

*With the best wishes
of the Author*

WORDS OF COUNSEL

TO

HERMETIC STUDENTS

BY

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PUBLISHED BY

HERMETIC BOOK CONCERN,

509 VAN NESS AVENUE, SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

FOREWORD.

A few words of counsel may not be out of place to students entering upon the pathway that opens out before them upon admission into the ranks of the HERMETIC BROTHERHOOD and therefore the following short brochure has been written in the hope that it will be of some value to those who from various quarters are brought into association with the Order.

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Suisun Valley, Solano County, Cal.

October 16, 1904.

THE HERMETIC BROTHERHOOD

Of Atlantis, Luxor and Elephanta.

WHAT IS IT?

WHENCE DOES IT COME?

WHAT IS ITS PURPOSE?

These three questions are to be answered briefly and plainly in the following pages.

In ages long gone by, when ATLANTIS, the pioneer of our modern civilization and knowledge, was in its prime, the wise men who were the power of the nation, having fore-knowledge of coming events, saw the necessity of providing means whereby the wisdom that was in their keeping should be so preserved as to be of use to coming nations, peoples and races, after the coming catastrophe which they fore-saw would destroy their beloved country and bury it for many ages below the rolling tides of the great ocean.

They therefore in their wisdom founded a Brotherhood amongst themselves first and then by many con-

sultations with the INVISIBLE ONES who were co-operating in the movement, formulated plans for the proper guidance and government of this Brotherhood and laid down the lines whereby the truths of Wisdom intrusted to them should be imparted to their pupils by object lessons and in symbols such as could readily be understood when once they had the key thereto imparted to them.

There was therefore established certain classes or degrees, each of which, whilst standing by itself as exemplifying some special truth or phrase of truth, was so linked to the proceeding and following degrees, that they would enable a conscientious student to gradually advance from one point to another until he would become as they, the possessors of knowledge beyond the ordinary ken of the human race generally.

The KEY that unlocked this divine knowledge was not given out indiscriminately or without due preparation, for the first few degrees were especially designed to test and try the student whilst at the same time they promoted his advancement to the place where it would be safe to intrust him or her with the KEY.

Pledges of allegiance and obligations of secrecy were also instituted as it was seen that without these individual and personal pledges the work could not go on to the desired end or the results sought for, realized.

The Manifestation of the Order at present known as the HERMETIC BROTHERHOOD of A. L. and E. is the true successor of this ANCIENT ATLANTIAN BROTHERHOOD and has in its keeping all

knowledge and wisdom, the larger part being at present locked up in the Archives of Ancient days, both on and in the Earth and in the Astral realms appertaining thereto, waiting for the time when the KEY can again be intrusted into its keeping and these ancient depositories again can be opened to the WORLD at large to the great advantage and uplifting of mankind generally instead of to a chosen few as in the ages long past.

The reason why the Hermetic Brotherhood is stated to be of Atlantis, Luxor and Elephanta is first that Atlantis was the birthplace of the order over 30,000 years ago and where it flourished and grew for many thousands of years even until it became weak with old age and lost its grip upon time and then the dreaded catastrophe came and the beloved Atlantis disappeared from the scenes of earth life.

BUT before this, various centers had been established in other parts of the inhabited portion of the earth and the teachings handed down for so long, were preserved more or less intact.

What is now known as the great Pyramid of Egypt was erected as a place of safe keeping long before this disastrous time and therein to-day still in its safe keeping, are the ancient records of the olden time, waiting until the key is again placed in the keeping of the VISIBLE BROTHERHOOD by the INVISIBLE SECTIONS who have it safely in their charge.

Thus Egypt was the second place chosen for a partial rehabilitation upon the earth plane of the knowledge of the Ancient Wisdom and LUXOR was the

chosen place for the second great TEMPLE of the order and below the ruins at present visible to any one who journeys to this place and which testify to the grandeur and importance that once proved the zeal of the past Comrades, there is still stored away in rocky chambers, repositories of Wisdom also waiting the advent of the one who will know what is therein stored away, as he who hides can alone find.

Hence it is that we at this time add "LUXOR" to our title as conveying a meaning to the student member that is hidden from the outside world.

Elephanta, in the far Eastern clime of India contains also another hidden repository of later date than that at Luxor and is the burying place that contains the last of these collections of knowledge and wisdom, accumulated and possessed by our ancient Comrades and predecessors.

The very title of our beloved order, whilst it tells us of its past greatness and importance, also contains within it, wonderful promise of future and rapidly coming usefulness, as this Brotherhood is to be the pioneer in unfolding to the World at large, the new dispensation of LIGHT and TRUTH that is about to be manifested in all its wonderful fullness.

The present duty of each and every member is therefore to so fit and prepare himself or herself as to be not only worthy recipients of this true knowledge and wisdom but to be also fitted to take their place in the front ranks of those who are to be the leaders, teachers and instructors of those who will in due time be ready for instruction.

The great importance of each and every member, past, present and future, visible or invisible, thoroughly understanding the high and glorious duties laid upon them as soon as they have taken the pledge of the first degree, is very manifest and therefore it is that these few words have been set down to specially call attention to this important matter.

You must distinctly understand that this ORDER is a BROTHERHOOD, there being no actual distinctions of grade or rank amongst its members and hence whilst for the purposes of guidance and teaching, those who have progressed further along the lines of knowledge, experience and wisdom, may be selected as ELDER BROTHERS and thus these really become servants instead of Masters, servants willing at all times to give up their own personal comforts and pleasures for the teaching and training of those who may be placed in their charge for this purpose.

It therefore of necessity follows that all pupils under the training of these ELDER BROTHERS should recognize this self-sacrificing spirit and do all that lies in their power, by close attention to their studies and training, by cultivating and expressing an appreciative love that will amply repay their efforts and prove to them that their labor has not been in vain.

There is one very important point that must not be lost sight of and that is, the UNFOLDMENT of the HIGHER-SELF, the DIVINE EGO within each one enabling it to perfectly control the lower self and its environments, each student must feel assured that by so doing the desires of the ONE for the spiritual en-

lightenment of the whole of the human races, past present and future, visible and invisible, will be promoted.

All thought of lower-self advancement must be forever dismissed as it is indeed a great truth that we cannot serve GOD and MAMMON as stated by our Ancient ELDER BROTHER of Galilee. We cannot be governed at the same time by the HIGHER-SELF and the lower-self hence it is that upon taking our first pledge of allegiance, we appeal to the HIGHER-SELF for help not only to enable us to keep our obligations but also we appeal to this HIGHER-SELF to assume full control of all the personal and lower-self appetites and passions as well as the great and wonderful mental activities that are our heritage.

It is a recognized fact that in order to receive the highest blessings of wisdom and knowledge, it is absolutely necessary that we give up many of the things most prized upon earth and hence it is that those who do not willingly bestow of their worldly goods to help on the cause on its more material side, soon find that they are not in full harmony with the high purposes of the Brotherhood and drop out one by one from its meetings.

Therefore if you, as a pupil of WISDOM, have a true desire to reach the highest unfoldment possible for you in the present embodiment, it is absolutely necessary that you from the very commencement of your studies, make up your mind to bestow what you feel you can afford in aid of the very necessary expen-

ses that must be met in order that the work can be successfully carried on.

Those who willingly give their time to the various departments of work, whether it be of instruction or propaganda, are from that very fact, not in a position to earn enough to keep the wolf from the door and therefore the members of the Order should see to it that these willing workers lack nothing of earthly comfort and the necessities of life and if this has not as yet been done, then the least we can do is to send forth kind and loving thoughts to those who so earnestly devote themselves and all that they have to this noble work.

To the one just entering in at the gate, is given the advise to consider well the future and make up your mind with set purpose, to devote so much per month to the support of this work as you can well afford and then promptly and **REGULARLY** pay the same over to the authorized officer with the full confidence that the same will be properly applied. **DO NOT FORGET.**

This is really part and parcel of your obligation and hence it is just as important as any of the other parts of the pledge of allegiance which all have taken upon being admitted as members of the **HERMETIC BROTHERHOOD of ATLANTIS, LUXOR and ELEPHANTA.**

The main purpose of the training in the Brotherhood is, as before stated, for the enthronement of the **HIGHER-SELF** in each individual member and it is now necessary to give a word of warning to all students.

Do not let any outside entity or influence obtain undue control or usurp the place that should be occupied by your own HIGHER-SELF.

It is of great benefit that we are enabled to receive instructions from those who are fully able to teach us, whether in the form or out of the form but it is a mistake to allow any entity or thought force to so overshadow us that our own HIGHER-SELF is shut out from its true heritage.

Just as each individual member of the Brotherhood is a UNIT of EQUALITY with each and every other member, so in like manner is each and every UNIT of the GREAT FAMILY OF THE ONE whether in the form or out of it equal in the sight of the ONE to every OTHER UNIT and hence it is the Hermetic Brotherhood places in the first rank, as being of the utmost importance, the necessity of the HIGHER-SELF of each one being allowed to possess and control its own lower-self, and when this is done and then only will we be following the teachings so beautifully expressed by our ELDER BROTHER JESUS. Seek ye FIRST the kingdom of GOD and his RIGHTNESS and all else will be added unto you.

If you seek and obtain this Kingdom of GOD, of the HIGHER-SELF within your innermost being, in full control of the lower-self, then indeed you will find manifested in your individual case, the truth of this saying, as all the attributes of your GOD-LIKENESS will then be manifested from the within and all the so called occult powers of the spiritual body such as clairvoyance, clair-audience, intuition and preception,

in fact the whole catalogue of spiritual gifts will be manifested in each individual case.

It is because we often seek for these latter things, putting them as being of the first and greatest importance, that we fail and fall far short of the prize of our HIGH CALLING as Members of the HERMETIC BROTHERHOOD and as SONS and DAUGHTERS of THE ONE FATHER OF ALL.

There is one other point that it is necessary should be pointed out and that is that upon admission into the order ONE or MORE Brothers of the INVISIBLE SECTION are allotted as special teachers from that side of life and if in the previous earth life the student has been more or less under the guidance of unseen ones, consciously or unconsciously, a time will come when a decision will have to be made as to which band of these invisible ones you will work with. Many comrades have suffered both physically and mentally before they became aware of the real cause of their seeming ill-health and hence the necessity of mentioning the matter here.

Forewarned is forearmed and when you realize the presence and co-operation of the brothers of the INVISIBLE Section do not put them on one side as not being in harmony with your past experiences but welcome them and send your kind and loving thoughts to those loving ones that have been of service in the past, that they may listen and learn from these new and wise teachers that have you now in charge and you will very soon find that perfect harmony will be restored in your invisible surroundings.

If however you hold on to the thought that the old are good enough for you and thus hold them so closely to you that they cannot have time to listen to the new teachers then you must expect trouble and the lesson may possibly be a severe one as some of us in past times have found.

If you are at any time in trouble or doubt go quietly to the Elder Brother of your Knot first and help that is needed will be quickly manifested.

May these few thoughts indeed be an incentive to those who read, to take up their line of earth work and follow it to its true ending, CONSCIOUS ONENESS WITH THE ONE.

JAMES U. SPENCE.