house, was fed and clothed, receiving the true substance. (Luke 15: 11:32)

If one has been uncertain as to his religious position, it could be due to the failure to seek the Truth courageously and intelligently by the discovery and

application of the scientific method. What does one mean by the "Truth"? We are not talking of any pet system of study, but of the meaning of Truth itself, which when understood will enable one to say as Jesus did - "I am the Truth". He did more than claim he could teach the Truth, and point the way to Truth, but He was able to say - "I am the Truth". One cannot know the Truth until conditions as given in John 8: 31 & 32 are fulfilled. "Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, 'If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed, and ye shall know the Truth and the Truth shall make you free'".

The condition required brings one into discipleship. A disciple is one who accepts the doctrine of his teacher and in this case only the disciples of Jesus Christ can come to know Him as Truth. It is a question of choice and the students of this order have made that choice and are now in the process of living the way of the I Am. For when one uses the name I Am, one is calling the Divine Power, so whatever we claim in the name of I Am (God's name in Man) we can have. If we can hold on to our sense of humor we may more quickly move from the negative things we have claimed in our undeveloped state. We know that we must claim and state that which is true and continue to state it until that which is untrue is dissolved. The I Am in man, the pure Christ of man can never be sick, poor, mistreated or hurt. It remains forever undisturbed in the Secret place.

Let us study further concerning the meaning of Truth. Truth refers to God as with regard to Oneness of his nature and to Jesus Christ. You have seen in the former studies that there is no separation in Reality, scientifically proven. There is no separation between God and Man, and man lives, moves and has being in God according to his understanding and acceptance. The separation has been one of belief only. We will not become confused and think we speak in terms of contradiction, if we will remember that one speaks sometimes in terms of relative Truth, relating two or more things, and at other times we speak in terms of Absolute Truth, that which is perfect in itself, forever abiding. When that which is perfect is come, that which is in part shall be done away. Matt 5:48 - "Ye therefore shall be perfect as your Heavenly Father is perfect." This is our goal - to be accomplished here and now and not in some future time or heaven.

The words mysticism and asceticism fell into disuse because they were muchly abused. Asceticism means the disciplinary method of living the science of spiritual life. Our discipline can be defined very simply by the one word - Watch - be alert - listen to the Spirit of Truth. Is that hard? If one is truly "watching" - life should be rich and full, with "all these things added". So we do not scorn the way of the ascetic, for it really means a balanced life; the art of perfecting the soul. The word comes from a Greek word meaning 'exercise or effort'.

Theology is the science that treats of man's relationship to God and our morals constitute our response to a belief. We believe in God All Good. Mysticism is the way of the soul's life in an increasingly realized union with God. This is the way of the Silence. Spirituality is a science that is lived, led by the spirit of God. Asceticism does not increase egotism by a feeling of personal sanctification above all others. Be not as the Pharisees! "For what doth it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his soul?" The spiritual life is not detrimental to an active life, for you are your real self no matter what you are doing. The very humblest task takes on dignity when you know you are the Son of God.

The real mystics have all been men of practical action, for contemplation

enlightens and directs action. Knowledge and understanding enable one to harmonize seeming contradictions in all study. While we aim to know the Truth, knowledge fires and stimulates desire, as one cannot long behold a luscious fruit without conceiving a thought of tasting it. Desire when vivid and sustained sets the will in motion and urges it on to the possession of the good that the mind has apprehended. We cannot be lukewarm according to Jesus, but love the good with all our mind, heart, soul and strength; this is one pointedness - Desire is God knocking at our door showing us new patterns of life. The thing we want is already for us or we could never have felt the desire for it in the first place, so we give thanks for the new idea, accept it, wait on the direction of how to bring it into manifestation; for each idea contains its own plan of fulfillment. He who gave it, fulfills it, call it Divine Mind or whatever you prefer. Be thankful and patient, ever alert, ever listening. This inner knowing is an instantaneous flash - some call it intuition or the Voice of God. Many of the ancients heard it and gave witness to that fact, but they thought it was outside themselves. When Jesus Christ came he released this faculty within man and it is known as the sixth sense, the Wisdom of the heart. The seventh sense is mental telepathy or communication by mind to mind. We are not speaking of just being able to read another's mind, for that is a mental trespass in which a Truth student does not indulge.

In the second chapter of first Corinthians Paul says, "But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the world into our glory. Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him." "But God hath revealed them unto us by His Spirit, for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God."

Man is Being in the process of becoming and our discoveries are in regard to the balancing of the head and the heart, the intelligence which becomes wisdom and love. The creative step resulting in the perfection of man has already been taken, and this knowledge releases man from any feeling of hard work, or unworthiness or "having to deserve." We have already deserved it and it has come to pass.

The definition of Wisdom includes good judgment, discrimination, prudence (caution, care in practical affairs.) Wisdom is great learning. But one cannot define the Wisdom that is of God, but we talk about it in terms of action. But Wisdom is straight from the spirit of God, it is knowledge that is of God. Judgment deals with pairs of opposites mostly for we have an axiom: "Judgment is as great as will and meekness can agree." This meets all occasions of life as well as some occasions, for it takes meekness of character to yield your point instantly when you see you are wrong. This makes for quick and accurate judgment. This word yielding has gotten a good many Christians into misery, for it really means yielding to spiritual doctrine, though appearance may argue louder than spiritual realities.

The only "fall of man" there is, is yielding to appearances. "The serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made." This is self-deception. Soul sees itself as a physical body blind to its own being until it uses insight as well as oversight. This is the beginning of knowledge, self-discovery. When the woman saw the tree was good for food, we note that the tree of knowledge is good, not evil, Knowledge is desirable, even though it contain an element that is to be eliminated for it leads to wisdom. Wisdom is eternal for it is pure knowledge, the error element destroyed. When man goes through the refiner's fire, symbolically speaking, he

has that wisdom which is fine gold. "If any man lacketh wisdom, let him ask of God." The possession of wisdom is the heritage of the soul. It is the pearl of great price for which we will give all that we have. Our soul unfoldment is the manifesting of our real God-like being. The soul's unlikeness to that being perishes along the way. It's subjection to its natural knowledge must be supplanted by its subjection to the Divine Wisdom which alone gives it mastery of the natural, therefore self-mastery. In this way the soul dies in order to live. The quality of self-consciousness due to a knowledge of both good and evil must come to an end because it is unlike what man really is. The soul must die to the natural quality of self consciousness and be resurrected to the spiritual quality in order to attain the Divine and everlasting quality - the Christ. Resurrection and ascension logically follow its death.

Man has come from Adam to Christ, even though many may not have come to Christ in conscious recognition but this constitutes the difference between the law and the gospel which is a way of meekness, acceptance, teachableness. The law and the gospel become one. Good judgment awakens beauty in the outer. Is it not through Christ we can do all things? The mind of Christ is perfect judgment which is wisdom. The wise know no evil, they know there is none. They know the ways of God.

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THOUGHT GEMS

Perfect wisdom hath four parts, viz., wisdom, the principle of doing things aright; justice, the principle of doing things equally in public and private; fortitude, the principle of not flying danger, but meeting it; and temperance, the principle of subduing desires and living moderately.  
-- Plato .

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When wisdom entereth into thine heart and knowledge is pleasant unto thy soul; discretion shall preserve thee, understanding shall keep thee.  
-- Prov. 2:10

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KNOWLEDGE.--Knowledge is the eye of desire and can become the pilot of the soul.  
-- Will Durant.

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The soul, of origin divine, God's glorious image freed from clay in heaven's eternal sphere shall shine, a star of day!-- The sun is but a spark of fire, a transient meteor in the sky; the soul immortal as its sire, shall never die.  
-- Montgomery.