

THE PORTICO

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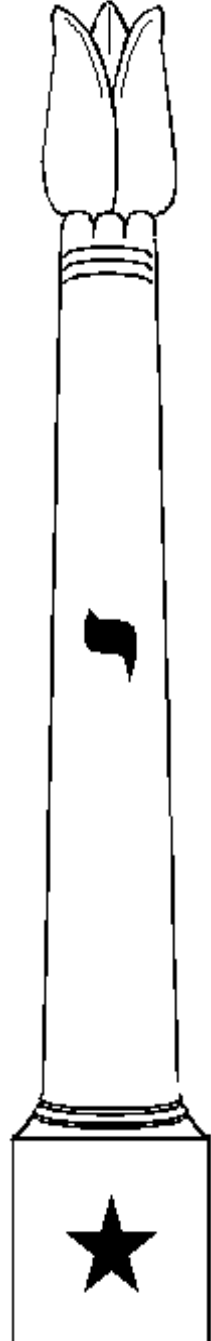


*Lord, make me an instrument of thy
peace;
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
and where there is sadness, joy.*

*Divine Master,
grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled
as to console;
to be understood as to understand;
to be loved as to love;
for it is in giving that we receive:
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
and it is in dying
that we are born to eternal life.*

-St. Francis of Assisi

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“Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it...”

To Our Members

by Paul Foster Case

(First published in in the Wheel of Life, Autumn Equinox, 1936)

We are often asked these questions: “Why do you condemn so many other schools and teachers? Has B.O.T.A. a monopoly on occult knowledge? Might it not be better to maintain silence concerning teachers and movements with whose opinions and practices you do not agree? Does destructive criticism ever make for harmony?” This article is an endeavor to make our position clear.

First of all, we condemn no person. Even what the world judges to be willful deception and dishonesty we regard as being spiritual and mental disease, often having its origin in a physical ailment. Glandular imbalance frequently manifests as “criminality.” The analytical psychologists have made it clear that the correct designation for much that has been called “wickedness” is really “neurosis.” We judge no man, nor do we condemn any.

Yet a lie is a lie, even when he who tells it believes he spoke the truth. Plagiarism is theft, no matter how twisted the mentality of the plagiarist may justify it to himself. Dangerous practices are not less harmful because their advocates are not aware of the risks they run.

He who maintains silence about a lie helps to spread the deception. He who permits plagiarism to pass unchallenged is an accomplice in the theft. He who refuses to point out the danger of ignorant tampering with occult forces is responsible for the death or insanity which may come to those he fails to warn.

Malicious criticism and harsh judgements are to be avoided, of course; but destructive criticism is often required in order to clear the ground for constructive teaching.

B.O.T.A. claims no monopoly on wisdom nor any possession of the truth. It has responsibility for disseminating knowledge which has been tested and tried in the fires of experience. That experience includes not a little first-hand knowledge of the dangers that beset beginners on the occult path. To give clear warning of those dangers is part of our duty.

The work of building the Adytum, or house of God, in human personality and in human society has many aspects. It offers something of value to the most diverse temperament. Not every Builder of the Adytum is known by that name. Not every person is called to the study of Tarot, Qabalah, Alchemy or the Sacred Magic.

Among our fellow builders none are doing finer work than the physical scientists. The researchers in such institutions as the Massachusetts and California Institutes of Technology, the great framers of new concepts, like Einstein, Eddington and Jeans, biologists like Alexia Carrel, psychologists like Jung, and hosts of other devoted laborers in every field of science, have done as much for the Great Work as any professional occultist.

Pioneers in the New Thought, like Helen Wilmans, William Walker Atkinson, Elizabeth Towns, Henry Wood and Judge Troward have all made valuable contributions. Manley Hall has awakened thousands from the dream of crass materialism. Dwight Goddard, from his

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retreat in Santa Barbara, spreads the wisdom of the Buddha throughout the English-speaking world. Alice Bailey has made the Arcane School a powerful influence for good. The prodigious labors of Marc Edmund Jones have an effect that goes far beyond the limits of his circle of students. Despite differences of opinion and policy, all the Theosophical societies have done and are doing much to leaven Western thought with Eastern wisdom. The work of Rudolf Steiner and Max Heindel of the Unity School of Christianity and of many others we lack space to mention, brings light and help to many persons whose mental bent does not dispose them to the special training offered by B.O.T.A.

In our own field, while we find not a little to criticize in some of the opinions of A.E. Waite, we gladly acknowledge the inestimable value of his translations of Eliphas Levi, the rich suggestiveness of his book on Tarot, and the service he has rendered to students of alchemy and Rosicrucianism. We would not recommend Aleister Crowley as a guide in practical occultism. Yet his *Book 777* is the finest thing of its kind. We doubt the wisdom of Israel Regardie's intention to publish in full the lectures and rituals of the Golden Dawn, but his books *The Garden of Pomegranates* and *The Tree of Life* contain much valuable material.

The same may be said of the Qabalistic books written by Frater Achad. Excellent work is being done also by Dion Fortune, whose Fraternity of the Inner Light has much the same background as Builders of the Adytum and whose book, *The Mystical Qabalah*, will receive expanded notice in a future essay.

B.O.T.A. Headquarters Now Offers The Lessons In Spanish
To request the lessons in Spanish, or to request application information in Spanish, please contact the Office.

Let it be understood that we do not pretend to agree with every detail of the doctrines of the schools and writers we have named. There is plenty of room for honest difference of opinion, both as to doctrine and practice, in every department of occult study. Uniformity is by no means desirable, yet many confuse it with unity. The building of the Adytum calls for many kinds of work, and many types of workmen. None of us comprehends the whole Plan, however well we may be acquainted with the blueprints having to do with our part of the undertaking.

Builders of the Adytum stands for utter freedom for every one of its affiliates. To serve the best interests of our work we have certain regulations for those persons entrusted with positions of responsibility. These regulations are few in number, and aim at nothing more than the orderly conduct of this particular enterprise.

Over and over again, Ageless Wisdom reiterates the truth that there can be no freedom without order. Freedom, in fact, consists in our knowing the order which is the very framework of all manifestation, and living in harmony with it. Because this is true, he who is charged with transmitting any part of Ageless Wisdom must be free to warn when doctrine or practice runs counter to cosmic law. Yet at the same time the student must be free to exercise his own powers of discrimination and judgement. This is our policy, and we hope we have made it clear.

We often meet a man or woman in their seventies or eighties, who are dynamic, who seem to bubble over with the joy of living and frequently we meet someone in their thirties or forties who seem much too old for their years. Why is this so? What makes one old at 40 and another young at 60?

Actually, youth is not a specific time of life. It is a mental attitude. A supple body, rosy cheeks and red lips, in themselves, do not make for youth. It is the agile mind, the quality of imagination, healthy emotions, a temper of will and the freshness of the deep springs of life. Youth means courage in adversity, a keen attitude for the adventure of life.

Years do not make a man grow old; he grows old when he sacrifices his ideals for love of ease. Years may wrinkle the flesh, but fear, worry, doubt, hate, envy and despair wrinkle the soul.

“Verily, I say unto you, whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child shall in no wise enter therein.” [Luke 18:17]

In the heart of every human being, be he eight, eighteen or eighty, is the seed of wonder, the wonder at the immensity of the heavens and starlike things and thoughts. The thrill and challenge of the unknown, the joy of playing the game of life. When we can realize this simple fact, we find that we are after all as young as our faith, as old as our doubts; as young as our self-confidence, as old as our fears; as young as knowledge and as old as ignorance.

In the central place of your heart is the flame of love. As long as you keep it burning, you are young. When you permit it to die down you become old. So long as you feed this flame the fuel of beauty, faith, knowledge, hope, courage and the divine love of God, and your fellow man, so long are you young!

נעור, (NOVR) nawoor, youth, youthfulness. Gematria value 326.

יהשׁוּה, (IHSHVH) Yeheshua, Jesus. Gematria value 326.

Inspirational Thoughts on the Tarot

by Ann Davies

New Edition! A selection of Ann Davies’ poetry has been added to the original material from Dr. Ann Davies’ Tarot classes. These essays are designed to direct the aspirant to ever deeper insight into the real mystery of the Major Tarot Keys. With each new reading, the main seed-thoughts help the student to assimilate, in a self-conscious manner, the attributions of the Tarot Keys. Includes black & white illustrations of the Major Tarot Keys. Hardcover. \$15.00

Fortune Telling and the Sacred Tarot (From Zenith News Notes, September 1983)

The question is asked every now and then, “Do you give Tarot readings or could you refer me to someone who does?”

To each such question, we always say that in a sacred Order such as this, we must always maintain the high standards of the purpose of the work of which we are the custodians. This standard requires of us that we do not use the Tarot Keys for fortune telling. The Keys were never intended for such a purpose but for the use which is abundantly clear in the published work of this Order.

However, the Keys, being symbols of universal principles lend themselves to divinatory purposes, especially in the hands of a sensitive or psychic person. The limiting factors lie in the true level of the reader and their ability to reach the true level of querist.

However interesting a reading may be, it adds nothing to those special qualities of self transmutation which have been developed so carefully. Looking downwards into enticing depths is a fascinating but fatal practice and is essentially a form of escapism. The opposite approach is to quietly build one's daily life on sound principles and to become more subtly aware of our changing states of beingness.

It was Professor Jung who observed that everything that has birth takes on something of that moment of time. The unfolding of the latency of that moment leads to the life pattern which will be experienced. To do so nobly with courage is our aim. This is quite different to having dependency on a commercial Tarot reading which on close examination adds nothing. It is not denied that prognostications of future states of being can be made by various methods, but this is also quite different to giving definition to specific events within that state. The latter would be fortune-telling which both the law of the Torah and the exercise of good sense prohibit.

If you desire to make the most progress within your life pattern, stay with the positive use of the Tarot Keys as you are taught. You are then **cooperating** with Deity towards establishing the Kingdom of Heaven on Earth.

Praise by Dr. R.W. Felkin
(From Zenith News Notes, December 1982)

See how true and natural an emblem of praise the smoke of incense is! Watch its delicate beauty, the grace of its curling lines. Note the perfume, and compare all these with the spontaneous song of praise and thanksgiving which our little neighbors the birds give forth when they are rejoicing in the sunshine and cool breeze.

We do not praise God enough. Even if we have but little voice to use, yet we can hum or sing softly. Even those birds who have no song manage to chirp or twitter, and what a cheerful sound they make!

A child should be taught to sing as naturally as the birds. If he is taught to use his voice when he is young, then he will learn at the same time to breathe properly and hold himself erect. Nobody can sing properly if they are hunched up or twisted. You must stand erect and draw in deep breaths. That means your shoulders are thrown back and your head up. A full round mellow voice should be as natural to a human being as walking.

Sing ye praises with understanding!

Love laughter and song.

These keep life sweet

And wholesome.

Would you like to be personally trained by Ann Davies?

Our beloved Soror Ann Davies, who died in 1975, had the foresight to have most of her Sunday Service messages recorded. Last year, four of those talks were made available to the membership. The proceeds from that project continues to fund on-going tape preservation work.

Many Study Groups play Ann's Sunday Service tapes, but many members are without access to these groups. These tapes provide a wonderful opportunity to listen to the wisdom transmitted through her beautiful soul.

Sunday Service Talks by Ann Davies - Four Lectures Set II

Set II, four selected Sunday Service Talks by Ann Davies is now available from Headquarters for \$16.00. There are also some copies of Set I still available, for those who missed the first offering.

***THE TAROT*— NEW Spanish Language Edition**

El Tarot, Una Clave de la Sabiduria Eterna, por el Dr. Paul F. Case. Hardcover, \$17.00

The Old Nurse

And Nature, the old nurse, took
The Child upon her knee,
saying: "Here is a story book
Thy Father has written for thee."

"Come, wander with me," she said,
"Into regions yet untrod;
And read what is still unread
In the manuscripts of God."

And he wandered away and away
With Nature, the dear old nurse,
Who sang to him night and day
The rhymes of the Universe.

And wherever the way seemed long,
Or his heart began to fail,
She would sing a more wonderful song
Or tell a more marvelous tale.

~Longfellow