

# THE KINGDOM WITHIN

By Stella Flowers Hastings



IN DEO VINCO

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By STELLA FLOWERS HASTINGS

*Gift of  
Mother*

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# AUM

My life is consecrated to Thee.

My work is consecrated to Thee.

Bless this day each one here.

Satisfy their inmost longings for  
Thee and bless each one who  
enters this home, Thine.

Fill them with the spirit of Thy  
holy Self.

May all beings be peaceful.

May all beings be happy.

May all beings be blissful in Thee.

May Thy life be fulfilled in them.

Aum Shanti, Shanti, Shanti!

959729

—Sanskrit.



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*To the Great Souls  
Who are guiding me along the Path,  
To the Visible and Invisible Teachers  
Who are helping me to find the Light  
And to all students  
Who are seeking the Kingdom Within  
I dedicate this my harvest  
Gathered along the Path of Attainment.*

Mr. G. C.

Univers.

Dear Sir:

was forw  
found th  
worthy o  
American  
autograph  
That I am  
not know  
wrote it.





## INTRODUCTION

This book of philosophical lecture-lessons is given to the public not because of any fancied claim to literary personality on my part. It has been written rather as if impelled by some loving hand, some great motive force, some inspiration, some overshadowing will power greater than my own.

No voluntary gesture of mine could have produced the book; yet I am not unmindful of the retaining power of the subconscious mind that has recorded the thoughts of many philosophers, metaphysicians, occultists, religious thinkers and writers who have interested me. I have not used the intellectual mind in selecting the subject matter in this book, save where I have quoted the sentences and poems of others.

I wish to express my gratitude to Swami Bhagwan Bissessar of Benares, India, my spiritual teacher for many years, whose belief in my sincerity has kept the Flame burning.

I am indebted to Swami Ashokananda of the Vedanta Temple, San Francisco, California, for the translations from the Sanskrit of the Vedic hymns and prayers that I have used. To Manly Hall and to Dr Clarence Reed of the Unitarian Church, Oakland, California, to Dorothea Ormsby who typed and edited this book, to my Godson, Frederic McEwen Richter, and to the many spiritual teachers and friends who have encouraged me, I express my deep appreciation.

Most important are the messages herein contained. From whatever source they may have come, they teach The Kingdom Within and reward the student who is seeking liberation on the Three-Fold Path of Attainment.

—Stella Flowers Hastings.

## INEFFABLE SPIRIT.

Ineffable Spirit—  
The ebb and flow of life  
Knows no master;  
It is THE MASTER.

Long before my soul was born—  
A virgin soul—  
This power possessed my being  
And vast Eternity  
Ruled me, the earth, and space.

The broadness of my vision sees  
With perfect universal sight  
That Man and beast, the pagan gods,  
Earth, water, air and flame  
Are all ephemeral.

Divinity, the All Victorious—  
End of all beginnings,  
Beginning of all end—  
Dwells eternally alone  
Changeless and supreme  
Within the stillness of my heart.

## RELIGION and PHILOSOPHY

**T**HE desire for wisdom and knowledge is one of the greatest and most ancient of human emotions. The most ignorant, the most drastic unbeliever is ever seeking for something he has not found, and he does not find because of inertia, misunderstanding, lack of work and earnest desire. We must not only desire Truth, we must seek within the Self and contact from without an ethical environment that will help in our studies if we are to advance along the Path of Attainment and arrive at the shrine of Truth.

Before it is possible for the student to perceive the hidden mysteries he must understand and practice the Seven Principles. He must come clothed with faculties and body developed, have the mind under control, and desire spirituality. He must follow the Path step by step and not expect to be carried through the gates of Paradise on the wings of Seraphim.

Mrs. Nellie Holbrook of San Francisco placed a rosebud over a bronze gong that came from a Zend Temple in Japan. This gong was made from offerings—the coins of the poor, the gold of the rich—and had been used in religious rites for twenty-five hundred years. When my friend hit the gong and its vibrations began to spiral the sacred word Om, the rosebud began to tremble. As the vibrations rose higher and higher and the sound became lost in the Cosmos, my friend repeatedly hit the gong. The vibrations became so strong the rosebud unfolded its petals one by one, and in forty-five minutes a full-blown rose presented its radiant heart to the light. The soul within the rose responded to the vibrations without

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and brought forth a bloom of transcendental beauty.

As with the rose, so it is with the soul of man. He has hidden within a power that can move mountains but he must raise his consciousness, keep his body fit and respond to vibrations of the Cosmos. As the vibrations become higher and higher they will open the rosebud of the soul and he will find his heart flooded with radiant light. It may take many incarnations to accomplish this—it may come like a flash of lightning to those who through desire and discipline have merited its coming.

Three steps in this preparation of man to receive knowledge are: keep the body healthy, the mind harmonious, the soul desiring. He will then have the capacity, and in a measure be capable of understanding why the orientals lay such stress on meditation, discipline and practice. The organs of the body, when prepared by the study of Hatha Yoga, will be able to withstand the high vibrations that come as he advances along the Path. When prepared for spiritual awakening, the student does not smash against the rocks of materialism as does a rudderless ship; he is a captain directing his body, and will be the captain of his mind and soul as he advances.

A student must not be led astray by conflicting doctrines. He must learn that all religions, all philosophy—all metaphysics lead to one goal. Sri Rama Krishna found this to be true. He ardently followed each one to the end (Illumination). He found that the goal was the same—that this goal could be attained by following the path, with mind one-pointed, to the end of any one of the religions.

There are many pathways leading to the goal, and

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if the mind is kept one-pointed there will be a flame, however dim, lighting the way.

Luther Burbank called a man a "human plant." He knew that both the plant and man unfolded under the munificent influence of God. The sun nourishes the soul of man; it nourishes the soul of the flower; the moon, the rain, the Earth-mother all contribute to the opening buds, the growing stems, and the leaves. Within is the Divine, urging them on to fruition in beauty and fragrance that the seeds may ripen to the proper measure and fulfillment of life.

Progress is the greatest attribute of all sciences, of all art, of all religions and philosophies. The student of philosophy must progress if he would find knowledge and wisdom. It must be remembered the philosopher does not believe that a miracle brings about understanding. He knows of the working of the law of cause and effect—the law of activity—the law of experience. He knows that these are God's gracious means of awakening the sleeping soul.

Discrimination is another step in this upward climb. If one expresses integrity he will be able to see and practice the virtues. He will also see the conflict, confusion, unhappiness that comes when ignoring the virtues.

One who practices the virtues never falls a victim to the indiscriminate man; charting his pole-star he sails onward toward his goal through a galaxy of constellations and finds safe harbor beyond the Milky Way.

Application is one more step; it is the electric spark directed by the will. With desire for continuity and perfection the mind can apply itself in meditation, and

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get the fulfillment of its desire, providing it is *right desire*. The integrity of purpose and discrimination between noble standards and petty, intolerable codes of theory will claim their reward.

Without intensity of purpose there can be no advancement in any phase of life. One who is a sluggard will sit in a sunny place and smile. Such smiles usually wind up in tattered raiment, and when it is raining we see such a one shrugging up his shoulders and slapping his hands against his thighs to keep warm. Is there not some unsatisfied longing behind that smile? Is there not some cryptic heartache—some hidden vision of accomplishment yet unfinished? The mind moves along strange curves in darkness and in light and passes half of its earthly life in accomplishing its heart's desire; it can bring to fruition any hidden vision.

There is a noble way of living; it is embodied in the belief that tradition and Divine laws have proven to be workable standards for living; that the integrity of purpose signifies much more than the word honesty! Honesty may be a standard of right and wrong and be different in each individual. Integrity is the Divine impulse to live and help to find a code of standards—to help others and self to recognize higher ethics of living.

Intelligence exists in every manifestation of creation. The universal system is controlled by the unfailing law of activity—a law definite in its purpose and put in operation and upheld by the Eternal Mind.

We have a portion of that mind within us. We are of the nature of God and it is our destiny to go onward and upward in the likeness of God.

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The reasoning mind plods along content to measure heaven and the formations of the earth, the "origin of the species," and dissect the sweat-glands with a microscopic lens. It speculates upon the creation of man and the facts relative to the development of civilization, and takes lofty heights in the exoteric side of human life. It however meets a barrier when it would seek to enter the sacred vaults of religion and the inner teachings of philosophy. It is only with the superconscious or spiritual mind that man is carried into the vaults where wisdom dwells. The metaphysician seeks to arrive at Truth that is beyond the intellect. Disregarding external hypothesis, the spiritual student extends his questing to the esoteric which is beyond the reasoning mind.

To deal with religion and philosophy as though they are a vesture to be put on and taken off at will is to close the mind to the fundamental facts that govern life. We do not believe there is a religion or philosophy that does not lift mankind to a higher ideal of beauty—that does not seek to bring to him the Light of Understanding so that he "may have life more abundantly."

Religion and philosophy bring a deeper love of home and family, a more profound belief in the Brotherhood of Man. God has implanted in man a religious instinct, a faculty that lifts him into a cycle higher than that of the beast. No matter what name we assign to the Deity we recognize Him as the ruling power in the universe and in our life. The first hymns were in invocation and praise of The Most High. These hymns generally began by describing the beauty, power, benevolence, love and charity of the Deity.

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What could be more beautiful than the following invocation translated from the Sanskrit, and sent to me by Swami Ashokananda of the Vedanta Temple in San Francisco:

"O Thou the Bright Effulgent One  
May my body be filled with joy and peace and  
contentment;  
May my speech, life, eyes, ears, energy and  
senses  
Enjoy poise and harmony.  
All this is verily Divine!  
May I not deny the Divine, may He never for-  
sake me.  
May the glory of Self-realization be manifest  
In and through my life; through my being  
May I verily express Him."

The poets of the Vedic hymns aspired to  
immortality.

"Where there is Eternal Light in the world, where  
the sun is placed, in that immortal imperish-  
able world place me, O Soma."

"Where life is free in the third heaven of heavens,  
Where the worlds are radiant, there make me im-  
mortal."

"Where there is happiness and delight, where the  
desire of the heart is attained: there make me  
immortal."

Thus sang the Vedic bards thousands of years be-  
fore the Christian era. They had knowledge of one  
of the greatest Christian mysteries—the immortality  
of the soul.



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There are ancient hymns ascribed to Zoroaster:

"Hear with your ears what is best: perceive with your mind what is purest,

So that each man for himself may, before the great doom cometh,

Choose the creed he prefers.

May the wise ones be on our side;

O men if you but cling to the precepts Mazda has given,

Precepts which to the bad are a torment,

But joy to the righteous,

Then shall you one day find yourself victorious through them."

There are the Songs of Solomon in the Hebrew Bible—the most inspiring that have ever been written:

"The voice of my beloved! behold he cometh leaping Upon the mountains—

Skiping upon the hills.

Lo! winter is past, the rain is over and gone;

The flowers appear on the earth,

The time of the singing of birds is come

And the voice of the turtle is heard.

The fig tree putteth forth her green leaves

And the vine and the tender grape have a good smell;

Arise my love, my fair one, come forth."

There is no one in the modern world capable of writing poetry of such transcendental beauty! Why is this? It is because man is so far separated from God. These poets were Masters, the Chosen Ones of God.

Without God in the world our senses would be lost—the universal structure go down in darkness.

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There would be the void it was before He "spoke the Word."

To seek the unknown, whether we are conscious of it or not, is one of the dominant characteristics of man. One of the pronounced attributes of his nature is the ever-questing mind that wants to know the *how* and *why* of the manifest, the *where* and *what* of the unmanifest. Man is ever concerning himself with the riddle of the universe and however he may account for it through the reasoning mind, the facts of the Knowable and Unknowable remain.

Man endowed with a portion of the Eternal Mind can develop through the subconscious mind latent powers that will exalt him—astral powers that will terrify him.

The vibrations that bring about illumination can be of such dynamic power they can carry one to the seventh heaven of bliss or shatter the body and the mind. That is why it is so necessary to have seclusion and to be under the guidance of a *true* teacher at such times.

Intelligent activity exists in every manifestation of nature. The entire universe is controlled by Cosmic Law—a law definite in its workings and purpose.

To live in harmony with the spiritual law,  
To be obedient to the laws of nature  
Is to have a tranquil harmonious life,  
And to travel further on the Path of Attainment..  
To be oblivious to the working of God's law—  
To be disobedient to the law of nature  
Is to be weighed down with a worried mind  
And an ailing body.

Manly Hall in his book, "*Lectures on Ancient Phil.*"

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*osophy*," says: "Philosophy alone can bestow on man the precious gift of immortality. For though every human soul is innately Divine beyond dissolution it cannot partake of its own permanence without the perception which philosophy gives."

Through the order, beauty, symmetry and harmony of the universe there is ample rational evidence of the supreme power of the Knowable and Unknowable.

"By realizing Him who is both the high and  
low

The knots of the heart are cut asunder.

All doubts disappear and the effects of good  
and bad are destroyed.

As the flowing rivers having relinquished  
Their names and forms merge into the  
ocean

So the wise being free from name and form  
Attain the effulgent Supreme Being."\*

(\*Permission to print given by Swami Ashakonanda of the Vedanta Society of San Francisco).



GOD

GOD, the Knower,

GOD, the Ocean

Of Eternal, Cosmic Mind!

And the eddies

Are the Spirits—

Blessed Souls, of all mankind.

Rise the white-caps—

Beat the breakers—

All a part of Life's swift day;

And the souls

Made pure by washing

Follow CHRIST, the Perfect Way.

## THE GOAL OF FREEDOM

**A**DVANCED occultists affirm that there are three absolute fundamental principles of religious or philosophical belief, three truths which are absolute, which cannot be lost, and which unify all manifestations in the seen and unseen universes.

These three principles remain silent for lack of speech, but are perceived by those who desire perception. They say: "The soul of man is immortal and that its future is a thing whose growth can have no limitations." (2) "The Power that gives life dwells in us and without us, is undying, changeless and eternally good; it is not heard or seen or felt, but is *perceived* by those who *desire* perception." (3) "Each man is his own absolute law, the dispenser of glory or gloom to himself, his reward, his punishment." These truths are as great as life itself; they are as simple as the simplest mind of man. "Feed the hungry with them." Thus sayeth the Wise Ones.

We know the intelligent use of life is mind in action and all mankind would do better if they knew how.

It is so easy for the enlightened ones to teach truth, so hard to be understood, and so hard for the student to understand. We are all asking ourselves "what is it I really want, and how can I get it?" We are all seeking to know the truth about ourselves. We want to gain a fuller knowledge of the Christ-principle and its application to the problems of our daily life; we seek to know our responsibilities to our fellow-men; we want to know all about desire (the most insistent fact of creation; we want to know right desire, and

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wrong desire, and how to determine right desire from wrong desire.

We are ever seeking to know more about God and how to get closer to Him. God is manifesting in creation; therefore, desire, a creation of mind, must be a God quality. Right desire sends us heavenward; wrong desire binds us to the earth and we lay up Karma for ourselves each time we yield to wrong desire. How are we to know, how determine, right desire? If you want something and are uncertain about it being the right thing for you, ask yourself, "Will this desire take anything away from another, will it harm anyone, will it deter me from reaching my highest ideals, my Oneness with God?" If you can answer "No" to all of these questions you have the right desire, and its fulfillment is yours by Divine heritage. If you are in doubt about the answers to these questions you have not the right desire, so drop it or elevate it by a process of purification or transmutation.

In the Upanishads we find: "If you deserve, the object of desire will be brought to you; if you are worthy, help must come to you." The Upanishads also tell us that "The moment that you assume a craving, begging attitude you will be repulsed. Rise above the thing you desire; stand above it and it will seek you. That is the Law."

We are all seeking to know more about this Law and the Spirit within, and the best methods for attaining this knowledge. We want to know how to get what we want in a material way. We want spirituality.

Yoga philosophy tells us that the study and application (remember, *study* and *application*) of Yoga

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philosophy will help us to reach our goal.

When we come to a realization of our real selves through the application of these philosophic laws, and meditate upon them, we will advance far along the path and our goal which is freedom from all desire will be ours in very truth. We will awaken as from a deep sleep and find the things which bound us have dropped away, and we will feel that we are a part of all that is, that we are unified with the Cosmic Mind.

We all want to get in tune with the great universal Spirit, that vibrant power that permeates all that IS; this power of which we are composed.

There is one way to know about God and Self, and Christ Jesus gave us The Law "Love thy God with all thy heart and all thy soul and thy neighbor as thyself." Thyself means The Holy Spirit within you, which is Thyself in Reality. All things are related; the stars floating in boundless space, the millions of atoms in the grains of sand, and man are all akin.

Every human being has five physical senses. By these he is made aware of the five aspects of physical things: seeing, hearing, feeling, tasting, smelling. We also have a mind which is divided into several phases through which we are made aware of the physical and metaphysical. We have the instinctive or subconscious mind, the intellectual or conscious, and the spiritual or superconscious mind; all a part of the One Mind that dominates all.

Yoga philosophy tells us what these several aspects of mind are, and teaches us how to use them. We must remember in Reality there is but One Mind, The Cosmic Mind, God.

"Love thy God with all thy heart and all thy soul

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and all thy mind." This is the first and great commandment."

How can we show that we love God? There is one supreme method and that is to do something constructive for somebody. Every day there is something to be done that will add to the peace of mind, the comfort, the growth, the happiness of some brother or sister. Yoga philosophy teaches, dwells upon the fact, that men, women, children, animals—all created things are a part of you and you are a part of them.

The lowest protoplasm, the rocky cliffs going into the depths of earth and raising their craggy heads heavenward, the tiny jewel-like crystals, the rainbow arching heaven's dome, the moon, the planets, the stars, the solar systems, space, electricity, heat, cold, the roar of ocean's mighty waves, the ripple of brooks, laughter of children, fragrance of flowers, tinted clouds, warm golden sun-rays, the majestic Sequoias with their age-old hearts, the lupine, and the bees humming around it, the radiant hue of a deep red rose, the tints and colors on a butterfly's wing, the tenderness in the voice or handclasp of a friend—all, all are a part of you, and you are a part of them. This is a great truth, and we must *know* that it is *true* in order to *see clearly*. You cannot help this All which is a part of yourself without helping yourself. But, you must not think of reward if you would advance along the path. Every time you think a good thought and put it in the mind of another, every time you clasp a hand with thoughts of love and sympathy, every time you feed the hungry—be it mentally, physically or spiritually—every time you clothe the poor in raiment or golden love-thoughts, and do it without desire for



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reward but from love for God and humanity, you get near to the Divine in them, and help yourself along the path, and to the Goal of Freedom.

By performing good deeds you will lift the sheaths from the globe that encloses the Real You, and will waken to a consciousness that the Light of the Spirit within you is casting its rays into the consciousness of others. This light is reflected back to you and by thinking good, by doing good, and by having good come back to you, you are thrice blessed. You see the light within, you give it to others, and it is reflected back to you. The Masters do this. They live in effulgent light, are free, and cast a halo of beauty on all. The seeds of love, of kindness, the seeds of unselfishness, the seeds of happiness that we sow grow and multiply by the thousand and reach the minds of multitudes.

Many of us have said and hear others say, "O what is the use trying to help people? As soon as their needs are gratified they forget us and are not even grateful." This is often true, but what they do is not our business. Our business is to look within and see each one as a spirit, God's child, a brother or sister, and to help him or her now, not tomorrow or next week, but *now*. Intolerance, criticism, fault-finding, revenge, anger and all discordant thoughts must be cast out of our own mind, or transmuted into love. We must become as little children before we can enter the Kingdom or reach the Goal of Freedom. Little children are forgiving, loving, happy. Christ said "Unless ye become as little children you cannot enter the kingdom." If we realized more fully what this meant, if we would rid ourselves of the darkness

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of ignorance, we would rise out of the mortal concept of disease, inharmony and sin, and enter into a childlike consciousness of all good.

We have simply got to empty our minds of material things of the world, because the world and all that surrounds us is just what we think it to be. Spiritual development does not germinate in the seed that is sown in selfish desires and earthly pleasure.

We are always putting off until tomorrow that which we should do today, and then the chance to help someone and ourselves is gone. For example: someone calls you on the phone, she is distressed, in deep trouble, and wants to see you and get your help. Perhaps you are ready to go to a show or party, or are busy with household duties or business, or have company. Immediately your old material mind begins to say "I don't see how I can see her now, poor thing, I'm sorry for her but *I am busy*," and over the phone you make excuses, put her off, hang up the receiver and with a sigh say, "I wish she would tell her troubles to a policeman, I am rushed to death." Do you ever think when you say "I am—that you refer to God—God is "I." Don't take His name in vain.

Some wit has said: "Man moves in a mysterious way his wonders to perform;" and you have blundered magnificently when you shut that woman out. You have closed the switch to your own spiritual development and caused many negative thoughts to enter another mind. You have caused *more* trouble, limited yourself and tried to limit God. She knows you are a student of philosophy. You are always talking it, and she thinks you can help her. So she calls upon you for help, not some one else, but *you*, and your

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old selfish reasoning mind whispers to you that you are busy and you fall flat. You have done harm to a soul seeking help. That subconscious mind of hers, which the Wise Ones tell us is like putty and registers every thought, gets your thoughts and she says to herself and others: "There you are, she talks God's love and philosophy and the first time I ask for help she puts me off. I don't think much of her philosophy and she doesn't practice what she preaches."

There is only one way to reach the Goal of Freedom, and that is by the Path of Freedom. We must free ourselves from limitations. There is always time for everything because we are in eternity now, and eternity has no end, knows no time. We must cast out selfish desires, put-off-till-tomorrow thoughts, lazy thoughts, and put in their place helpful, constructive thoughts, and we must DO IT NOW. Use your philosophy, for "philosophy is the lamp of all the sciences, the means of performing all work, the support of all duties;" and it is the best method we know to approach reality. But what system can we use to get freedom not only for ourselves but for others?

Going back to this woman who wanted your help: Perhaps she wanted to tell you she was having serious trouble with her husband, son or daughter. My way would be to see her *now*. I would try to have her look deep within, and see her loved ones as perfect spiritual creations. God's children in reality, and I would have her see them, and see them myself, as just that. I would realize they could not be anything else because they are manifesting here and now; that the power that causes the manifestation is Pure Spirit, always harmonious, good. I would have this woman

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repeat over and over until it entered her subconscious mind. "The battle is not mine but God's." This is a law that never fails. Faith in God's love, God's Power—the *only* Power—wins all battles.

When you are doing this you must shut out all ifs, buts and cant's, and above all forget the personal ego and self-pity, the most contemptible thing in the world. What you want to do is to get rid of a bad condition, so put your problems in God's care, knowing He will do the work better than you ever could, and do it now.

Another method, if your loved one seems to be going all wrong, is to say: "John, the Darkness of Ignorance seems to envelop you, but you think you are doing the best you know how, so go on, learn your lesson as quickly as possible. You will learn to order life and its ways from experience, the difficult way—the way of hard knocks—or you will learn from the experience of others, which is the easier way. Hard knocks will teach you to build up a strong character if you will take them as a lesson and profit by what they teach. Lessons must be learned either by experience or by the experience of others, now, or at some future time. The Law of Karma must be fulfilled. If you are *wise*, you will try to learn by the experience of others." When you have said and felt this, let him alone, free him to work out his own problems. He is an individual soul and must work out his destiny alone. Leave him to the care of a loving Father, and know that the work is being done. Keep your own mind filled with loving thoughts and send them to him, and they will do more than all you could ever say to bring about the desired results, and will lead

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him into the light of understanding.

How to treat yourself: You want to get away from unhappiness, suffering, inharmony and poverty. Mary Baker Eddy tells us to "stand porter at the door and let no thought enter that will not bless or cheer or heal." This is a very satisfactory way and her followers prove it every day. "But I can't do this" you say. *I can't* limits the "I" within you. *I can* gives unlimited power to the "I" within you. Express some positive thought, *I can, I will*. For many years I was associated with a man of dynamic force. He did not believe in God, but was filled with love for all manifestations of nature, and knew that there was some vital power, ever active, which controlled them. The word God did not mean a thing to him, and whenever the word was mentioned his memory took him back to Sunday school and church, to hours of torture when a little boy, because he wanted to be in the woods. Now this man of dynamic force overcame all objectionable things, all sorrow, all adverse circumstances, even tragic illness, by one positive sentence, "*Forget it!*" Whenever any wrong thing came to disturb him he would say with all his force, "Forget it." Right there it was put out of his mind. I have seen him conquer most trying situations in this way. Later, like a flash of lightning out of a clear sky a thought would come to him and he would say, "that problem is solved." He did not say "I have solved it." He always said "It is solved." Now what solved the problem? The Spirit within, of course!

Yoga teaches us we must empty our mind before anything can be put into it—we cannot put water into a glass already full. This man emptied his mind

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when he said and meant "Forget it" and later, out of his subconscious or superconscious mind he got the answer and it was always the right one. This method works equally well with the believer or unbeliever. It is a positive dynamic method, and I use it when I am taken unaware by some disagreeable happening. It is the scientific use of the subconscious mind.

When I try to solve a problem and ascertain the right desire I use the first methods—leave it with God and know the problem will be solved in the right way.

We realize things by the light of our faith and our life is measured, not by its successes or by its possessions of material things, but by its love! And our love is measured by its service to all mankind. The hospitable mind and the open hand and heart blesses itself and all who contact it. The generous soul has an angel for a guide at all times.

When we put away intolerance and hard negative thoughts and put in their place love, peace, health, charity and prosperity, we show love in love's own way and are about our Father's business.

Let the mind be in you which was in Christ Jesus, and make this mind obey the ever active Creative Spirit. Try to get this principle firmly firmly fixed within your mind. Everything *Is*, there is nothing but the Absolute, always active, always creating, always urging us to a higher, better understanding, and pushing us on to the Goal of Freedom which is reached by knowing our divine nature and by our service to mankind.

The soul of man is immortal and its future is a thing whose growth can have no limitations. The Power that gives life dwells in us and without us, is

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undying, changeless, eternally good. It is not heard, seen or felt, but is perceived by those who desire perception. Each man is his own absolute law, the dispenser of glory or gloom to himself, his rewards, his punishments. These truths are as great as life itself. "Feed the hungry with them." Thus sayeth the wise ones.

If God is All-in-All, then we must live in God and He in us and we must all live in each other in this eternal Ocean of Spirit. He is the custodian of the Universal Treasure. He is the guardian of each man and the fruition of his dreams. He is the self-defense of life's most vital spark, the inspiration of the inspired, the poetry of the gods. Without knowing their beauty or fragrance the roses bloom; without knowing its illimitable power the Soul is ever seeking fulfillment, unaware of its own Divinity. Among the herds of sheep, among the herds of men the Shepherd is ever watching the flocks and leading them into green pastures.

When the inner consciousness transcends the earthly limitations of both the material and the intellectual mind, we will rise to a full measure of Freedom. Remember always that desire and work, or the faith of the Bhakti, is what brings about results. It leads us to the green pastures beside the still waters, where the Lord is our Shepherd—where we shall not want.

# THE KINGDOM WITHIN

## LIGHT

*Before Man's rudest annals were begun,  
That tiny star-born beam we dimly see  
Launched on its wings to span infinity.  
Bearer of knowledge when its course is run  
To Earth, a lesser daughter of the sun,  
Itself a spark to other suns that be,  
Blazing an instant in eternity,  
So vast God's scroll. And is it knowledge won  
To see unveiled transcendent cosmic laws  
That govern fiery Mars and Betelguese,  
Yet, blind from light revealed, see not the Cause,  
But only finite facts and entities?  
Omniscient Wisdom, shield thy awful light  
Till mortal eyes can read thy scroll aright!*

ARCHIBALD OVERTON.



## DESIRE: THE KEY TO ADVANCEMENT

**T**HOUSANDS of years ago the Wise Men of the Orient met in conclave to determine some Word that would express the SPIRIT of the Universe. They found after long and profound silence that there was one word expressing in nature that is the sacred syllable Om or Aum. Chanting this word, one can feel his mind rising to higher and higher degrees of consciousness until they are lost in deep meditation and become One with the Cosmic Mind. These Wise Men of the East decided that Aum or Om was the unwritten Word expressing God. Om or Aum can be heard resounding in all nature; in the mewing of a cat, in the gladsome Oh, in the welcoming voice of a friend, in the resounding thunder's clang and in the ocean's roar. We students of Oriental Philosophy chant this Sacred Word that we may better tune in with the Infinite Spirit that Is, that Was, that will ever Be.

When going into the silence, sit with your spine straight, your feet apart on the floor and your hands with palms upturned upon your knees. Your whole body is then in position to receive the inflow of the Spirit.

As you Om, please try to visualize the Divine Spirit pouring over you just as the rays of the sun pour over you. Those among you who have spiritual knowledge, those of you who are seeking to know the Inner Wisdom, will see these rays descending and enveloping you in various colors from the highest to the lowest visible to man.

We find that silence is the Supreme Power—friend of the sage, the philosopher, the poet, the seeker after

## THE KINGDOM WITHIN

truth—in fact, the friend of all mankind. Our own United States has become aware of this by setting aside certain hours in which to pray. The public appreciates two minutes of silence on Armistice Day; prays in spontaneity and in reverence year by year and pays tribute in the silence to our departed comrades. "Silence is golden." The wisdom and peace hidden in its sea of stillness brings light and faith, helps us to understand the underlying realities of life.

Invoke the silence, bathe in the silence, let its invisible hush enter your soul. The following poem, entitled "The Silence," taken from Dhan Gopal Mukerji's "Visit India with Me" is eloquent with the thought and splendor of Silence:

"Lo, evening comes on the wings of silence!  
Silence falls over the hills,  
Over the full rim of the river,  
Into the very hush of the Universe.  
Lo, evening comes on the wings of silence.  
Tone down your voice of mutiny,  
Listen to the evening silence!  
Millions of flames, the stars, are lit  
For its worship within you.  
Bring forth the silence from within,  
Pour forth the silence from within,  
Pour it on the wounded body of Man  
And make him whole.  
Listen to the evening silence,  
Listen to the hush of the Universe,  
Listen to the heartbeat of God."

—Mrinalini Sen.

## *DESIRE: THE KEY TO ADVANCEMENT*

Life is a pageantry—forceful, appealing, yet unsatisfying in its present activities—and appears as a vanished dream as soon as it has passed. We find this is true: Life is like a dream when memory returns to the years that have vanished and sometimes we wonder that they happened, when we think on our experiences of the past.

We are all desiring to know the WHY of things. The Key to Advancement opens many doors that lead us to an answer to this question, "Why?" Desire, aspiration, patience, tolerance and the Law of Good will lead us to where we can see Divinity in all creation from a crawling worm, a fleck of dust, to man.

Long I desired to know the plan  
Of how Creation first began:  
Lo, I heard a Silent spoken Word  
Move in a sea of pearl gray nebulae.  
And then there stirred  
The Power of God.  
Atom moved to atom;  
Atom joined to atom,  
At once began the physical  
Of beast, the sky, the tree.  
Atomic force involved in me  
And I began my earthly plan  
As Man!

By years of desire and meditation on Creation's beginning, I was rewarded by the above revelation of how Creation was begun. It taught me One is All and All is One. No logic or argument can ever take this celestial vision from me.

## THE KINGDOM WITHIN

Friends, desire is one of the most insistent inner forces that dominates and motivates man. The harder the lessons of life, the more trying the environment and circumstances, the stronger should be the desire to overcome them.

Benjamin Franklin said: "The things that hurt are the things that instruct." It is through experience and APPLIED instruction that we advance.

In this world of confusion, complexity and change every human being has views of existence which are vastly different from those of his fellow-men. Each analysis of scientific thought seems to be diametrically opposed to the orthodox idea of creation, yet each and every person will one day understand the TRUTH. Then there will be a blending of all ideas and opinions into One.

Such mammoth changes are taking place, have taken place in the last decade not only in the physical world, but in the mental and spiritual as well, that it is impossible for any one person or group of persons to keep pace with all of them. When we meditate on these changes, we realize it is not possible to grasp (with the reasoning mind), even a small part of the progress that Desire has brought into manifestation. We are weighed down or lifted up with the marvelous creations of Nature and the development that has taken place in the mind of man. The things that the mind has desired and produced are beyond the comprehension of the ordinary mind, but may be understood by the superconscious or the spiritual mind. No matter how we try to understand life and the laws that govern it, sooner or later we meet silence, pro-

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found and unanswering. Learn then to enter the silence and gather from its cosmic center, power for your soul's growth.

What the future holds in store as man advances and contacts more fully this Supermind, we cannot imagine. We do know, however, that we are parts of this vast mechanism of creation. If we become lazy, rusty or break, it necessarily follows that we affect the whole. The negative and destructive agencies in the world are due to humanity forgetting their birthright—the Law of God—and following the man-made laws of selfishness and greed.

We cannot hide our LIGHT under a bushel because it will vibrate, shine and illuminate the space within the bushel. Eventually the vibrations of Light will be liberated into space. Because they are composed of Spirit, they cannot be hidden under a bushel of materiality. The inner light breaks out at unexpected times and illumines all who contact it. A small spark can kindle a mighty fire not only in others but in ourselves as well. Treasure this Celestial Fire—the freedom, preservation and advancement of the world depends on it.

Mentally man is only what he believes himself to be and advances only as far as he is capable of understanding the verities of life. There are many ways man can be brought into an understanding, but he must first DESIRE to KNOW, must have aspirations to mount step by step the golden ladder that leads to wisdom.

Bhakti Yoga teaches love of the Absolute, liberates and advances us; Karma Yoga teaches that work faithfully performed without hope of reward will carry

## THE KINGDOM WITHIN

us up to the golden portal. Raja Yoga teaches the power of the intellect and its logical conclusions. Gnani Yoga teaches the way of wisdom and is a beautiful and lofty path to follow. It will rend the veil of ignorance asunder and by it we can gain the light of knowledge.

Jesus, the Christ, taught: If we love God, obey His commandments and have faith, we will be given all things. "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and all these things will be added unto you" was His promise. This is Bhakti Yoga summarized.

Man seems to be seeking and desiring everything BUT the kingdom of God. In fact, man thinks he should have service, have things presented to him not on a brass or silver server, but one of beaten gold with a few jewels thrown in for good measure. Man thinks the world and heaven and all they contain are made for him. When he finds he is made for them, he is confounded and feels abused and cries out in self-pity.

Yoga philosophy teaches that man can have what he wants if he desires hard enough and works to one end. He can, by using the methods of the subconscious mind, gain what he wants mentally and physically, but spiritually—no! To gain spiritually one must use the superconscious mind, the spiritual mind, and follow the law of discrimination and unending discipline. It has many manifestations and we go up and up into the great Unknown as we desire, work and aspire. "The gods we worship are the gods that reward us" physically, mentally, spiritually. Christ Jesus understood the law of All Supply, and that law works today for those who have found Its Source just

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as it did when He produced the loaves and fishes and turned the water into wine two thousand years ago.

All philosophies and all religions are a seeking after God, are ONE in essence. This essence may be distilled along different paths, yet in aeons of time it will permeate all paths and condense into the ocean of pure Spirit, where all humanity must bathe in passing from the ephemeral changing mortal life to the permanent and unchanging One, where the Temple of Wisdom is anchored in the Sea of Reality. We cannot be wiped out of existence, for we are parts of the mighty whole. We are ever advancing toward the center, the heart of the Absolute—the beginning, the end. Everything is involved in this center, is evolved and projected from this heart of hearts and starts on its plan of evolution. Everything will be drawn back into this center of complete silence, complete wisdom—Nirvana!

We have a portion of this casting-out and drawing-in power within us. We throw out vibrations that protect and keep us from harm, and we draw to self, by vibrations, positive or negative conditions of life; we function in a small degree exactly as the ALL. "As above, so below!"

If we would find the real essence, we must turn from the beautiful and alluring things of life and explore the unseen world of Spirit. If we close our eyes and look deep within, desire and aspire to know our limitless power and immortality, we find the Self of us hidden deep within the heart.

Desire is, for an object at hand, near in thought and viewed as obtainable. It is the architect of man's destiny on earth. It can be obtained by the use of the

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subconscious mind or by resigning the results to God. Aspiration is exalted desire. We are led into its fulfillment by the road of faith, "Thy will not mine be done!"

There is a story in the Upanishads that illustrates this most forcibly. A youth through the sudden anger of his father is sent to the house of Death. Yama, the God of Death, is away at the time. Upon returning, he finds to his horror that a Brahman youth has waited three days and three nights without food. Yama speaks to the youth: "O Brahman, because you, a guest in my house, have been three days and three nights without food, therefore salutations unto thee! and welfare unto me." (Note: 'welfare unto me.') It is said that to refuse food offered in India is to withhold a blessing on the home of him who offers it and to withhold a blessing on one's self. They believe God blesses them by giving them food and also, by sharing with another what God has so graciously given them, they bring a blessing; the partaker of the food is blessed not only by the family but by the Bright, Effulgent One, who bestows all blessings. The God of Death said to the Brahman youth: "Choose three boons for these three days and three nights spent without hospitality." The Brahman youth wished first that the anger of his father against him might be appeased, that he would remember him as his son. Yama, God of Death, answered, "Through my favor, he will remember thee with love as before." The second boon the youth desired was to know the Heavenly Fire of Sacrifice by which heaven and immortality might be gained. (The orthodox Hindus perform the Fire Sacrifice to the Immortal Mother-God Kali and to other



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gods whom they adore.) Yama replied: "I know the heavenly fire! O youth, know that this fire is placed within the cavity of the heart." The youth considered the third gift: "Some say the Soul does not exist after death; some say that it does . On THIS I desire knowledge." Yama, God of Death, started back in alarm and told him that the answer to that question was very subtle in nature and hard to understand. He offered the youth wealth, jewels, joy, long life, if he would choose another gift. The youth refused and insisted upon an answer to his question.

Yama, God of Death, realized that the greatest desire of the youth was wisdom and understanding and seeing himself face to face with a real man, said: "The truth shall be revealed to you. The Soul is not born nor does it die; it is not produced from any one nor does it produce. It is unborn, eternal, timeless, is not slain when the body is slain. If the slayer thinks he is slaying or is slain, he errs in both. The Soul is neither slain, nor slays."

"The Self that lodges in the heart of man is greater than the great, smaller than the small. The man whose will is at rest sees Him, is freed from sorrow. Through the serenity of the senses he sees the glory of Self. Who but I can know the Divine Self is joyful yet above Joy. Higher than the mind is intelligence; higher than intelligence is the Great Self; higher than the Great Self is the Unmanifested; higher than the Unmanifested is the Spirit; higher than the Spirit there is nothing—that is the Goal."

Death tried to convey to the youth that 'When the sun has set, when the moon has set, when the fire of earth's life is extinguished, the Spirit alone will be

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light.' Why? Because there is no child of God but has the Divine—the Changeless One—imprisoned in his Soul. Each thing that exists has this Divine Self. Death told the youth, "You are THAT." The youth arose to receive the boon and Yama, God of Death, said, "Understand that hard is the way, having the sharp edge of a razor, but he who understands the nature of Brahman—the Universal—is freed from death."

There is enough wisdom in that little story to keep us thinking for the rest of our lives. We know that things do exist; we know that whatever exists arises from some cause. What the cause is, we do not know! What started the process of earth's evolution is the everlasting question all men are asking. We know there is a law of Cause and Effect, and from that law we know nothing is exempt. Every manifested thing is changing every second—is becoming something else—from the mighty astronomical bodies to the tiniest atom of life observable through the microscope. Science finds life and its laws are ever active! Yet, the Great Spirit that controls it dwells in the center and remains immovable and permanent. The manifestations we see—the lesser animals, man, the earth—all life that it contains—are ever advancing from the lower to the higher. What started this advancement is the unanswered question. We do know, however, that desire was one of the forces. By desire I can visualize and use my conscious mind until I can look within and see a great center of light and I lose myself. I see this light—this power—vibrating at an enormous rate of speed, going out from me into space; I see it changing from the moment it starts as crystal white, changing to blue, yellow, orange, red. I

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see the same rays of light coming from the cosmic center of creation. I see a vast sea of nebulae pouring forth unnumbered manifestations of life. I see the Mother Earth giving us what we desire and need. It is resplendent in beauty, a fit temple for the body and the evolution of the soul. I feel an urge to get back into the center of the Cosmic Mind, the storehouse of all wisdom.

No one has ever been able to draw aside the veil of mystery and see all of the hidden things of the Great One. We may live long and earnestly try, but the eternal enigma will remain unsolved until we merit by work through many incarnations the reward which will be Nirvana—All Knowledge, All Wisdom.

The secrets of existence, no man has penetrated beyond himself. The Persian mystic poet, Omar Khyam, expresses this thought beautifully:

“Man like a ball hither and thither goes  
As fate’s resistless bat directs the blows;  
But He, who gives thee up to this rude sport,  
He knows what drives thee on  
He knows! He knows!”

Isis, the Divine Goddess of Eternal Motherhood, says, “I am all that is, all that ever was, all that ever will be. No man hath seen me unveiled”—meaning that she has realized the All in All, where male and female are one. If we believe and know that the loving Father dwells within our hearts, dwells in all that we hear and see—if we would have faith that He does direct the seeming blows of Fate, we would accept each thing that comes to us with thankfulness,

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knowing it is a lesson that will lead us on to our goal. If we could but realize this, our life would be as beautiful as a night bird's song, as pure as a drop of dew in the heart of a rose.

Friends, the sky is vested in turquoise  
blue somewhere,  
Venus the loving one stands over the  
fields somewhere,  
Dusk is purpling the forest and the  
meadowlands somewhere  
The animals sensitive to the call of  
spring are seeking their mates in  
desertlands somewhere  
The stars whisper to the universal world  
and eternal refrains of mystery are  
sung  
From the far reaching palaces of the  
Gods.  
The moon riding high puts all colors of  
the earth to sleep  
And all forms seem an illusion in an  
illusive world dusty with moonlight.  
Mountains drenched in subtle irrides-  
cence of sunset are as vanished  
dreams in the far away.  
These are the qualities of the Eternal,  
teaching man his Immortality.

Man is ever trying to get behind the veil that separates the known from the unknown, yet the lips of the Sphinx are closed. The Upanishads tell us, "Desire to Know, awoke Desire." Desire, therefore,

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must be one of the first, if not THE first, projection from the Godhead. Spiritual Truth guides all Right Desire.

The Kybalion says: "The All creates because It cannot help Itself—It is Creation." Creation is only one of the Manifestations of the All; we have the same urge, "As above so below." This urge is ever pushing us on to some creation, some achievement.

The students of Buddha were ever asking the question, "What is the unknown?" He said, "The question does not matter for two reasons: first, because our finite mind could not grasp or understand it, nor are there words to express it; second, our concern is to bring ourselves into harmony with the Unknown so that suffering, sickness and poverty may cease." Buddha was then silent; If he knew he never said, but he did say: "The unknown is 'THAT,' loving, wise, eternal. 'THAT' cannot be described."

Our concern is to bring ourselves into harmony with the Absolute Principle. We can do this by spiritual desire—by obedience to the Law of Life—by work and by recognizing the divine spark within. This light will eventually guide us into all light and an understanding of what is meant by brotherly love; then the brotherhood of man will be ours.

The reasoning mind with conscious effort can build for us fair castles. If we will let the light of love enter in, we will see with a clearer vision and the "windows of the soul" will be crystal clear. We will transcend the negative conditions of life and have something permanent upon which to rely.

Everyone is seeking to know more about the realities; some to use them for temporal gratification of

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the sense desires; some to further their desire for power; some for spiritual understanding that they may better help mankind. People are seeking fulfillment of these desires by all sorts of occult practices that are only intended for the initiate. As a result they fall into poverty of mind and body, with their dreams of conquest utterly shattered. They cannot succeed because they have not merited success by years of application, obedience, desire, discipline, determination and aspiration. There are no short cuts to spirituality, knowledge or wisdom. One must earn the help of the Elder Brothers if he expects to successfully travel the Three-Fold Path that leads to freedom.

Each individual is trying to formulate some religion or philosophical system in a scientific manner. The goal of wisdom and understanding ever beckons on.

All are endeavoring to find teachers to help them up the path. This cannot be done, for the teachers can only show the way; each one must go up the path alone—must work out his own Karma. Repeated defeats seem not to deter man on his onward march. In fact, he seems more determined, has a stronger, steadier resolve after defeat, if he is a courageous and sincere man. Defeat is, therefore, not defeat in reality but a lesson in Life's school that one needs to learn in order to go in a higher class.

If we will consider this, we will find defeat—when properly understood—is experience. Experience when properly applied always leads to success. Seemingly opposite facts—success and defeat—must be merged into one, All success! Both are identical in Nature, the difference being in degrees of vibration. Defeat is overcome by success, evil by good, darkness

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by light; otherwise there would be no God. There is a point where opposites meet, where they pause before merging. This point of meeting is like the pendulum at its highest point, pausing before starting on its downward way; or like the sleep of the soul, where desire to be born again brings the soul down in another cycle of advancement.

When the soul awakens from its last sleep it will stand at the top of the golden stair, before the jewelled throne of all good and will enter the Mansion Christ said He had prepared. 'HE' meaning of course, the Father, God.

"No more the sun will give thee light by day  
No more the sun will give thee light by night,  
For God shall be an everlasting Light."

Education is described by one philosopher not as

putting something into the mind but as the turning 'round of the Eye of the Soul so that it can behold the truth. This method of advancement and real education is intelligent, true, clear and will produce knowledge and wisdom in the mind because the Eye of the Soul is ever searching for that which is akin to its Self—which it needs for its growth.

All men are teachers. Some of the finest lessons I have learned from life have been given me from men in the mines, the lumber camps, on the street and the farms. The opinions of today may be useless tomorrow. We cannot depend on the theories of others. Unless we find some fixed truth there is no foundation on which to rest. If everything is in a state of change—and we know this is true of all material mani-

## THE KINGDOM WITHIN

festation—there must be something causing this change THAT IS changeless and permanent. We see all things becoming better and more beautiful and more useful. We see advancement on every side, going hand in hand with seeming destruction; this is what is changing the world. Man does not use these wonderful gifts rightly, as they were intended—God-given for the betterment of humanity. He uses them, rather, to satisfy his personal ego. But there is a law—a changeless, permanent power—controlling all action. “As we sow, so we reap” and the world is reaping thistles today because of selfishness and greed; but out of this will grow a super race with its face turned to the Father.

As we transmute the undesirable qualities of the mind to those that are constructive and desirable, we ascend to a higher consciousness and lose the material, selfish desires that bind us to the inferno of poverty, disease and indifference.

The true sage and master is the one who has ceased to desire and aspire. He has transcended the physical senses, is free from the bondage of desire and has reached the topmost pinnacle of advancement; he has climbed the golden ladder of wisdom to where he hears the stars singing together. By following in his footsteps, living the life of the sage with mind one-pointed and centered on the Adorable One, man can transcend all limitations and desires, can find peace on earth and in time, move from planet to planet with wings fleet as thought.

Man can, through aeons of time, reach Nirvana—the place of all knowledge. From there he can look upon the ladder of life—see it anchored in the heart



## SELF—THE MASTER

part of the Absolute, we will go back one day to the Source of All Supply and become One with the all-pervading, effulgent One. When we awaken to a higher state of consciousness and know our birthright, verily the stars shall sing together and the universe will resound with the gladsome song of countless angels.

Mrs. Eddy says "angels are good thoughts." Can you imagine all humanity being lifted to a state of consciousness—on the wings of Love—to a state where it can hear the angels and stars singing together, filling all space and the earth with divine thoughts set to music? When this awakened consciousness comes to us, either in this incarnation or one yet to come, the Light of the Lord shall shine unto us. We will know the Real Self and be masters of all conditions. What are these conditions we are trying to have the Real Self master? We name them laziness, inertia, untruth, debauchery, drunkenness, indulgence, anger, greed, selfishness—in fact, all the sins to which the flesh is heir.

I have taken time in telling you about the Self and the things this Self is to master to be freed, and I know you are saying "Come down to earth and tell us how to accomplish all these things, how to free ourselves."

There is one thing sure; you cannot rid yourself of negative conditions or anything else by *fighting*, by trying to kill or crush them. If you do try this will-power method you will find the undesired condition will stick closer than a brother and will become a seven-headed monster that will crop up at the most unexpected times and turn on you. The moment you

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fight a condition you give it power and admit its power. Will-power overcomes for a time only; it is the still small voice of the Self within that will effect a complete eradication of negative conditions.

Wisdom and knowledge are better than all the discipline in the world "BUT," you say, "how am I to get this wisdom, this knowledge?" You do not have to get it, for you **ALREADY HAVE IT**. What you must do is accept this fact, recognize it, employ it. Talk to this power within, center every faculty you have on what you are desiring now, have faith and the gates will open unto you. Faith and meditation will open the portal to your Illimitable Self and you will be dazzled by the Light. Thus sayeth the Illumined Ones.

If you think you have knowledge and wisdom within you, lo, you will soon see material manifestations; a still small voice will speak: *listen to it*.

"How am I to get away from the bonds that bind me?" Very easily; and it is by

### Transmutation of Thought

If you are hating someone—have murder in your heart—turn your thoughts inside out and upside down! Empty your mind. Then fill it with good thoughts—with thoughts of love. "I can't," you say. Yes, you **CAN!** You know that God is Love. You know you must be God's child, else you would not be here. You know others are also God's children—your brothers and sisters—all heirs of the Father. You must try to love everyone with your reasoning mind; in reality you do love everyone, because in reality One is All and All is One. Therefore, in loving others you are just loving yourself. This is a truth—a fact. If you will

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stop to analyze with the reasoning mind, you will come to KNOW this wonderful TRUTH.

What causes your reasoning mind to function? Self—The Spirit within—of course. When you become aware of this, your glorious Spiritual Self will come forth and you will love all peoples and things because they are a part of you and you of them. Love, harmony, abundance, peace will be yours because you will know them as dominant characteristics of your life—of your real Self, which is the Master. This Real Master will demand its rightful heritage from the Absolute. Remember, "as a man thinketh in his heart so is he." If you think you have not some certain thing, of course you haven't it though it may be right there all the time. You cannot possess a thing until you become conscious of it. For example:

Early one morning a group of us were standing on the brink of the Grand Canyon in Arizona. The sun shone brightly and the canyon was blazing like jewels. All colors were scintillating on the crags; the depths beneath were dark and wondrous. Two deer came over the brink and stood poised upon a crag and seemed to bless the morning sun. We all stood silenced and awe-inspired by the mighty revelations taking place. One man began to sing, "Praise God from whom all blessings flow," and the others joined him. "Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost" echoed back to us from the cavern beneath; what a thrilling moment! All of us felt as if a Divine benediction had been given us except one young woman, wearing shoes with high heels, a flowing veil, and plenty of cosmetics. She stood beside her mother and this is what she said: "Oh mother, isn't it all too cute?" It

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was all there: the sublimity, the beauty, the glory—the veneration of a score of men and women, but since she had none of the higher attributes developed, she could not see nature in her noblest form. To her this marvelous manifestation was "cute."

If you think you cannot do a thing, of course you will not do it if you keep thinking "can't." If you think you *can* do a thing, the battle is almost won. All you have to do is to know that soon it will be made visible if you do your part.

HARBOR NO ILL WILL OR MALICE TOWARD ANY BEING OR THING! Again you ask, "How can I do this?" Again I tell you, by Thought Transmutation. Turn hate thoughts into love thoughts; ill will into charity; criticism into praise; intolerance into exaltation! Mrs. Eddy says "Stand porter at the door and let no thought enter that will not bless, or heal, or cheer."

In China three monkeys are symbols of deepest wisdom: Hear no evil, speak no evil, see no evil; THINK NO EVIL should have a monument all its own so as to symbolize the greatest virtue of all—"Think no evil." We could not see evil, we could not hear evil, we could not speak evil, if we did not THINK evil. Don't take my word for it, try it out yourself. You cannot hear evil, see it or speak it if you do not think it first; it is impossible because to you it has not conscious existence.

It is computed by chemical analysis that man's body is worth just 98 cents. What is it then that makes man ruler over all the earth? What made Jesus Christ, Buddha, Socrates, Shakespeare? It was MIND! an awakened consciousness that was cognizant

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of and used the Cosmic, the Eternal Mind. Each was a highly manifested portion of the Absolute—the Source of all Knowledge, Health of all Health, Wisdom of all Wisdom.

Why do we not try to awaken this Divine Power within us and be Self Masters not only of the seemingly objectionable things of life but also of all things around us? Why not draw our supplies from both the seen and unseen universes?

What is this universe, as far as I am concerned, that is in me? The I AM! The Spirit that is permeating every portion of me, the Divine Essence of God which makes me His child, and binds me to Him with indissoluble ties.

Christ tells us: "I and the Father are One." Then He says we are "the children of God and inheritors of the Kingdom of Heaven;" and further, "the Kingdom of Heaven is within." If we believe this, as many of us do, why do we not act as children of God, use our divinity, our knowledge? If we will do this, we will realize there is but One Self, and that Self can get us anything we want if we will free ourselves from the shackles of materialism, if we will have faith and trust.

A piece of iron cast into a fiery furnace partakes of the quality of the fire. So the mind, put back into the Divine Self from whence it came, will partake of Its attributes and recognize Its power.

Christ says to "love your enemies; do good to them that hate you; be merciful as your Father is merciful; judge not that ye be not judged; forgive and it shall be forgiven; give and it shall be given unto you; heal the sick and say unto them: 'the Kingdom of God is

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come nigh unto you.' " Where is this kingdom? It is within you, without you—everywhere. If you will think, practice and try to understand these simple rules given by the Master Jesus you will attain to Self Mastery.

A. K. Mozumdar, the spiritual teacher, has so beautifully said: "The man who follows the Christ within knows the secret of Life; he knows, through harmony and peace of mind. Man manifests the highest spiritual power; learns to feel the whole world with his inner consciousness. It is 'within' that he adjusts all conditions and wins all victories; he may sit in a corner of the vast universe, yet, be in touch with it all."

Man can do this, does do it. We know the life of struggle and worry is for those who live a godless life, who let the personal self, the reasoning self, the material self, dominate.

Man plans, fusses, and grieves because he does not know, does not follow God's plans. The man who lives in the God Consciousness, follows the rules laid down by the Master Jesus, does not seek results. He HAS results. When man does not expect reward, when he loves his neighbor as himself, he gains all because he renounces selfishness. Separateness from God is what brings about all negative thoughts and bad results. God's way is the best way. Be not separated from your Father and poverty, disease and death will leave you. Embrace the whole universe. Clothe it with love. God never fails, and if man is Godlike, he cannot fail in anything that he may undertake.

If we will look within and behold each person with loving eyes, we will sense every soul as God's perfect

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creation and will establish vibrations of harmony which will crystallize into happiness and plenty. Every door will invite us to enter and every person will greet us with gladness and good cheer. We will not need an introduction because we will find every man and woman a friend. We live to act and to express, and our outer expression symbolizes our inner state of mind. There will be no barriers when we express happiness and love.

If each one of us would feel reacting within ourselves similar influences of light and be able to vision life more abundantly, we would have joy and health and a deeper understanding of the Great Reality underlying all life.

The lotus lily, emblem of the soul, is born in darkness, yet the divine urge within it and its love of development sends it upward that it may bathe in light. It opens its petals slowly one by one that its golden heart may receive the kisses of the sun. Diffusing fragrance, it sweetens the air and gives forth perfume and then breathes it in again, thereby fulfilling the law of evolution and involution.

If we would take the lotus lily for an example and try to develop from the darkness of ignorance into the light of knowledge we could not help blessing the world and would receive in turn its blessing.

There is a divine urge within that sends everything upward. The same power is in the tiniest seed and within every created thing from protoplasm in vegetable, from animal to the supreme creation—Man. If we earnestly look up, the divine urge will send our minds through the muck and mire of sense desires. Then the dark chasm of ignorance will no longer be

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our abiding place. The seed of life develops to its full fruition in the light of God, and its fruitage will not only bless us but all whom we contact. We reflect what we are and are what we think. If we are bound hand and foot by self-seeking or by the Karma of past incarnations we dwell on a lower plane of life. If we allow jealousy, anger, fault-finding, greed, falsehood, or other like mental conditions—all the bitter fruits of ignorance—to dominate, we will remain in the muck and mire—will encounter rough roads and stone walls in plenty. Fear and all its attendant consequences will possess us. We will be unattractive in mind and body, because we manifest what we think. There will be many on this plane and on the astral plane thinking the same negative thoughts, who will be right behind us prodding us on into sickness, poverty and negation; such will be a hell of our own making, created by our thoughts and acts. "Like attracts like" and by our thinking we set forces into operation that bring the things we want or the things we do not want.

Students of comparative religions—Christianity, Yoga, Vedanta, Rosicrucian Doctrine, Theosophy, Metaphysics and all other esoteric studies—must not forget that there are chains of personal egotism that bind them; must remember that all roads, however diversified they may be at the beginning, lead to the same goal if followed to the end.

We must look within and grasp the golden cord and follow it upward until we find the knot that binds us to our Creator. If we will meditate on these things, our minds will be filled with peace and our eyes will look up to the reservoir of all good, to the portal which we hope to enter. When we can enter this



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temple we will find the Book of Wisdom open before us and will read, understand, and be far upon the path of Self Mastery. We will have faces that shine like a fragrant lotus flower.

We do not have to fight conditions. We do not have to crush out desire or attachment. We have only to look within and ascertain our real heart's desire, look up to where our ideal is enthroned—to the Source of individuality—and we will get whatsoever we *rightly desire*. It is said by the wise ones that our desires are already fulfilled for us, and by meditating on abundance we will sooner free ourselves of material things. God is All. There is nothing above, below, without, within, but Infinite Spirit—OM. When we come into a realization of this either in this life or some future life, we will be free from all anxiety; we will find the whole world akin and carry a state of harmony wherever we go. When we find the Self—I AM—we are at peace with all mankind.

Stanton Coblentz in his book, *The Answer of the Ages*, says: "Let us not resign ourselves to the belief that we can never know. If there be a beyond where Wisdom dwells for conscious beings, surely we should find a means to explore it." Friends, religion is a seeking after God; philosophy and metaphysics the means by which we can explore and discover; and there are always advanced souls ever waiting to help the explorer.

A mystic soul is standing by your chair,  
Though all unseen, I know that he is  
there.

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He knows your every thought, both  
great and small,  
Holds tight your hand, should you grow  
faint or fall.  
He knows the hours you work, the  
hours you pray—  
Abides with you through night and day.  
A loving soul is standing by your  
chair,  
Though all unseen, I KNOW that he  
is there.

When we are guided by indifference and selfishness, we are in a state of constant worry and anxiety but if we carry a state of harmony within, we find the whole world akin. This is Self Mastery. We have found the Self, the I AM, and are at peace.

In a passage from the Bhagavad Gita, Krishna, the Blessed One, speaking to Arjuna, says: "Know, O Prince, that a man being engaged in any or every work, performing any or all action, with faith and devotion and confidence in Me, placing his hope and confidence on Me alone, he shall find the way to Me, and I to him.

Make Me thy supreme choice and preference, and with the light of thy unfolded understanding, do thou think earnestly and constantly of Me, and by so doing, shalt thou through my divine love, surmount and conquer every difficulty which doth surround and encompass all mortals."

Again we find the Self, mastering through love, devotion, and surrender to the Absolute. This to me is The Royal Road—and it leads to perfection.

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“Where seekest thou that freedom, friend,  
this world

Nor that, can give? In books and temples?

Vain thy search! Thine only is the hand  
that holds

The rope that drags thee on. Then cease  
lament!

Let go thy hold, Sannyasin bold! Say

‘Om tat sat Om!’ ”

—From *Song of the Sannyasin* by Swami Vivekananda.



## IS LIFE A WISTFUL DREAM?

*Is life a wistful dream  
Whose finality is to do and die?  
Is Man an atom of pathetic helplessness—  
A laugh, a moan, a long drawn sigh  
That drops from clay to clay?*

*Is life a wistful dream?  
Are birds on lofty tilting wing just birds?  
And ocean, just support of glinting fins?  
Are these but soulless abject things  
That fall to earth and die?*

*Is life a wistful dream—  
Power, adventure, hope and love  
And loneliness of soul? Whither fly  
Ephemeral things that try to prove  
The heart can break without a cry?  
Is life a wistful dream?*

## THE INDWELLING ONE

**S**INCE the beginning of time, man has sought to find The Self. The persevering have reached their goal without much external help; less strong individuals have needed a little help, while the weak ones have required a great deal of external assistance. That is why all religions are good—they help man to find himself.

Christ said, "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and all things shall be added unto you." And He told us that the Kingdom is within. To find that Kingdom, to get hold of the Master Key which will unlock the portal, is the important thing.

In the center of man's being there is a place of absolute silence and when we abide in consciousness of this, we abide in the very presence of God.

We all realize there is some power greater than ourselves that is ever working out our destiny. Let us, then, tune in with this power and deliver ourselves from self-imposed adversity and limitations. There are three vital things that help us to gain our hearts' desire: First, religion, which is a seeking after God; the intuitional realization of the existence of something higher than ourselves; Second, philosophy, which is an enquiry after things thinkable and knowable; Third, metaphysics, which seeks to go beyond the boundaries of the knowable and thinkable into the realms of the unthought of and unknown. It seeks to lift the clouds that obscure the spiritual vision and to enter the secret place of pure Spirit.

It takes a strong will to make a decision and real faith to leave the results with God. When we make

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the decision and realize that God is All there Is—ever present, all powerful, all pervading, all LOVE—we have found the Master Key that will unlock the door of knowledge and wisdom and consequent peace of mind.

Students of the occult know God is not afar off and that if we are to find the secret dwelling place, we must have desire. Desire is the first thought that causes us to progress. If we do not want a thing, we will never get it! Just wishing for something will never bring it to us. We must desire with all the strength of our beings and work toward the end with the mind one-pointed.

Thoughts are things. All occult students know the intellectual mind is limited. If we could see astrally, we could see thoughts. Seeing astrally is a function of the upper mind. If we send out thoughts that hurt another, we will get back what we send out—the law of cause and effect gives evil for evil and good for good.

If we desire to know God—to have His powers made manifest more abundantly—to have wisdom to use them—we must desire GOOD, have faith in GOOD, faith in our fellow men, faith in our own God-like powers. If we do this, we will lay the corner stone for that building called "Attainment." If we hold tenaciously to the thought that "I work and God works with me," we will then be able to unlock and hold the deep mystic forces which have the power to open the lotus buds of reality; then the knowledge that heaven dwells within will be ours.

When we realize that the Absolute is the only power that can operate in our affairs, fear and all its

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attendant evils pass into nothingness. When we are conscious that all material laws are subservient to the laws of the Supreme ONE, naught but health, harmony and prosperity can prevail.

Patience is another of the mighty stones in the foundation of the building called "Attainment." One who has faith and leaves his affairs in God's keeping cannot be impatient. He is at peace and dwells in an harmonious state of mind. When things go wrong and move slowly, we must have faith that underneath all appearances, Infinite Love is upholding us and enfolding us. Keeping our thoughts in the right relationship with the Infinite Law helps us to be patient. By waiting patiently on the Lord, we will gain our ultimate desires, be they material, mental or spiritual.

Break bread, O Patience, with me evermore  
And make thy dwelling place within my heart.  
Upon thy virtues let me climb  
The holy path to where Discrimination dwells.  
When I find the blooming lotus pool,  
Pause there with me awhile:  
Help me to know the soul of Man  
Like a shining lotus bud,  
Arises from the darkness, muck and mire—  
Unfolds its petals one by one  
In God's effulgent Light.  
Break bread, O Patience, with me evermore  
And make thy dwelling place within my heart.

In order to arrive at the Goal of Freedom, the Secret Place of the Most High, we must MEDITATE.

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Meditation, as you know, is a mental process bringing spiritual unfoldment. All great souls who have arrived, who have attained the Christ Consciousness, have done so through some form of meditation.

Saint Teresa's meditation was based upon the truth that God is everywhere—is, in some special way, indwelling within the soul. Meditation consists of gathering together all the powers of the soul and entering an interior world of objective silence. "Meditation on the heart is much better than using the head too much. Picture a shrine of golden light in front of the physical heart, picture the Master standing therein and yourself kneeling before Him—put yourself in your own thought creations." This is the message on meditation from Saint Teresa.

Saint Augustine tells us he sought God in many places and at last found Him within himself. "I sought Thee without and lo! I found Thou wast within the midst of my heart."

Within each one of us is a temple of surpassing beauty; a power, if understood and rightly used, that will help us attain our highest goal. Victor Hugo has said: "There is one thing more beautiful than the sea, that is the earth; there is one thing grander than the earth, that is the sky; there is one thing superior to the sky, that is the soul of man." No manifestation of nature can be compared in beauty and power to a soul that is filled with virtue and love for all mankind. In the midst of this soul-temple of light there dwells a great King who designs to be your constant companion. He sits upon a throne—a throne of priceless value and this throne is your own heart.

Now comes the greatest problem of all. We, on



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our part, must have (without any thought of reward) a steadfast and unflinching determination to give over to the Absolute this temple and throne. He can never give Himself entirely to us unless we give ourselves entirely to Him.

Think of the Divine Life, or the Master, dwelling within your heart. Speak to Him there; and if you can, let your mind cease from its objective activities and contemplate the Divine Guest within.

An adept has told us of a poor peasant who spent hours in prayer. When he was asked what he was doing, he replied: "He looks at me and I look at Him." This man had found the secret of meditation and prayer and was rewarded by a consciousness of bliss.

It is said that one day a monk came to Lord Buddha and asked him to show him the way to happiness. "In truth," said the enlightened one, "there is such a paradise, but the country is spiritual and accessible only to the spiritual." Said the disciple: "Teach me, O Lord, the meditation to which I must devote myself in order to let the mind enter this paradise." Buddha said: "There are five meditations! The first meditation is the meditation on Pure Love, in which you must so adjust your heart that you long for the weal and welfare of all beings, including the happiness of your enemies. The second meditation is the meditation of Pity! In it you think of all human beings in distress, vividly presenting to your imagination their sorrows and their anxieties, so as to arouse deep compassion for them in your soul. The third is the meditation of Joy in which you think of the prosperity of others and rejoice in their rejoicings. The

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fourth meditation is the meditation on Impurity. In it, you consider the evil consequences of corruption, the effect of sin and pleasure and disease—how trivial often are the pleasures of the moment, and fatal the consequences.”

“The fifth meditation is the meditation on Serenity in which you rise above love and hate, tyranny and oppression, wealth and want, and regard your own fate with impartial calmness and perfect tranquility.”

A true follower of the Master does not found his trust on austerities or rituals, but, giving up the idea of self, relies with his whole heart upon the Divine, unbounded Light of Truth, dwelling within the heart. Man never finds God if he continues to sit in fellowship with frogs that croak beside some miasmic pool of discontent, indecision and fear. He must rest his eyes and consciousness, not only on the Divinity within, but must look into the realms of space. Let us seek for the Indwelling One in Nature. If we will go into the forest in early morning we can find in every bush and tree a burst of song; birds will be making invocations to the sun, who, with life and health comes without effort each morning that we may see the beneficent Spirit of the Beloved in the face of a flower.

We all have a cherished desire that we hope to see bloom and fruit! It may turn out to be a serpent in the brain whose poisoned fangs will sting. It may be a lotus flower, redolent with love, that we press close to the heart. Let us not dull the senses as with wine. Let us rather address ourselves to the Light of all Lights, which is beyond the sun. Through the dark passages of night, birds wing to sleep. Through the

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dark passages of experience, souls seek the light . . .  
nay, find the light.

A spider in her web hangs where the moonlight  
drapes the trees, stings the imprisoned moth to satisfy  
desire. Man comes back and ever back through aeons  
of time to satisfy desire of body and mind; through  
desire is unfolded to him the knowledge that reincar-  
nation brings.

A song of triumph in matchless rhythm and har-  
mony comes from Mother Earth and helps the soul to  
grow. On wide wings of love, it opens the portal to  
Eternal Light. Oakland's poet, Jessica Pryse Arthur,  
has beautifully expressed the soul's seeking in her  
occult poem "*The Initiation*":

"Down into the pitch black lips  
Of unplumbed depths, a river slips,  
And daring souls may there embark  
Upon a cruise within the dark.  
About a curve their boat will wind,  
And then, those daring ones go blind.  
They feel the icy draught and clammy breath,  
As strange as death.

They hear the stealthy lash and lap  
As black waves on black boulders slap,  
While weird uncanny echoes call  
In liquid notes from wall to wall.  
As unseen currents bear them on—  
Where sense of Time and Space is gone—  
Through narrow corridors, until  
Beside a ledge, their boat is still.

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And blind as bats they land, to grope  
Along the up and dripping slope—  
In quaking silence there to stand  
Each seeking out a helping hand.

Ah, gradually a strange new light  
Renews for them the sense of sight!  
Not light of bulb nor lamp  
Nor phosphorescence of the damp,  
Nor the light of stars or moon  
Nor morning light nor glare of noon,  
But the concave dome above about  
In convolutions glimmers out  
With crystal light that seems to grow  
Into a cosmic astral glow!  
The very walls of space are then encrusted  
With jewels to the gods entrusted—  
Rubies, opals, diamonds, set in gold  
Of imprisoned sunbeams, aeons old.

Within this universal shell  
A billion reborn souls now dwell,  
A billion bodies gleaming white—  
Whose substance is God's Spirit—Light."

Swami Bhagwan Bissessar says, "Keep your feet on the ground, your eyes upon the stars and your thoughts on God. You will then find the Light and the Substance of the Light—The Indwelling One."

Aum—Shanti—Shanti—Aum.

## THE INDWELLING ONE

*In sweet abandonment of self  
I saw Life's river come and go  
In endless rhythm at my feet.  
In harmony with Nature's flow  
My soul embraced the heart of her,  
Felt the movement of the stars.  
And claimed its unity with GOD.*



## EXPERIENCE

### SOUL

*I sprang from out the singing stars  
And brought their melody with me  
To sing within a Mother's womb.*

### BIRTH

*I felt the heart-beat of her love—  
I felt the heart-beat of the Lord  
As I became a child of Earth.*

### DESIRE

*I plucked a fragrant red, red rose  
And pressed it to my selfish breast,  
It had a thorn that pierced my heart.*

### FRUITION

*I picked a lily, waxen, white,  
Within its calyx lay a PEARL  
Whose luster brought me peace.*

## REINCARNATION

**T**HE Standard Dictionary says that "Incarnate" means to embody in the flesh, to assume a human nature and body. We have these vivid examples: the Spirit of God incarnate in Christ Jesus, in Buddha, in the Illumined Masters; the spirit of art incarnate in Leonardo da Vinci, Titian and Raphael; the spirit of electricity in Edison; the spirit of poetry incarnate in Shakespeare; the spirit of music incarnate in Beethoven, Wagner, Bach; the spirit of war incarnate in Napoleon the Ambitious; the spirit of cruelty was incarnate in Nero; the spirit of drunkenness, debauchery, crime, selfishness incarnate in so many men and women of today. The advanced souls of Shakespeare, Edison, Leonardo da Vinci, Edison, Bach and all of the great ones were once as deep in sin as the apparently unfortunate ones of today. I say, apparently. In reality, each was learning his lesson and reincarnation was the path of the soul leading to unity and peace. Christ came a virgin Soul direct from the Father. His Soul was never in the cycle of reincarnation according to Sacred History.

Would God be a just God if these we call "unfortunate" were to go on and on forever in their madness and wickedness and unhappiness? You know He would not be just; you know they do have their chance. Reincarnation gives them their opportunity to advance and get rid of the spirit of seeming wickedness that is incarnate in them in this life. When we speak of the spirit of war, art, music, etc., we do not mean the Spirit of the Absolute. We refer to the spirits of desire with which these men were incar-

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nated and carried to extremes of selfishness or to the heights of advancement on this earth plane. Do not get this confused with the Spirit of Reality. There is but One Spirit—perfect, supreme, filling all space and creation. In the end all of the spirits or entities—no matter by what name we call them—will evolve into the One Spirit, the Absolute.

Reincarnation gives each and every soul a chance to grow. We grow no matter what we do! The infinite urge within makes us go forward. At times we may seem to be growing crooked and dwarfed like a stunted tree, but the Divine life within is ever straight and perfect, ever urging us on to seek something better. That something is God whether we are conscious through previous incarnations. We carry back Karma—the law of cause and effect.

Education and progress along material lines are a matter of mind and desire. Education along spiritual roads is a matter of urge, an unsatisfied hunger that material things do not satisfy. Both are brought over to the present life through reincarnation. The materialist grows by experience; the spiritually minded, by meditation and prayer.

All advancement has been brought about by thinking, desiring, seeking. Revelation or knowledge of things comes from years of constructive, systematic thinking and seeking along whatever line of endeavor one may be working. The results, the wonderful achievements, have not come about in just one lifetime. They are the results of untold reincarnations. The urge onward is the Spirit of God—ever active, ever progressive. We are being led step by step out of crude, primitive ways into a higher state of being both



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in the material and spiritual worlds.

We have periods or cycles of rest, periods or cycles of activity. Nature has a primary law, that of imposing rest on all creation. A period of rest or sleep occurs on other planes. There is a pause—a rest—of the pendulum between inhalation and exhalation; also is there a rest for the soul before reincarnating, that is: after it has left the body before it enters another. Nature, the Divine Mother, provides a rest—the close of one day and the beginning of another; an ocean wave seems to pause, to rest, just before it lunges to break. It is said by the sages of mysticism that we have a long period of sleep and rest before we are reincarnated into an earthly body. They tell us that desire to create, to finish that for which our soul longs, causes us to reincarnate over and over again until our earth desires are satisfied.

At times we get so tired of all activities that we long for a change, for death, even, to release us. Then, something comes up; we contact new environments, new scenes, have new ambitions and so begin anew to plan, to work, to create. It is the urge of the soul trying to carry on to perfection in each of us. We could not get away from it if we would. It is the real self urging us, leading us on; it never falters.

There is a divine, eternal, ever active law of unfoldment. Whittier beautifully expressed this law's working in these two lines:

"Step by step since time began  
We see the steady gain of man."

The whole world is seeking for a clearer under-

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standing of the laws that govern all. Swami Bissessar tells us the reason for this is that the Masters are re-incarnating and coming back to earth to awaken the consciousness of Man to his birthright, his Oneness with God.

The Masters who have had Illumination tell us that the only reasonable explanation to all the seeming mystery is reincarnation. The different degrees of instinctive, intellectual and spiritual minds of mankind are due to reincarnations and the degrees of effort we have put forth in our earth lives.

God functions in two ways in the universe and in the individual. He is the knower of the universal whole. We, the knowers in a fragmentary way, must make an effort to know God. We should perceive Him in all creation as illimitable and supreme. By thinking, contemplating, meditating, by Om-ing, we can lift the soul to where the Divine is independent and imposes no limitations. God gives us our opportunity to experience all things and in the course of reincarnations, over aeons of time, we will become all wise. How are we going to know things if we do not experience them? How are we going to experience things if we do not have a body or something with which to work? How can we learn all things in the brief space of one lifetime? No one has approached such a state of knowledge yet in a lifetime. There must be a cause for and a reason why we desire to do things, experience circumstances and work! The Kybalion forcefully expresses this thought: "Every cause has its effect, every effect has its cause; everything happens according to Law. Chance is but a name for Law not recognized. There are many planes of

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causation, but nothing escapes the Law of Cause and Effect."

Shakespeare says: "All the world's a stage and men and women merely players." If we play the game of life according to the best that is within us—according to our highest ideals, we will be swayed by positive thoughts, good environments, good surroundings and will live in harmony with man and nature. If we listen to the "still, small voice," we will tune in with the great principle of soul growth—will go higher and higher mentally, physically, spiritually and will reincarnate on a higher plane.

If we are dominated by low environments and negative conditions, low surroundings and base desires, we will reincarnate on a slightly higher plane than the present one, because ALL desire must be satisfied (unless we are advanced enough to prosper by the experiences of others, rise above desire, or transmute it into higher things). When we have satisfied desire, we know just what the experience is worth to us. If we do wrong things the "still, small voice" tells us not to do, we suffer; but we gain by the experience if we are wise. If we do good, obey the voice within, we have peace and joy. In either case we gain something. We cannot go backward; in reincarnating, no matter what we do, we gain—be it much or little. All things are links that connect and bind us on the road of attainment and are used for definite, certain forms of our development. If we desire material manifestations, we must satisfy the desires before we can attain freedom; if we desire something and do not get it, it clings to us and we are not free.

Past incarnations shape the currents of the thoughts

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and actions of today and the flow of the soul in this present life will shape the incarnations yet to come.

We change and the world changes; as we evolve to higher and higher levels, so evolves the world with us—this is the consistency of Truth which helps us to live a more ideal life.

The varied, iridescent aspect of life and thought is ever in the becoming and the going . . . to become again. We paint a lovely picture today . . . tomorrow the vibrations of the sun change and we could not duplicate the exact lights and shadows if we would. We are in one continuous stream of change, yet beyond the stream is the Source of its supply—silent and supreme; it ever flows toward the Cosmic sea. When we become conscious of this universal, unchanging Source, we have greater assurance and are better able to analyze the modes of human action and experience. We come to realize more clearly that all the changes are fundamentally right and are for the uplift of the soul.

The chemical elements in nature are ever being transmuted, changed, into innumerable combinations. We see chemical action on the flowers, trees, beasts and Man. We see rays of the sun manifesting in colored fruits and fragrant flowers—yet the elemental Substance that colors them is ever the same.

Oranges do not change to pineapples nor do sun-flowers change to lilies. So it is with the spirit of man, which is ever changeless. The ever-changing demand of the soul to reincarnate from one desire to another is the Spirit of God manifesting. It is silent materially, yet speaks to us with a thousand tongues that we are too deaf to hear. We let a changing, ephemeral, con-

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fused, dynamic sense-desire separate us from God. Then we wonder why there is disease, inharmony and death of aspiration in the world.

We are all composed of the same fundamental substance but we are all on different planes of development because of the law of Karma—cause and effect. Human action is different in each individual. Each mind intellectually interprets life in its own way; yet, reality remains ever the same. What we think and do today measures our joy and sorrow tomorrow. What we do or leave undone this year will be the measure of our harvest next year and will influence the crop of grain or weeds yielded in our next incarnation.

We are interwoven with the elemental rhythm of life. The wind blows the tree tops rhythmically and sings Om. The ocean, the forests and man sing a song. The whole sweep of nature, the whole expression of the universe is harmony and rhythm. We should meditate on harmony and find why we let inharmony break the rhythm of the soul. Reincarnation gives us the opportunity of finding in meditation the deeper and higher harmony of the soul. At such moments we will be able to hear the sacred syllable, Om, intoned in every song of nature. We will hear it in the deepest music of the sea, in the very heart of thunder as it rolls, in the tinkling laughter of children and in the OH\*\*\*m of painful age. If we listen, we shall hear it spiral away and be lost in the immensity of space. It is a cosmic call to man and marks the rhythm of his life, a rhythm that begins with the graceful movements of the hands and the dancing steps of a little child. It is in the accentuated rhythmic movement of the earth rotating on its axis,

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the planetary movements around the sun. All of this rhythmic harmony symbolizes the harmony that should be the paramount issue of life; yet, man as a whole is utterly unconscious of it.

Moon-shadows sweep the earth, yet no dust is stirred. The moon reflects in the still lake. There is no perceptive movement, yet it disappears across the mountain and there is no trace of it on the water.

It is ever so with this ephemeral life. A little while we cast light on those we love and on those who love us; then we are lost in the aeons of reincarnation, leaving a few pounds of dust on the earth, a few memories, a few truths to mark the path we trod.

Religion, philosophy and metaphysics are built upon the solid piers of divine love and uphold the bridges that all must cross in order to arrive at the fount of reality. Through reincarnation these bridges will be crossed by the soul and it will find thereby the underlying substance of Truth.

To reach this goal we must go through a building-up process of discipline and self-direction. Only the realization that we are in Spirit a part of the ALL will bring liberation from the necessity for reincarnation and Karmic Law.

There is ever but one Law giver—God. There is ever but one goal. At times we plunge into bypaths of physical and mental decadence and negation whereby we break the rhythm of the on march of the soul. Nevertheless, we are on the cycle of unfoldment, are in the Cosmic Mind whether or not we are conscious of the fact. "SAT Twam ASI!: Thou art THAT," say the Wise Ones.

The sun sinks into the ocean and leaves no ripple.

## REINCARNATION

The winsome day melts silently into night. Darkness steals over the earth and makes no sound! The fire of meteors flames the sky and involves in ether waves softly. Man works and loves, plays, prays and dreams of prophetic ecstasies and long for angel visitants to tear the veil of ignorance from his eyes. He would rise from the scenes of the sea and meadowland to the hills and mountain tops that he might better view the vistas of the earth and sky. He tries to understand both the unseen and the seen and the law that underlies all life; yet he goes with halting steps of mind and body upon these wondrous journeys. He is held back by the law of cause and effect, pain and pleasure; not knowing advancement and retreat are sisters in the Karmic law.

No lover ever seeks union with the beloved more ardently than does the bright, effulgent Father seek union with His children.

Why should we lose ourselves among the pinnacles and grey mist of misunderstanding and selfish desire, when the whole glory of human and universal love lies before us? Why do we not "dart like a swallow on the wings of spring" and find the peace of heaven in the mansion that is already prepared for us—a mansion within the recesses of our own hearts where harmony forever dwells. It takes transmutation of thought to change negation and inharmony into peaceful, constructive, healthful thoughts. It takes discipline of body and of mind to grow the soul.

Breaking the chrysalis of astral sleep a winged Psyche emerges and in a wonderful rhythmic dance of life comes out through the cosmos, through darkness, through light, through snow clouds and flowery

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meadowlands, through starry worlds and seas of nebulae, up and out through time . . . and finds the Beloved One coming down from the heavens, sees Him rending the mountain of discord with an avalanche of Love; sees this Love turn deserts into flowering fields and desolation's sorrowful face alight and wreathed in smiles; sees in operation life and death, that death is LIFE . . . a name for Immortality. Then shall be learned the mystery of love. "Swiftly arose and spread around me the peace and knowledge that passes all arguments of the earth and I know the hand of God is the promise of my own and I know the Spirit of God is the brother of my own and that all men ever born are also my brothers and the women my sisters and lovers and that a kelson of the creation is love."—Walt Whitman's beautiful, elevating words.

Such is the power of Love seeking through reincarnations; such the spiritual union and understanding. It builds friendships and family on earth and a permanent peace for the soul that is not of time or place.

This one life is not long enough to get what we want. It will take many lives to wipe out our desires and to work them out through Karma. If there were no such state as reincarnation, how would we get or do what we want? How can the soul grow into Nirvana if we have no vehicle for it to use? How is it that we who understand the Yoga teachings often cause many to think we are mentally a "little off"—worshiping idols, chasing vain phantoms? With all, it is simply degrees of advancement, understanding. How am I—just one body and soul—ever to become the writer of occult novels and books, explore unknown regions of poetry, if there is no reincarnation?



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I cannot accomplish it in this life's short span.

I believe there is reincarnation—"Lord, help thou my unbelief" in all things not understood. "O Thou the Absolute, Thou the Infinite, Thou the only Reality, give me wisdom and faith." That is the song of my soul: "wisdom and faith" to open the portals to a realization of ALL God.

My friends, do not try to reason it out. Remember we are on the plane of human mind. Let us believe what the advanced souls tell us through their enlightenment. They are beings imbued with such attributes and power, that the mind of man in his workaday world cannot even dream of—much less understand—the wisdom they possess.

The Illumined tell us that they were once as we are in the scale of evolution and even lower. How could they be what they are now, had they not had the experiences of reincarnations? Some of you ask: "Why do I not remember what happened—all that happened—at the age of ten, twenty, thirty?" You cannot do it, but such knowledge is in your storehouse of memory, in your subconscious mind. What you are today is due to all you learned during these intervening years. Can the man who falls into rebirth recall his former births? Buddha is very explicit on this subject. He says: "If a man desires to call to mind his temporary state in days gone by, so that he may say 'such was my name, my family,' that object CAN be attained by the state of self-concentration. If the mind be fixed on the acquirement of any object, that object will be attained." Darkness departs and light comes. So it is with reincarnation. You are as and what you

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you are because of that which you have learned in your past lives.

Christ said, "Unless you become as little children, you cannot enter the Kingdom of Heaven." Then He said, "The Kingdom of Heaven is within you." Let us become as little children. Let us listen to the wisdom and advice of the great souls who are trying to teach us Truth. There is a garden of light within the heart of everyone. This garden cannot be despoiled by lesser sensations and desires. The tree of life stands in the garden untouched by desire; and light is given it by the Spirit of God. It is not subject to change or phenomena for it contains ALL within its self.

The dawn is here with its seven-fold light. The seven principles of man: physical body, astral body, Prana—vital force, instinctive mind, intellect, spiritual mind, Spirit, are becoming understood along with reincarnation, which is our only hope of advancement. It will bring us to Nirvana.

No matter what happens, if we are in the depths of misery and negation, lo . . . He is there. If we reach the heights of human happiness, lo . . . He is there! We cannot, if we will, get away from the Absolute. He is the supervising intelligence of our physical state. His power is driving us on and on to higher states of perfection, to the transcendental states that we cannot cognize with the reasoning mind. We know by experience that the sorrows, sins, sufferings, troubles and doubts are not stone walls for us to beat our heads against to destruction; we know they are stepping stones to a higher realization of the illimitable self that is a part of every one of us. Mary Baker

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Eddy said that Sin is just an absence of truth or is the lack of good and that eventually through suffering, it destroys itself . . . that more Truth may take its place.

Every experience we have is for good. Soul growth goes on and on. We grow tired of sin, disease and death. We long with a deep soul-yearning for freedom. Eventually through aeons of time we become aware of our oneness with the Father and through further aeons of time we reach Nirvana.

Nirvana is not, as some suppose, the end of all things. It is the awareness, the consciousness, the knowledge of All that is . . . not a wiping out of self, but rather a KNOWLEDGE of self—which is quite different. This knowledge ends reincarnation, unless the individual desires to come back in the interest of mankind.

The Standard Dictionary also says, "Reincarnation: a re-embodiment of the soul in successive human vehicles; the becoming of an Avatar." 'Avatar' means the descent of Deity into incarnate existence, or of the soul into cosmic life. Manly Hall is an avatar. "Transmigration is the passing of the soul from one body after death into another," Max Muller says. "There is no trace in the Vedas of the transmigration of souls from human to lesser animal or creature bodies. This is supposed to be a feature of Indian religion, but it is not true."

Remember! Reincarnation is a RE-EMBODIMENT of the soul in successive human vehicles, while transmigration is the passing of the soul from a human body, after death, to another human body; it is not the passing of souls of man into lower animals.

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We all know that there is a Center of Absolute power and wisdom which is the life of man, the life of all life. We know we are partakers of this life in different degrees of unfoldment; no matter what we do, we are ever growing. We know that we cannot, nor can any manifestation of nature, be entirely wiped out of existence; it is merely CHANGE in accordance with Divine law from one form to another. There is a dynamic, vibrating something which emanates in the center of pure Spirit . . . It IS . . . we ARE.

The reasoning mind sees everything moving toward a different manifestation—yet, kind to kind: the rose to a rose, man to man, a horse to a horse. Is it reasonable to think the soul stops with the disintegration of the body? Even the body fertilizes the earth! Its fine particles, in the processes of chemical change and reversion, give sustenance to trees, flowers, plants. Animals eat the plants, man eats the animals and the refuse of both is again reverted to Mother Earth. This process may not be called reincarnation, but it certainly is recreation—perpetual and eternal.

The Spirit, the Power, within and without all of this creative activity is unchangeable; it manifests in the lowest animal, in man, rocks, crystals, trees, flowers and the tiniest atom. This is the reason that the whole world—the entire system of worlds—is akin. Everything we perceive is a manifestation in a different rate of vibration, on a different cycle of unfoldment, periodicity.

When we can look within and see the spirit in all material forms and realize that all is composed of the same essence, we will begin to understand the

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meaning of The Brotherhood of Man. Then, will we know our close relationship to everything we can cognize with the reasoning mind; will be awake to the fact that each one of us has a spiritual mind. The "I" of us will be known as the Pure Spirit within. The "I" of us IS. Were this not so we would not be here—see, hear or talk to each other.

We realize we are here for a purpose, a Divine purpose. The highly illumined souls answer the question, "Why are we here?" by saying, "YOU ARE! HE IS!" Truth brings bliss, happiness and peace of every kind; we will find this truth somewhere in eternity. We can gain this truth only by experience; we can get it only by coming back again and again. Each time we reincarnate, we will be, are, a little farther along the Path—a little nearer the Center of All Light, the Spirit of All Truth; nearer the Absolute, the Holy One which IS . . . Omnipresent, Omnipotent.

The marvelous successes of Henry Ford are explained in his own words: "I have never done anything of my own volition; I was always pushed by invisible forces. Reincarnation is the essence of all knowledge! Until I discovered this theory, I was unsettled and dissatisfied."

In one of the great Greek dramas by Euripides, which was translated by the Greek scholar, James Pryse, associate of Madame Blavatsky for more than fifteen years, we read: "It is not my belief in, or worship of, the many gods, not even when one of them comes to be regarded as one God, that man gains emancipation from the earth-life; nor does he upon death of his physical body pass into a state of eternal bliss. Whatever religion he may adhere to, whatever dreams

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he may indulge in during the dream-state after death, he must certainly return to earth whether he 'believes' in reincarnation or not. He is caught in the mighty current with a long series of earth lives behind and many others yet to come. Only two courses lie before him, and he may make his choice of them. He may move along slowly with the vast herd of humanity, who will reach perfection only after many mundane existences, or he may ascend by a short cut difficult to climb. By perfecting his lower nature and putting forth all his intellectual and instinctive powers in the pursuit of Spiritual Wisdom, aspiring to attain the mystic union with the Free Father, his own deathless Self." There, in short, is the whole theory of reincarnation.

Rejoice and be glad, for within you is The Light. When you reach the source of this Light—the source of all reality, you will reach Nirvana and be free from reincarnations. Absolute knowing will be yours—thus sayeth the Wise Ones.

Aum—Shanti—Shanti—Aum.

## WHILE READING THE APOCRYPHA

*I saw a bright vision; Walking out on the sea,  
Was a man clothed in glory, and he beckoned to me.  
Much bewildered was I, and troubled in mind,  
Then he spoke gently to me of things I divined,  
"O Daughter why tarry? The goal is so near,  
I beseech you to enter, there is nothing to fear.  
Renounce O beloved, your separate will,  
Hold fast to the Substance, so sacred, so still:  
You are favored my Daughter, find God while you  
may,  
Lo! I come in the spirit, to show you the way."*



## RELIGION AND FREEDOM

**R**ELIGION and philosophy teach the unity of God and man; they teach not merely the supremacy of power and will, but a supremacy of love and wisdom. They teach God as a Father, not as a mere king.

We cannot understand the nature of a phenomenon or the manifestations of nature, when we contemplate them by themselves. If we look at them in their relation to other phenomena, other manifestations of the same kind and quality, each becomes clearer in contrast to the other. So it is with comparative religions and philosophies; they seek to do justice to the religious tendencies of all mankind, knowing that they are providential, that each and every one helps to uplift man to a better, higher life.

To worship some deity with ceremonies, sacrifices and prayers, to worship the splendid and useful objects in the natural world—the sun, the moon, the stars, to pay tribute to the rivers, the oceans, the trees, the flowers—and not to be ashamed to reverence the God-given life in creation from protoplasm to man—is to recognize a nameless something that cannot be expressed in words. The need of looking up, the searching within, the soul of us always seeking some unseen power higher than ourselves, seems to come to us with birth, clings to us through life, and helps us to realize the Divinity within all manifestations of nature. Reverence and longing for the Absolute, for something beyond the mundane life, brings us to the same conclusion: that there is a *Some Thing* beyond this finite world. We all try to understand this some-



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thing, to penetrate and appropriate it to our own use either to gain material objects or spiritual understanding. We want to be free from all negative conditions of life, not realizing that we become free only as we become conscious of God. St. Paul teaches that all nations dwelling on the earth may not only seek Him but find Him. When we find Him we find freedom.

We become free when pride, jealousy, sensitiveness, intolerance and selfishness vanish. We become free when we forget color, race, nationality, social fads and a sense of separateness and superiority melts in the consciousness of universal love.

When we are free, we do not look down upon the oppressed and heavy laden, the injured humanity; we look within, and the Christ consciousness within us finds the Christ Spirit within them and our thoughts reach out to them without hatred, censure, malice or judgment.

When we become free, we look at a piece of rock, a tree, a flower and know it is one of God's methods of speaking to us. When we address them they do not answer in audible words, but if we attune our ears to the rhythmic beating of nature's heart, we find a response to our questions, hear the still, small voice speaking in the language of God.

In our consciousness of All God, we find our assurance and freedom.

When we are free, we find God very near, we know He is our friend, our counsellor, our help-mate. "If we would have God for a friend, we must be a friend to God. We can best do this by doing something to help some of His creatures, by realizing the

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brotherhood of man. When God is with us, who can be against us?"

When we are free, we do not hesitate to tell Him the innermost secrets and desires of our hearts; and if we are sincere we find Him an "ever present help." When we are free, we meditate and find God, not afar off, but near. All of our natural desires become divine desires. Because we recognize the Allness of God, we can see Him in the souls of mankind and in the tiniest grain of sand. Harmony becomes ours and we live a life of universal comradeship. We do not need temples, churches, cathedrals or synagogues, in which to pray to the Absolute; we pray everywhere and at all times.

We pray under the blue dome of night and watching the myriad stars whirling along on their path of glory, are silenced by the majesty of the Divine Power that controls their whirling; and when we Om, our minds are lost in the mystery of it, and we become One with The All.

When we see storm clouds backed up with thunder, and lightning flashes around their edges; when we hear the storm-gods bombard the earth and see the grass drink up the rain-drops; when we watch the ocean waves tumbling in long green white-capped billows—see them dashing against the rocky shore—hear their deafening roar as they break and recede, we hear the voice of God speaking in a language too powerful for words. When we see the smile upon the face of a sleeping baby, we see Him, manifesting in sublime innocence. When we see some lad and lassie sitting hand in hand, we know, like mating birds, their souls are awake and singing all the while a love song, filling

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the earth with a sweet cadence that mounts to the very zenith of happiness. Thus we see God manifesting in pure joy and hope. When we see a young mother bending over her first-born, her star-lit eyes moist with gladness, we see God manifesting as Divine Love.

When we meditate on father, mother, wife, children, friends, we have a wide range of possibilities and all of God's creatures become as one.

The easiest method of gaining freedom is to meditate on God, on Om, until lost in the spiral song of immensity, realizing that the mind cannot run in any direction and not find Him. Here is much food for reflection: 'The mind can not run in any direction and not find Him.'

In this world of All God, we should concentrate on Him and His many manifestations; all are Divine. When we will do this we will find He manages all of our battles and solves all of our problems and we abide in peace.

If we will go into the silence and meditate on God we will find all of our natural desires are divine desires, and we become free from the entanglements of materialism. We become free souls within this powerful message of truth. We find comradeship with the lower animals, and the highest man. When we become conscious of life and intelligence indwelling within all objects, we commune with the Absolute and find freedom.

When we stand under the vast canopy of the sky, and feel the sun's golden rays pouring heat and life over everything, our minds expand beyond the horizon; we transcend the limitations of earth and hear the word: Freedom! Freedom! in every breath of life

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and from the inmost depths of our hearts, we, too, sing "Freedom" and pray to realize it. "O thou the Absolute, the Infinite, The Only Reality, open thou the portals of our minds so that we may become conscious of the Ever Present God."—Swami Bissessar.

Many years ago I read a sermon by Henry Ward Beecher. In it he told how he "walked and talked with God." He considered Christ as an Elder Brother and when walking along meditating on the Absolute, often felt that Christ was holding his hand and walking beside him. A deep sense of security would possess him and he would feel that he, too, was in reality the Son of the Father. This sermon made a deep impression on me, and has been one of the influences that has helped to shape my life. At the time of reading this sermon I was in the very depths of despair. Being of a religious nature, I prayed morning, noon and night, but without understanding; therefore I could not find release from the bitter sorrow that was sapping my life. Then this sermon came to me: "When the student is ready the Master appears." I got the spirit of the lesson, began to walk and talk with Christ as an Elder Brother not far away, but beside me; I began to get a glimpse of light, and in time my troubles vanished. I know now they were lessons I had to learn in order to advance along the Path. I know, too, that He will solve all my problems when I put them in His care and say and believe: "Thy will and not mine be done." Knowing His solution will be the right one, I am free from anxiety and care. I find the way to peace is:

Think of God in early morning,  
When the flowers are bent with dew;  
Think of Him in golden noontide,

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When the skies are deepest blue.  
Think of God in misty evening  
When the work of day is done;  
Think of Him when purple shadows  
And the nightwings blot the sun.  
Think of Him when you are sleeping,  
Dream of Him the whole night through,  
And remember, in your thinking  
He is ever close to you.

The clocks keep ticking and the sun appears on scheduled time, the planetary stars whirl along in the infinite rhythm of space; cycles on cycles, recession and flow, through aeons of time; each an atom of dust in the pulse of the Eternal Becoming. There is no discord, no haste, no waste; and we, like blossoms adrift on the breath of spring, are fulfilling the Law of Karma.

The most important thing is silence. In the silence—Wisdom speaks and they whose hearts are open, understand her and become free. Religion is a seeking after God; Freedom is a consciousness of our unity with Him. If religion had not something in it beyond the human ken, how could it hold its position in the world over so long a period of time? How influence the hearts of man to ever seek after immortality? What has caused man to build temples, idols, cathedrals? What caused the Greeks to worship the forces in nature, to construct splendid temples, to carve marvelous statuary to their gods? Unless the works of art symbolized more good than evil, they could not have kept their places in civilization and come down through the ages to waken a feeling of reverence in man. They partially satisfied a hunger in the human heart at that time, they exercised a great restraint on

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human willfulness and passion, and have directed, however imperfectly, human consciousness toward the beautiful, toward right thinking and right action. All religions rest on a sure foundation because they one and all recognize some spirituality permeating the finite world; and each one in its own way is seeking to find God.

The law of evolution gives meaning and unity to history and the progress of mankind. Geology shows the higher forms of life succeeding the lower; botany exhibits the mosses and lichen preparing the soil for more complex vegetation; history shows the savage giving way to the semi-savage, and the semi-savage to the civilized.

The law of degree appears also in the different religions; and we see everywhere the different degrees of evolution in the unfoldment of the soul. All mankind is preparing for something better and higher. If this were not so, the whole fabric of human life would be without unity—without progress or meaning—and would fall.

All living in heathen lands must find their gods through heathenism; the Christian finds his through the teaching of Christ the Master; the Hindu seeks his through one of the religions or philosophies of the Orient. Four thousand years before Christ the people of Persia were seeking the great realities of life through the study of Zoroaster. Buddhism started centuries before Christ and has a following of three hundred sixty-nine million souls; Christians two hundred ninety million; and Mohammedans, one hundred sixty million. Because we believe in Christianity is no reason for disparaging all other religions. Do you think it possible that all of these people are worshipping an illusion or some dream creation of their own minds?

## RELIGION AND FREEDOM

What is religion anyway? It is a longing to understand the Absolute, a seeking after the unknown and unknowable. What is freedom? It is a realization, a consciousness, of the Absolute manifesting in our lives, without any anxiety on our part.

The oldest book in the world was compiled some six thousand years before Christ by Ptah-Hotep. It is 23-7/8 inches long by 5-7/8 inches wide. It is written in red and black ink on papyrus; was found in an ancient tomb in Egypt, and now rests in a museum in Paris. It is a book of maxims, teaching how to gain freedom through right living.

"The eating of bread is under the provision of God. He is an ignorant man, indeed, who disputes it." "Established is the man who walks on the right;" "Silence is more profitable than speech;" "Fair speech is more precious than emeralds;" "Beware of speaking evil;" "The disposal of souls is with God;" "And thou art the steward of the endowments of God; they that are guided go not astray;" "Let thy face be bright what time thou livest;" "It is a man's kindly acts that are remembered of him in the years after his life." These and many other maxims on right living remind us of the Proverbs written about one to seven hundred years before Christ.

Buddha tells us to cultivate friendliness; cultivate compassion, joy, indifference; wait on your father, wait on your mother, and honor thy elders. "O Priest!" he continues, "If one were to say a man must reap according to his deeds, in that case, O Priest! there is no religious life, nor is any opportunity afforded for the entire extinction of misery; but if anyone says, O Priest! that the rewards a man reaps *accord* with his deeds, in that case, O Priest, there *is* a religious

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life, and opportunity is given for the complete extinction of misery."

Then came Christ Jesus, The Light of the World, teaching the Brotherhood of Man; that we "are One with the Father."

To ascribe the vast phenomena of religions to man is to suppose the whole of it is the work of a human fraud; to believe priests, working on human fear and ignorance, is not a satisfactory solution of the facts, and this reasoning leaves us dissatisfied; but if we will give deep consideration to the *facts* before us, we must realize that *all* religions benefit and uplift mankind, and the teachings of Jesus the Christ are the foundations of our own civilization.

We should not be converted from one religion to another, but from all religions to the Eternal religion—that is, behold one's Self as the Self of the past, the present, the future; this is the supreme realization of one's identity with the Infinite, and means a *conscious* unity with the Absolute. This realization brings peace, happiness and freedom and should be the GOAL of all mankind.

Aum—Shanti—Shanti—Aum.

### MAN'S CYCLE

*Man was washed ashore, from the sea of silence  
To the vibrant world of visible form;  
A created world of love and beauty  
In all of its mystical hopeful charm.  
He was given this world to love, to cherish,  
To dishonor, to hurt, to scatter, to rend;  
But the bright shining light of God within  
Guides him safe to port, in the end.*



## THE THREE-FOLD PATH OF ATTAINMENT

**F**RIENDS, there are three exalted things in life—philosophy, religion and science. The test of philosophy is its sufficiency in times of adversity—a test that helps man to bind up the loose ends of life. The test of religion is peace and happiness, soul growth and love for our fellow men and consecration to God. The test of science is its mental and material benefit to man.

We are about to approach the Three-Fold Path of ancient Yoga Philosophy, a philosophy which has moved the minds of men in the great past and is moving the minds of the elect today. It is causing a great part of the civilized world to rise above the entrancing and sordid things of material life to seek unfoldment of the strange mysterious creeds of faith which are shrouded in the mists of antiquated legend and symbolism.

Symbolism undefined and hidden throughout time has with silent tongue taught, and is till teaching, the hidden wisdom of the gods. On tablets, in Masonry, Theosophy, the Rosicrucian Doctrine and in the painted statues of the Roman Catholic Church, we find symbolism exalted. To understand the meaning of these symbols is to become wise. Not to try to understand them is to wilfully shut our eyes to the Light of Ages—the Light that shineth forth out of darkness even in this day of materialism.

The ancient Hindu Sages, coming from the lost continent of Atlantis and the land of Mu, were the fathers of philosophy in its original form. From mouth to ear they taught those ready to receive. Thus was

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perpetuated this wisdom in symbolical form long before the days of writing—far back before Egypt built the pyramids or sphinx, long before the Mahabharata, the Upanishads, the Vedic Hymns or the laws of Moses.

The Samkya system of philosophy, of which Kapila was the founder, is the first of which there is any record. Plato's philosophy is full of the knowledge taken from this system, through the teachings of Pythagoras. The great teacher-philosopher of Greece, Pythagoras, was instructed in Oriental philosophy by many of the great philosophers of his time, including the Hindu Masters, during his sojourn among them. Upon his return to Greece, he took with him several Hindu philosophers that they might further teach him the Hidden Wisdom. He found philosophy was like a journey where one is ever learning yet never arriving at the ideal perfection one is seeking. Thinking on the word of 'perfection' last night, I went to sleep. In a dream I said, "God is the only perfection." Friends, I was awakened by a loud voice saying, "There is no such thing as perfection." There is a sentence about which to think, as the foundation of life is completely gone if God is not Perfection.

Pythagoras made the longest journey on foot of which there is any record. He traveled through Greece, Egypt, Persia, India, China, Tibet, and found all philosophies, religions and metaphysics were seeking to know God. Max Mueller, Keiserling, Boehme, Victor Cousin, Albert Pike, Madame Blavatsky, Manly Hall, and a host of modern and ancient students and masters have found that Kapila's Hindu Philosophy is the fountain-head of that vast river of philosophical

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thought which is circling the world today. The religions—that of Moses, the mysteries of Egypt, philosophy of Confucius, Zoroaster, Buddha, Mohammed and the brotherly love taught by Jesus, the Christ—have had their beginnings in the teachings found in the ancient scriptures of the Orient. The Vedic Hymns written in Sanskrit—the oldest known writing, thousands of years before the Christian era, are among the great books of the world. Max Mueller, the eminent German philosopher, once said: "Take all the literature in the world from me and leave me the Upanishads. I shall have the wisdom of the centuries at my command and be blessed indeed."

Ruins bleaching on the sands of Egypt, crumbling temples in the jungle fastness of India, Tibet, Persia, China, Japan, Alaska, Central and South America and in our own United States, have figures startling in their monstrous shapes, grotesque faces that are awe inspiring in their hideous beauty. Remotest antiquity had crosses, curves, dots, animals and flowers carved on temples and rocks to symbolize the ancient wisdom.

What is it that constitutes this hidden wisdom? Briefly, it is: Man know thyself. All the wisdom in the world is in the answer to Why am I here? Where do I go? What am I? and it is our purpose to present to you the Three-Fold Path of Attainment: a Path of Yoga Philosophy by which man can know himself. It is a straight road. There is a beautiful Sanskrit story that tells of it—the story of the Rider and the Driver. I have condensed it into the following poem:

Life drives us on relentlessly each day  
Nor gives us time to pause along the way.

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Tries our soul-timber as we rush along.  
Seems not to hear our weary, heart-throb song.  
Our chariot—the body—strong, divine,  
That takes us onward as we upward climb.  
The driver—Intellect—the rider, Soul,  
The reins, the mind that guides us to the goal.  
The senses—five big, plunging, untamed steeds—  
Convincing us we have unnumbered needs.  
Desire forever pushing on to gain  
Shows us exacting Law is not in vain,  
That essence of the I is all in all  
When Driver answers Rider's mystic call.  
'Tis thus Life tries our metal strong or weak  
And leads us to the shrine for which we seek.

\* \* \* \*

We have amongst us here in Northern California a great example of this driver going straight to his goal. He is a young poet; no matter what alluring things have beckoned him, no matter how flowery the pathway leading off the main hard-beaten path, he has kept his eyes lifted, and his steeds (the five physical senses) in absolute control. He has worked, slaved, concentrated day and night on his desire for beauty and perfection in poetry and to become a recognized poet. Scribners' are bringing out this book and the first two hundred copies have been sold for two dollars and fifty cents per copy. This man has won by concentrating on a great desire and by keeping his mind one-pointed and on his goal.

No doubt you are asking what this has to do with Occult Philosophy or the Three-Fold Path of Attainment. I relate this because it points the way of attainment on the mental plane—the path that leads to

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knowledge. All of our lectures, all class work which we give, show only the path and give the means of transportation; each one must go the path alone and keep the mind fixed on the goal. If desire, right desire, possesses the mind, as it did in the case of this young poet, the Soul and the Cosmic Forces will guide us to our reward.

Friends, we are fellow students along the Three-Fold Path of life. We follow the ancient way of Yoga because it is the source of all philosophy. We have found and still find that it answers all of our needs and is leading us to the shrine of Wisdom. We do not ask you to believe what we are telling you but we do ask you, if you feel so inclined, to investigate and find out for yourself whether we are telling the truth—whether this philosophy does open the portal of Attainment.

You all know the word 'Yoga' means unity—unity with the Absolute, unity with our fellow men, unity with nature—all are manifestations and a part of the bright, effulgent ONE. Yoga philosophy stands as a great tree rooted in the heart of All Wisdom. Its branches have leaves and flowers and fruits that develop the body and the mind and lead to unity with GOD. This tree according to Yoga philosophy has several branches.

Hatha Yoga deals with the physical body, its health, its functions. One cannot hope to use the mind if the body is not in harmonious accord with the mind. How can the mind function if the five physical senses are forever jumping around like the proverbial flea? How can one meditate or concentrate on the principles and realities underlying life, if they are bound by sense desires or trembling in the throes of biological

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thrills? Hatha Yoga teaches how to become master of the body.

Raja Yoga, the Yoga of reason, teaches the power of the mind. Our modern psychologists are teaching Raja Yoga though they call it by a different name. They teach that man has two minds, the conscious or the intellectual mind and the subjective or subconscious mind. The Yogis speak however of the conscious, the subconscious—the superconscious and the Spirit or Mind in its Essence. Yogis teach there is but ONE mind manifesting in different rays of vibration, but all functioning from the One Mind. It is difficult for beginners to understand a mass of terminology. Every thing in the universe is difficult to understand when one tries to comprehend with the intellect alone. So the Yogis teach Gnani Yoga, the power of knowledge.

This one—Mind, God, Jehovah, Om, whatever we may call that which eternally IS, which has always been, which will always BE and which has many aspects. Gnani Yoga teaches when we are awake to the use of the conscious and the subconscious minds. We arrive at knowledge and the use of the superconscious mind.

Gnani, the Yoga of right knowledge is effective in its action to him who possesses the requisite desire for knowledge and to him who will be guided by one who does possess knowledge.

Someone has said, "Love is the veil that keeps us from our Beloved"—this is true on the mental or physical planes. Love of God leads to HIM, and when a consciousness of union comes, we become aware that the veil is only a concept of our own minds, a veil of ignorance. Ignorance is the tap-root of all discord,

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wretchedness and misery in the world. All the ugliness, all the error, folly and hatred, all the impotence of man is due to ignorance. It is unreasonable to suppose a thing is attainable if one is ignorant of its existence. This is why I am going somewhat into detail regarding the Three-Fold Path that banishes ignorance. I mean, of course, when the light of knowledge comes in, the darkness of ignorance departs. This is absolutely the Truth, as many of you know.

Therefore, when taking up the study of Yoga, Vedanta, the Rosicrucian, Doctrine, Theosophy, metaphysics or any philosophy, right desire is the first requisite. What do I mean by right desire? I mean, will the knowledge gained from this tree of knowledge be used rightly or wrongly? Through the subconscious mind we can bring into manifestation any desire.

Now, what is a right desire? Ask yourself this question: Is this thing I want going to bring injury or unhappiness to another or rob him of his own in any way? If it is, then it is a wrong desire. Drop it! On the other hand, if this desire will bring us peace, happiness, prosperity, and soul growth, it is the right desire; concentrate on it until it is manifested in life. Now, are you stubborn and insist upon using knowledge wrongfully for gaining the object of a wrong desire? If so, ask yourself if you are willing to take the consequences that come with the fulfillment of wrong desire. Remember, as we sow we reap. Thistles come from thistles—lilies from lilies. Pain and pleasure are consequences of desire. The disciple who is aflame with right desire will find co-workers of the cosmic powers, when he has learned his lessons.

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By devotion and work he will find an Elder Brother by his side who will be ready always to help him. He will find that this joy of contact with a Bright Celestial One will constitute his chief happiness in life. "Like a beautiful flower full of color, without scent, are the fine words of him who does not live accordingly; but like a beautiful flower full of scent and color, are the words of him who acts accordingly."

We must remember that all religions and philosophies are based on some power of monism—oneness of the unknown principle. All occultists and mystics in their various schools teach that this One Eternal principle (of which we are a part) is One Being, Life Essence, constituting all forms of life, animate or inanimate; that all manifestations are vibrating with this divine energy—from man to a grain of sand. Call it power, energy, principle, Jehovah, Allah, God, Om. It matters not, for it is that which IS, which always WAS, which ever shall BE. The mystic prayer of a Master, a pagan invocation, or the chant ascending with the beating of a voodoo drum are all acceptable to God.

Bhakti Yoga deals directly with the love and devotion of this Absolute Principle. It brings peace and happiness through faith. It is the outgrowth of knowledge, whose root and fruit is wisdom. Bhakti Yoga teaches the principle of Love underlying all life. Jesus, the Christ, was a Bhakti. He studied in other schools in India, Persia, Tibet and Egypt with the Masters for thirteen years. Then He said, "Father, Thy will and not Mine, be done."

My Master has been teaching in America for nearly thirty years. He has adapted the Oriental teachings



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to the western mind; and in all this time has not had one student who has gone off at a tangent, or who has become physically, mentally or spiritually unbalanced (like so many students who try to reach the goal before learning the A B C's of philosophy.) He insists upon his students keeping their feet on the ground, their eyes lifted to the stars and their thoughts on God. No student is allowed to take advanced work until he has mastered the primary lessons. Many students have not gone very far; some have dropped out. Some have persevered and are teaching today. In all these years, however, he has had but two students who have followed the path of Bhakti Yoga, the path of devotion. It means renunciation, poverty. It means celibacy. It means rising above all desire, even desire for the Absolute. Without any effort, Bhakti brings everything one desires or needs. That is the meaning of "Thy will, not mine, be done," one of the highest laws of Bhakti.

One question that is in the mind of everyone is: What is God? What is reality? We see great masses of what we call matter manifested everywhere. We know that back of these manifestations there is a force or energy which we cannot see. We see matter dissolve into gases, ashes, dust; into some other manifestation—and then a mystery confronts us. We see this energy and force manifesting again in fruit and flowers, but the SOURCE of the energy or force we cannot see. This something that produces all there is, the Occultists term "That." It cannot be sensed by the five physical faculties, but can be realized by the supermind or spiritual mind through the study of Yoga.

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It is well taught by all true teachers that it is necessary to acquire a knowledge of all branches of Yoga. Hatha Yoga, to keep the body in perfect health, is the first teaching; Raja Yoga is the Royal road of the intellect; Gnani Yoga teaches the knowledge of the universe, it teaches that ignorance is fatal to soul growth, that knowledge cannot be gained by a single formula. It is not to be supposed that you follow all of these paths. Any one of them leads to knowledge and knowledge leads to wisdom. Wisdom leads in turn to unity with the Absolute. Each one of us will choose our own path, in our cycle of development; but the Masters consider it necessary to study each branch for a rounded out knowledge in order to practice what we learn. For, knowledge without work will take us into byways and we will not advance on the Path of Attainment.

Yoga fruit hangs on the tree of life;  
Who choose, may come and eat.  
Within each fruit is Wisdom's gift,  
The bitter seed, and the sweet.

Those who earnestly desire, and are willing to contemplate this Tree of Life, will sooner or later eat of the fruit of knowledge and sit in its Golden Shadows. Desire, work, obedience not only to the teachings but to the highest motives of the consciousness within our hearts will bring us to the Inner Temple where peace is found. By 'peace' I do not mean inactivity. I mean peace in activity, which is greater by far and comes with work, knowledge and wisdom. All life is a struggle. It is not a scene of repose but of energetic action from atom to man.

This brings us to Karma Yoga, dealing with cause

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and effect, with reincarnation and the reason WHY we are what we are. Madame Blavatsky in her *Secret Doctrine* gives one of the best lessons on Karma that I have found. She says in this wonderful book of occult wisdom:

"Nor would the ways of Karma be inscrutable were men to work in union and harmony instead of disunion and strife. For our ignorance of those ways which one man calls the ways of providence, dark and intricate, while another sees in them the action of blind fatalism and a third simply chance, with neither gods nor devils to guide them—would surely disappear if we would but attribute all these to their direct cause with right knowledge, or at any rate with a confident conviction that our neighbors will no more work harm to us than we would think of harming them. Two-thirds of the world's evils would vanish, were no man to hurt his neighbor, Karma—Nemesis would neither have cause to work for, nor weapons to act through \* \* \* We stand bewildered before the mystery of our own making and the riddle of life that we will not solve! And then accuse the Great Sphynx of devouring us. But verily there is not an incident in our lives, not a misshapen day or a misfortune, that could not be traced back to our actions in this or another life. Knowledge of Karma gives the conviction that if:

'Virtue in distress, and Vice in triumph  
Makes atheists of mankind'

it is only because mankind has ever shut his eyes to the great truth, that man is himself his own savior

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as his own destroyer; that he need not accuse heaven and the gods, fates and providence, of the apparent injustice that reigns in the midst of humanity. But let him rather remember that bit of Grecian wisdom which warns man to forbear accusing That which

'Just though mysterious leads us unerringly through ways unmarked from guilt or punishment.' "

Thus has spoken one of the wisest of the Wise of Karma Yoga. Under the operation of the laws of Karma every man is master of his own destiny. He punishes himself, he rewards himself. He builds his character or tears it down. He goes back in his cycle of development, or goes ahead; but always Infinite Love, the Spirit of Love, is constantly exerting the upward spiritual urge which draws the soul to ultimate victory and a haven of rest.

It is said that the advanced races were old souls freed from Karmic law. They were the progressive and developed souls of Lemuria and Atlantis and the ancient Masters who lived their lives elsewhere are now reincarnating either on a higher plane of life or else are reincarnated among us today. They are striving with all their wisdom to save the present races from the destruction which overtook them and are working for the betterment of man. If our civilization fails in its duty to God, it will go down not in water as did the Lost Continent of Lemuria, but in fire, or be wiped out by vibrations so strong it cannot withstand them; so it is prophesied! It is up to each of us to shed all the light we can upon negative world conditions today and try to show mankind the road to world peace, to happiness—to God.

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"In the stream within thyself, O friend,  
make thy ablutions;  
In the stream within thyself wash out  
the tumult and despair of life;  
In the stream within thyself absorb the  
love and beauty and peace of God."

Do not be like a man who sleeps in a vale. A bird flies above him to the mountain—he sees it not. He sees not the blue sky or the drifting clouds, nor the loveliness of day fade into the grandeur of night. He does not see the moon silvering his couch nor feel the stargleams kissing his eyes. He is not conscious of the trembling leaves nor the song they sing; nor does he see the nodding flowers or catch their fragrance. Be not like such a man, O friend. "The cock crows 'morning'! It is time to awake and to thy work. If you cannot teach, spread the teachings as best you can."

Tom Paine has said "Society is produced by our wants, Government by our wickedness. The former promotes our happiness positively; the latter negatively, by restraining our vices. Society is a blessing and government a necessary evil." Rama Krishna has said "A guru is a man who introduces another to God." The object of these lessons is to kindle a fire in each soul so that each may become a law unto himself. Then we will not need the government that Paine calls a "necessary evil," nor a creed. Each will realize he is master of his own ship. There is a lovely Persian story that is apropos—who have ears to hear will hear:

One knocked at the Beloved's door. It was asked from within, "Who is there?" He who knocked re-

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plied: "It is I," and received the reply, "There is no room for two." Again the one without knocked and a voice within asked, "Who is there?" The one without replied in rapturous tones, "It is Thou!" Against such a reply the door is never shut. Within are the deep waters of the mysteries and the body is bathed in bliss. Without, we wander at will toward the portal of desire, selfishness and greed, or toward the shrine of wisdom. Not one of us has come to earth without bringing a desire to be of help to someone, but it is you who have the light that are able to explain to your asking brother. Without any obscurity and without any magic, you can light the brightest flame. Yoga philosophy is to me the peerless pathway; it takes us step by step above all selfishness and superstition—in the end we too can knock and truly say "It is Thou." Rama Krishna says he who sees God in all, needs no creed. He saw the same God in all religions and all religious peoples seeking after God on their own plane of development. We must try to realize Him in our present life by every possible means. God is not found by rituals alone, though rituals to some are the path that leads to Him. Loving God with our whole mind and soul and loving our fellow men as ourselves will help to save civilization. Tolerance, sincerity, compassion, unselfishness and a deep desire for spirituality are what lead to Him and to peace on earth. Without Him there is no pathway. Earth, without Him, can not bring peace. A wise one has said, "He is the Lord of Lords, whose love flows out to humanity as rivers flow into the sea—

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"He feedeth and sustaineth all that one sees  
He is the Diadem of Beauty.  
He is the Crown of Truth,  
The Scepter of Reality."

We had a most elevating experience recently. A friend, who has been a student of philosophy for forty years, has studied under Vivekananda, Abbehananda, Trignutitta and other Masters who came to America. On one occasion his master took him on a pilgrimage to the Vedanta Ashrama up in the mountains so that he might be in the solitude and, in the silence, might more abundantly learn of God. They went afoot from San Francisco. All along the mountain trails the Master kept saying and the disciple repeating this wonderful affirmation:

"I have made Thee the Pole-Star of my being  
So that I may never lose my way on the sea  
of life.  
Wherever I go Thou art present  
Wherever I am Thou art there!  
I have made Thee the Pole-Star of my  
being.  
Should fear possess my troubled mind and  
lead my soul astray  
May I look aloft, and be ashamed to see  
the vision of Thy face.  
I have made Thee the Pole-Star of my  
being."

What a glorious affirmation! What renunciation.  
What faith. What victory! After twelve years of study

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under the Vedanta Masters, my friend had to choose between becoming a monk or going into the world. He chose the latter and today goes about garbed at times in blue overalls and blue shirt, giving help to those who need it and giving wisdom to those ready to receive. Few know of his mission in life, few of the victory he has achieved.

Friends, when one knocks at thy door and seeks to enter in, O do not turn thy face, it may be A Christ who is standing there.

In closing, I will repeat Rama Krishna's dying words: "Friends, I am giving you what I have to give. I take nothing with me. Depend not on any man. Depend on Him, and through His power do great kindness to your fellow men. After that is done, you will return to the House of Song whence you came."

Let us do what we can to help our fellow men to find this house of song. Let us do all we can to merit admittance to it ourselves.

Peace of the North attend us  
Peace of the South uphold us  
Peace of the East enfold us  
Peace of the West embrace us  
Mother Earth bring health to us,  
Father God abide with us—  
Help us to help mankind.

May the glory of self-realization abide with us forever.

Aum—Shanti—Shanti—Aum.



## INVOCATION

*Sing me thy love, mystic Gong of the East,  
Bronze Gong from the Temple of Gods  
Sing me the prayers from the coins of the poor,  
Sing me the hopes in the gold of the rich,  
Tell me of Wise Men, the wisdom they know,  
That soul of my soul may awaken and grow:  
Sing! . . . Sing! . . . Sing! . . .*

*Sing me a song of the Earth, Sacred Gong,  
Bronze Gong from the Temple of Gods  
Voice all the sweetness in song-birds of Spring,  
Sing all the joy in the laughter of Man;  
Sing all the power in the thunderous sea,  
In all of thy songs, brings HIS message to me:  
Sing OM! . . . Om! . . . Om! . . .*

*Sing me a song of the Universe, Gong,  
Bronze Gong from the Temple of Gods  
Thy own ancient voice holds HIS love-song for  
me,  
The secrets, the glory, the Truth—Mystery!  
Withhold not the spirit that dwells in thy voice,  
Sing long, that the soul of me, too, may rejoice:  
Sing! . . . Sing! . . . Sing! . . .*

*Sing me a song of the Cosmos, O Gong,  
Bronze Gong from the Temple of Gods  
Voice me the rhythm in movement of stars,  
Rain down the essence in gold of the sun;  
Illumine the silence in nebulous space  
And mirror the substance reflecting HIS face:  
Sing! . . . Sing! . . . Sing! . . .*

*Sing of Jehovah, symbolical Gong,  
Bronze Gong from the Temple of Gods  
Sing of the purging of HIS burning flame;  
Sing of the Kapila, the Buddha, The Christ;  
Sing of their service at Brotherhood's shrine,  
Sing union of all in the God-head, Divine:  
Sing OM! . . . Om! . . . Om! . . .*



## CONCLUSION

**A**MIRAGE of romance surrounds the moon and dims eyes of the pointed stars. Intangible spirits walk the earth and pluck at the core of the heart. The full moon like a silver bubble sails in the afterglow. The wind sighs in the willow boughs while invisible tides of emotions sweep the mind. The echo of the sea, the warmth of the earth and the trembling leaves, all merge in One. The roots of trees, like gnarled fingers, come through the earth for light and the unseen winds that leap the canyon walls, unify the temporal things with the Eternal. Souls in black abyss beyond the stars and the elemental mind of man merge in Eternal Mind that they may commune with the Beloved.

The mutilated concept of Divinity and the world does not hamper the minds of the primitive people from seeking their God. Nor does it impede the progress of the advanced souls that are close to God.

Wise people learn that the canonading thunder communes with the dewdrop dripping from a rose; they see forms too shadowy for the mortal eyes to see, hear voices whisper in a mystic language which cannot be translated with the reasoning mind.

These people know as did the ancient Polynesians that, "It is folly to pick fruit from the tree before it is ripe: that until events of life unfold, man is ignorant where they may end." They know when the gods are ready to give the wisdom (wisdom we must earn) and not until then, may we know what this earthly life portends. To seek to know the hidden mysteries of life before we are ready to understand their mean-

ing is foolishness and conflicts with the purpose of reincarnation and soul growth and the Eternal Law.

The body is the temple of the soul and the mind is controlled in a measure by the intellectual mind. It is, at times, misled by the five physical senses. But, The Self-creating Self glorifies the body and the mind and attunes us with the Universal Whole. Man's soul is not like a pale lemon glow, nor is it like the blazing sun falling in the Pacific. It is the temple of the Spirit which contains the whole of the Cosmic Mind, so effulgent in its Light it blinds the eyes.

To bring man into closer union with this Bright Effulgent One, is the object of this book. May you prosper on the Path that lead's to Wisdom's Shrine.

### *Sons of the Earth*

*Think well of the days when you are One with Me.  
The nights will bring you peaceful slumber,  
Brightness like the sun will fill your eyes,  
Hours of joy will go with you  
And the ancient walls of the Earth  
Will echo your gladsome song.  
There will be no gloom! You will know  
You are a part of Me, Omnipotent, Omnipresent,  
Omniscient.*

*In those days your heart will beat in unison with My  
heart  
And you will be carried along in honor, peace and  
joy  
By the noble order of the Bright Celestial Throng.  
Aum . . . Shanti . . . Shanti . . . Aum.*

PEACE      PEACE      PEACE

## My Prayer

O Thou the Absolute the Infinite  
The only Reality,  
Give me wisdom and faith  
So that I may open the portal  
To my illimitable powers.

Om tat sat, Om!

The portal of my mind  
Is now open  
To the inflow of spiritual knowledge:  
It is my soul-aspiration and desire  
To become one with Thee  
United and inseparable,  
The help of the Elder Brothers is mine.

Om tat sat, Om!

—Swami Bhagwan Bissessar.