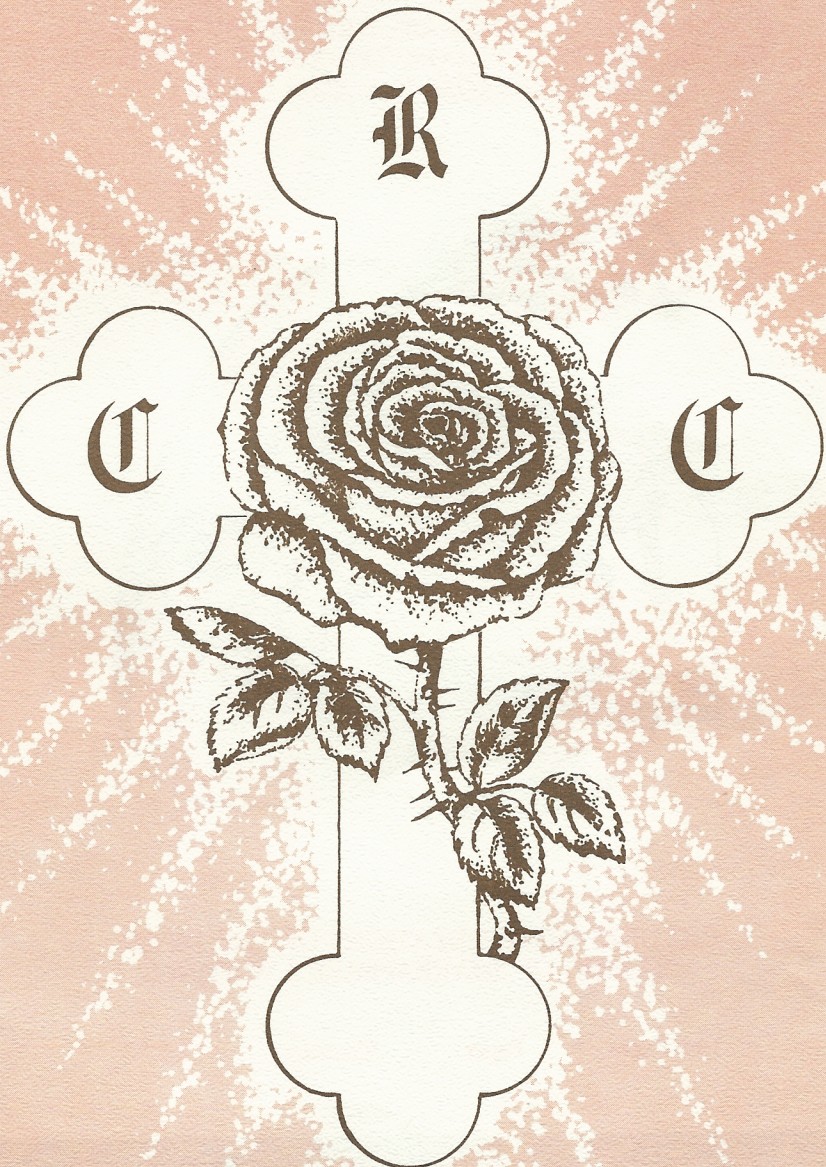


Rays from the Rose Cross

June, 1981 .65



THE ROSICRUCIAN FELLOWSHIP

THE DEEPER TRUTHS OF SHAKESPEARE

A COLLECTION OF ARTICLES WRITTEN BY STUDENTS
OF THE WESTERN WISDOM TEACHINGS AS PRINTED
IN *RAYS FROM THE ROSE CROSS*



INCLUDES INTERPRETATIONS OF THE INNER
MEANING OF SHAKESPEARE'S WRITINGS

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"A SANE MIND, A SOFT HEART, A SOUND BODY"

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The Summer Solstice

We are now at the time of the Summer Solstice, the season during which physical manifestation on Earth reaches its height.

Each year a spiritual wave of vitality enters the Earth at the winter solstice to impregnate the dormant seeds in the frozen ground, to give new life to the world whereon we live, and this work is done during the winter months while the Sun is passing through the zodiacal signs Capricorn, Aquarius, and Pisces.

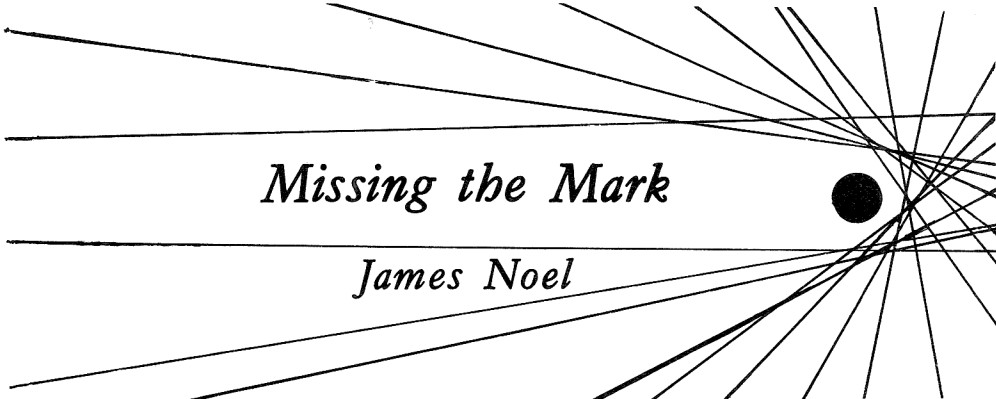
Cosmically, the Sun is born on the longest and darkest night of the year when Virgo, the Celestial Virgin, stands upon the eastern horizon at midnight to bring forth the immaculate Child. During the months next following, the Sun passes through the violent sign Capricorn where, mythically, all the powers of darkness are concentrated in a frantic endeavor to kill the Light-bearer, a phase of the solar drama which is mystically presented in the story of King Herod and the flight into Egypt to escape death.

When the Sun enters the sign Aquarius, the water-man, in February, we have the time of rain and storms; and as the Baptism mystically consecrates the Saviour to His work of service, so also the floods of moisture that descend upon the Earth soften and mellow it so that it may yield the fruits whereby the lives of those who dwell here are preserved.

. . . Then comes the Sun's passage through the sign Pisces, the fishes. At this time the stores of the preceding year have been almost consumed and man's food is scarce. Therefore we have the long fast of Lent which mystically represents, for the aspirant, the same ideal as that cosmically shown by the Sun. There is at this time the carne-vale, the farewell to the flesh, for everyone who aspires to the higher life must at some time bid farewell to the lower nature with all its desires and prepare himself for the Passover which is then near.

In April, when the Sun crosses the celestial equator and enters the sign Aries, the Lamb, the cross stands as a mystic symbol of the fact that the candidate to the higher life must learn to lay down the mortal coil and begin the ascent of Golgotha, the place in the skull; thence to cross the threshold into the invisible world. Finally, in imitation of the Sun's ascent into the signs of the northern heavens, to foster with its warming rays the growth of the seed in the soil which has been revitalized by the Christic wave during the winter months, he must learn that his place is with the Father and that ultimately he is to ascend to that exalted place.

So it is that at the present time, during the season culminating June 21st, the Great Christ Spirit has reached the World of Divine Spirit, the throne of the Father. During July and August, while the Sun is in Cancer and Leo, He is rebuilding His Life Spirit vehicle which He is to bring to the world and with it rejuvenate the Earth and the life kingdoms evolving in and upon it.



Missing the Mark

James Noel

We have all heard it said that we are sinners and that we stand in need of salvation. The Bible states in Romans Chapter 3, “For we have all sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.”

The question to ask is “Why are we considered sinners?” The orthodox answer to this question is clear. Our sin came through Adam and our salvation is through Christ. How do the Rosicrucian Teachings answer this question? We as students of the Western Wisdom Teachings study the hidden mysteries of life. We study Astrology, Rebirth and Philosophy. Some may be surprised to learn that even though we are students of esoteric subjects our basic answer to this question is the same. Sin came through Adam and salvation comes through Christ.

From the orthodox viewpoint we are asked to accept Christ and salvation through Faith. There are many who have been able to do so and their lives have been transformed. They now enjoy a peace that surpasses all understanding. But just as there have been those that have been able to accept Christ through Faith, there have also been those that have not been able to do so. Their minds rebelled against the idea of doing so. Their minds were filled with too many unanswered questions, such as “Why are we considered sinners?”

The word which is translated *sin* in both the Old and New Testaments means to *miss the mark* or *not to hit*. Understanding this we now see that the term sin presents the idea that we have failed to achieve a goal or

complete a task. We now have a better understanding of the passage from Romans Chapter 3 — “For we have all sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.”

What was the task or goal that we failed to complete? To understand this let us go back to a time when we had not yet sinned — a time when there was peace, unity, harmony and love — a time when we were at one with our Father in Heaven, our spiritual home.

In time, and in accordance with God’s Divine plan, we left our Spiritual home and descended into this material world. God, our Father, placed the angels over us to be our guides during this time. Soon, however, we turned from the guidance and strayed from the Path. We chose not to follow the Light that Our Father provided, but instead chose to follow a false light. We soon strayed so far from the Path that it became impossible for us to find our way back on our own.

From the Teachings we read “If someone had stood for thousands of years upon a distant planet and looked clairvoyantly at our little Earth, he would have seen a gradual change from bad to worse in its Desire World and World of Thought. It was getting more and more filled up with murky and bad vibrations, because man, in the days of his earliest childhood, was not able to control his impulse. He was controlled mostly by the Mind and the Desire Body, and therefore after death he had to stay in purgatory almost all of the time between Earth lives: there was almost no progress. The Second Heaven life,

where he learns to do creative work was almost barren. The Desire World of the Earth must be cleansed to give man a new start. That was Christ's mission." So our Father sent his son the Christ to cleanse the world and lead us back to the Divine Path. Through Him we have our salvation. For He is the Light of the World, the Truth and the Way.

What was it that caused us to stray from the Path? What was Christ's role in bringing us back to it? We will answer the first question from the Rosicrucian point of view by tracing the spiritual elements Fire, Earth, Air and Water as they were introduced in our spiritual evolution. We must understand that when we talk about the elements Fire, Earth, Air and Water we are not talking about the chemical elements.

Fire

The first and ever present element in creation is Fire. It is an invisible Fire which is the Father. We are all sparks of that invisible Fire — that Divine Fire which is the Father. We were all created in His likeness. This is the Key to our spiritual unity, each with all. Max Heindel tells us to "ponder well the relationship of Fire and Flame: the former lies sleeping, invisible in everything, and is kindled into light in various ways: by the blow of a hammer upon a stone, by friction of wood against wood and by chemical action, etc. This gives us a clue to the identity of the Father, 'Whom no man hath seen at any-time, but who is revealed in the Light of the World,' the Son."

Thus in the beginning, before we strayed from God, there was but one element, that invisible fire, manifesting as heat. This was at the dawn of creation esoterically known as the Saturn Period. It is referred to in the first verses of Genesis where it states "in the beginning . . . there was darkness."

Air

The second element is Air. The Air coalesced with the true Fire and burst into flames

giving us Light. This took place in the second period known as the Sun Period. In Genesis it is referred to where it is stated: "Let there be Light."

Water

Water was the third element introduced into our scheme of evolution. It is referred to in Genesis where it states that "the waters were divided from the waters."

The introduction of water as a new element marked the turning point in our scheme of evolution. What occurred after this element was introduced and the sequence of events which followed are of vital importance to us if we are to understand why we are considered sinners and why we have missed the mark.

Our present day angels were the humanity of the Moon Period when the element was introduced. We see then, that in each of the periods of our development a new element is added. In the Saturn Period it was Fire, the Sun it was Air, the Moon it was Water. In order for all the beings in these schemes of evolution to progress they need to gain the spiritual experience represented by each of these elements. They need to work with and master the elements.

During the Moon period we find that not all of the spirits were willing to work with the new element Water. Some abhorred Water and instead worked exclusively with Fire. Thus they did not gain the needed experience. They fell behind in their development, they "missed the mark." They became stragglers of their life wave. These rebel spirits were led by Lucifer. The other spirits, who learned to work with the new element Water and thus obtained their needed experience were led by the Highest initiate of their life wave, Jehovah. These spirits are our present day angels.

Let us review what we have gone over so far. Thus far we have introduced three of four elements: Fire, Air, and Water. We note that Jehovah and his angels worked with all three elements, and Lucifer and his

angels worked only with Fire and Air, because they refused to work with water.

Earth

At the dawn of our present Earth Period a fourth element was added and at that time Jehovah and his angels were ordered to create forms from the elements of Fire, Air, Water and Earth for our use. "Against this plan a minority of angels rebelled. They had too great an affinity for Fire to bear contact with water, and refused to create the forms as ordered: but thereby they at the same time deprived themselves of an opportunity of evolution along the conventional lines, and thus became an anomaly in nature."

Jehovah and His angels were obedient to the Divine Plan. We as virgin spirits were thus clothed in vehicles of Fire, Air, Water and Earth. (Dense body, Vital body, Desire body and Mind.) We were also placed under the direct guidance of Jehovah and his angels. This was part of the Divine Plan to elevate us in stages from unconsciousness to create consciousness. All would have proceeded according to plan if it had not been for the interference of the Lucifer Spirits. The Lucifer Spirits now realized that they had to make up the experience that they had lost out on because of their refusal to work with Water.

We are told that "This (Divine) Plan was frustrated by the Lucifer Spirits . . . they needed a physical field of action, but were unable to create one for themselves hence for *selfish* reasons they taught humanity how by the cooperation of the sexes a new body could be created at any time: and in order to give an incentive they instilled into mankind the animalistic passionate nature which we now possess."

Jehovah and his angels had been guiding us along the path of evolution. Lucifer and his angels caused us to stray. Thus we *missed the mark* — we sinned. Remember that the Hebrew and Greek words that are translated sin means to not hit or miss the mark. This is the origin of sin. Sin is our rebellious nature. We rebelled against GOD. We were tempted

by the Lucifers and we gave in. This is the sin of which we are all guilty.

Murder, covetousness, greed, lying, dishonor, fornication, drunkenness, stealing, etc., are but the products of our sinful nature. They are the evidence which proves us guilty.

The Lucifers then caused us to stray by introducing a passionate animalistic element into our nature. This caused our desire body to coalesce with our mind and thus joined to act as our motivating force. As time passed our Desire Body became stronger and stronger. It became more and more difficult for us to make any spiritual progress. If we had continued in that state of being we would have been completely lost.

"Therefore did Christ come, 'to seek and save that which was lost.' He took away the sin of the world by His cleansed Blood. . . he purified the conditions and we owe it to him that we are able to gather for our desire body purer desire stuff than formerly, and He continues working to help us, by making our external environment purer."

The Christ impulse counteracted the influence of the Lucifer Spirits. In the truest sense, our sins have been forgiven. All we need to do now is to recognize our sinful nature and accept the Christ's supreme sacrifice for us.

The Rosicrucian Teachings concerning our spiritual evolution run parallel to the biblical information outlined in the opening chapters of Genesis. In Genesis God created Adam and placed him in the Garden of Eden. Later, from one of Adam's ribs, He created Eve. As long as Adam and Eve followed God's instructions there was peace and harmony. Adam and Eve were told that they could eat from any of the trees in the Garden except from the tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.

Everything seemed to be fine until a serpent (Lucifer) caused Adam and Eve to go against God's instructions. As a result, Adam and Eve were expelled from the Garden (Spiritual Regions). Where there had been no pain and suffering before, there was now pain and suffering. This was the natural

outcome resulting from the breaking of one of God's Laws.

As we can now see, the Biblical account runs parallel to the Rosicrucian teaching. We were at one with God, but due to the interference of the Lucifers (Serpent) we turned from God. We lost our spiritual estate. We were turned out of the Garden of Eden.

Adam and Eve had two sons, Cain and Abel. Cain was a tiller of the ground and Abel was the keeper of sheep. Both Cain and Abel brought gifts to the Lord. Cain's gift was rejected. Abel's gift was accepted. Cain in anger slew Abel. Cain was cursed. Later Eve gave birth to Seth.

The story of Cain and Abel represents the warring factions within each of us. Cain represents the Mind. Abel represents the Heart. One lives by Reason, the other by Faith. It was due to the interference of the Lucifers that the Mind was able to gain control over the Heart. That is to say (Biblically) Cain slew Abel. Remember, however, that Christ came to save us: Seth represents the ever present power of Faith. The Mind's victory over the Heart is only temporary, for in time the Heart will be set free.

If our mind will not allow us to believe, how then can we be saved? Earlier it was mentioned that there were those that wished that they could believe, but their minds would not allow them to. In these people Cain has slain Abel.

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It was because of the need to conquer the rebellious mind that the Rosicrucian Order was founded. Its mission was to reveal to mankind the mystery of life in order to satisfy the mind so that the heart might be freed to believe. The mission is primarily directed towards the sons of Cain.

There was a point in time when Max Heindel commented on the difficulty of achieving this goal. Following is an excerpt from *Letters to Students*, March, 1912, entitled *Necessity for Devotion*.

"The Rosicrucian Cosmo-Conception

has met with such phenomenal success and called forth so much gratitude and admiration all over the world that I ought to be flattered at the attention it is commanding everywhere. But, on the contrary, I am beginning to feel more and more afraid that the book may miss the mark at which our Elder Brothers have aimed. Its purpose, designated on pages 17 and 18 is to satisfy the mind by intellectually explaining the World mystery, so that the devotional side of the student's nature may be allowed to develop along lines which the intellect has approved. The *Rosicrucian Cosmo-Conception*, I believe, has won its way because of this appeal to the intellect and the satisfaction it has given to the inquiring mind. Hundreds, yes thousands, of letters have testified that students who have searched in vain for years have found here what they sought. But few have seemed able, as yet, to transcend the intellectual conception, and unless the book gives the student an earnest desire to transcend the path of knowledge and pursue the path of devotion it is a failure, in my estimation."

We should take a moment to ask ourselves the question: "Am I still treading the path of knowledge or have I transcended the intellectual conception and pursued the path of devotion?" We may be experts in Astrology, Philosophy or the Bible. We may have all knowledge and all understanding of the mysteries, but unless we have Love, unless we are on the Path of Devotion, we are but as tinkling cymbals.

The Path of the intellect cannot save us, nor can the path of pure faith; for faith without works is dead! What we must do is balance the two. Balance the Heart and the Mind. Fire and Water. We must develop the *Sane Mind, Sound Body and Soft Heart*.

We have seen from the Rosicrucian point of view how the Lucifer Spirits caused us to go astray. They led us away from the Divine Path by instilling in us our passionate nature. Our selfish desires coalesced with our minds and caused us to rebel against Divine rule.

[Continued on page 255]



*The
Threshold of
Greater Service*

Sue Goske

Christ has advised: "He who would be the greatest among you, let him be the servant of all." One of the main reasons for Christ's earthly mission has been to help bring us to a conscious realization of the unity of all life. In this realization we see that to be separative, selfish and self-seeking results in self-undoing, while to be concerned selflessly with the welfare of others promotes the progress of the whole of humanity as well as the progress of the selfless servant.

Christ's ministry and life on Earth contain, in outline form, all we need to do in order to further our evolution at this time. Although we may acquire material possessions, prestigious positions, and great knowledge, as Paul states in the 13th Chapter of I Corinthians, it will profit us nothing if we do not have altruistic love and if we do not *use* what we have to uplift others. Christ has come to bring us closer to God through love and service to our fellow be-

ings. Since His life, as recorded in the Gospels, is the ideal we are to follow, let us examine two important events that directly preceded His great ministry and which, therefore, constitute the threshold of greater service, namely, The Baptism and The Temptation.

Prior to the Baptism there is little recorded of Jesus' private life other than that he "grew and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him." We may compare this period of His life to the preparatory stage of the spiritual aspirant in which he studies, purifies his vehicles, and prays and meditates in order to align his consciousness and will with that of the Father's. Of this stage we learn more in the esotericism of the Tabernacle in the Wilderness, where the first item encountered is the Brazen Altar, symbol of purification which is the necessary prerequisite to spiritual development.

When purification has been accom-

plished, the aspirant next meets the Brazen Laver, symbol of sanctification and consecration to the life of service. The priest serving in the ancient Tabernacle was warned to bathe in the waters of the Brazen Laver before entering the Hall of Service, or death would follow immediately. Just as the priest performed this act of consecration, so did Christ enter His mission of service through the baptismal waters, and so also must the modern aspirant who is following in His footsteps.

“And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightaway out of the water; and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting upon him.” (*Matt. 3:16*) In the waters of baptism a tremendous change took place: Jesus, the man, became Christ Jesus, the Christed man. Christ, the Archangel and highest Initiate of the Sun Period, entered the physical and vital bodies of Jesus. According to Max Heindel, the lowest vehicle that the Christ ordinarily uses is the *Life Spirit*, in which he functions as consciously in the World of Life Spirit as we do in the Physical World. The World of Life Spirit is the first universal world in which differentiation ceases and unity begins to be realized. By analogy, when the aspirant comes to the point of consecrating his life to Christ’s service, he undergoes the “waters” in which he becomes aware of the oneness of all life.

The Mystic Rite of Baptism occurs “. . . at the moment when the candidate feels with sufficient intensity the longing to know the cause of sorrow and alleviate it. Then the Spirit is conducted under the waters of Atlantis, where it sees the primal condition of brotherly love and kindness; where it perceives God as the great Father of His children, who are there surrounded by His wonderful love. And by the *conscious* return to this Ocean of Love, the candidate becomes so thoroughly imbued with the feeling of kinship that the spirit of egoism is banished from him forever.” (*Ancient and Modern Initiation*, Page 83) The important point here is that the candidate *consciously*

touches again the “Ocean of Love and Unity,” for when he first was part of those waters he was not conscious of himself and others as separate individuals. Later, when he had attained self-consciousness, he was no longer aware of the unity of all life, and, through the illusion of separateness, he committed many acts of ignorance, called sin, which hurt others and ultimately himself. When, through pain and suffering and a growing awareness of the pain and suffering of others, there is stirred in him a burning desire to learn the reasons for these conditions and to alleviate them, he is on the verge of taking his conscious place as a servant in the great chain of interdependent life through the Mystic Rite of Baptism.

There is another significant event recorded in the Gospel of Matthew that occurs between the Baptism and the three years’ ministry: The Temptation. Here we will discover the reason for the warning to the priest to bathe in the Laver before proceeding further upon the path of service. As the capacity for usefulness increases, so does the potential for great good or evil. The more we receive, the more is expected of us. Perversion of spiritual powers to serve personal needs and desires, or to inflict injury, or to gain selfish control over another is Black Magic and results in dire consequences. Without the feeling of the kinship of all life, the banishing of egoism, and the complete dedication of self to the service of Christ and the Will of the Father, represented by the Baptism and the Brazen Laver, there is a grave danger of misusing our spiritual gifts.

“. . . by the mystic processes of the true Spiritual Baptism the aspirant becomes so thoroughly saturated with the Universal Spirit that as a matter of fact, feeling, and experience he becomes one with all that lives, moves, and has its being, one with the pulsating Divine Life which surges in rhythmic cadence through the least and the greatest alike; and having caught the keynote of the celestial song he is then endowed with a power of tremendous magnitude, which he may use either for good or ill. . . . Therefore, whoever has successfully

undergone the rite of Baptism and thereby acquired spiritual power is forthwith tempted that it may be definitely decided whether he will range himself upon the side of good or evil." (*Ancient and Modern Initiation*, Pg. 91-92)

In Matthew Chapter 4 we read that Christ Jesus was "led up of the spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil." Wilderness means literally "wild animal," which may here be interpreted as the desire world, and the devil may be interpreted as the lower nature where self-interests hold sway. After forty days of fasting, Christ is first tempted to use his spiritual powers to provide food for himself: "If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread." It is the cardinal rule of selfless service that spiritual powers must never be used to selfish ends, even something as seemingly innocent as providing food for oneself when one is starving. Christ, the Way Shower, puts first things first by answering: "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." It is indeed primarily because of the Word of God, the Creative Fiat, that we exist, and by physical food secondarily. Hence, Christ proclaimed the supremacy of the spiritual over the material in this as well as the two following temptations.

"Then the devil . . . setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple, And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down; for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee; and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone."

Imagine being set upon a high pinnacle, a position in which others look up to us, and then using sacred spiritual abilities to do death-defying or marvelous stunts to "prove" ourselves. This temptation appeals to our vanity which comes in all shapes and sizes and levels of subtlety. When spiritual abilities are perverted to make a showy display in order to win the respect or awe of others, it is the lower nature that has taken center stage. Christ would never have committed such a gross misuse of abilities in

order to win converts, for display of supernatural phenomena is not the sole property of those who serve the Light. Followers of the Black Brotherhood are also capable of effecting such displays, so how could humanity learn spiritual discernment with only an external display for a criterion? No, people must come together in Christ not because of sensationalism or anything external, but because of the internal recognition of the underlying unity of each with all. When thus tempted, let us say with Christ: "Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God."

"Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; And saith unto him, All these will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me." Anytime we choose the things of this world over the things of the Spirit we are then serving the "prince of this world" instead of the Prince of Love and Light, the Christ, whose kingdom is not of this world. This temptation is not one of physical hunger like the first; it appeals to the hunger for power and authority at the expense of spiritual principles. We should not think that because we've never been offered "all the kingdoms of the world" that we've never thus been tempted. We all have power and authority no matter to what small extent; we are judged, not by how much we have, but by *how we use it*. If we wield our power as a cold, cruel, self-seeking tyrant, we are serving the Dark Forces. If we offer it to the service of God saying, "Thy will be done," we serve the Light and all the forces that work toward the upliftment and unification of humanity. We cannot serve both the Darkness and the Light, both mammon and God. Christ rebukes His temptor ultimately, saying: "Get thee hence, Satan; for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve."

There are thresholds, temptations and opportunities for service existing at all levels of development. They come in various sizes and degrees of magnitude; they are sometimes very obvious, other times they are

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We all are anxious to learn to live in the spiritual Worlds but are not always so inclined toward the material one. This article concerns living in a material world and will point out some of the reasons why we are here in the physical body.

Let us begin with a passage from the *Christianity Lectures* of Max Heindel. In Lecture 11 he states: "We must do our full duty in the material world before we may serve in the spiritual realms. Whoever is faithless in his earthly duty cannot be expected to be faithful in Spiritual Work."

Thus we see that this material world is actually a testing ground for us to achieve a better understanding of ourselves that we may be more valuable in higher spiritual work and trusted with greater spiritual gifts. This truth is also supported by the teachings of Christ Jesus in Matthew 25, where He states, in the parable of the Talents: "Well done good and faithful servant; Thou hast been Faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things." We can see that we are expected to do those little things which are put before us each day, and to do them well and with a positive attitude.

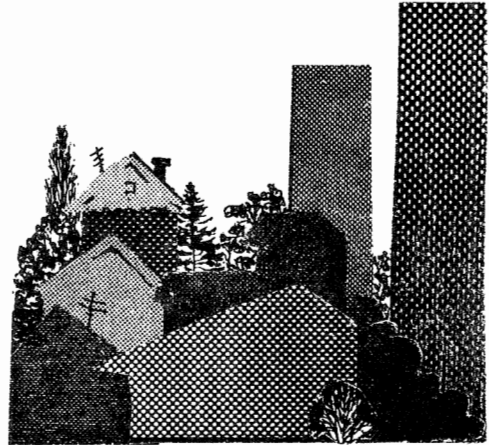
We have so much to learn about Life, and it would be virtually impossible to assimilate everything merely from reading books about it. To learn we must experience things directly, and life in a material world is one of the best teachers.

It should be the goal of every man to become the master of himself — to be *self-reliant* in every way. How can we become self-reliant unless we are put to the test? As Max Heindel has pointed out, it is always easy to see Truth from a high spiritual vantage point, but not so when we are immersed in denser matter. This sojourn on Earth is our opportunity to learn about the way the Spirit functions in the physical body — it allows us, through our own efforts, to perfect our vehicle, making it a more suitable instrument through which the Divine Spirit can work.

Returning once more to the Words of the Master, we refer to Matthew 16: "Verily I say unto you, whatsoever ye shall bind

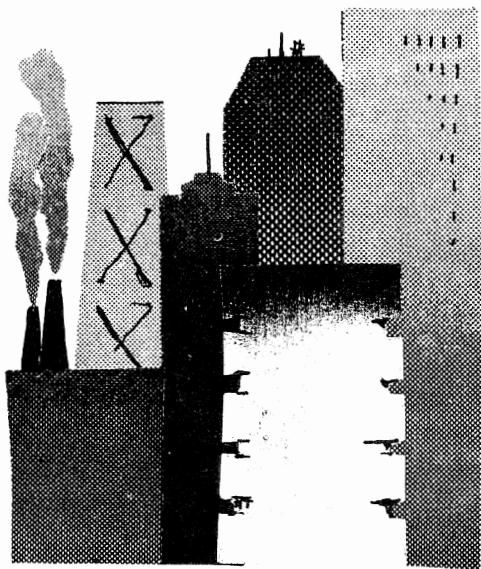
LIVING MATERIAL

Doug Willoughby



on earth shall be bound in Heaven and whatsoever he shall loose on earth shall be loosed in Heaven." This He said to Peter who was to be the foundation of His earthly church. As a disciple and apostle of our Lord, Peter was thus given the power to act as a co-creator, using the Word and the Law of Prayer in carrying out his mission. So too, we who have studied and strived toward a higher life have come closer to being in harmony with Christ, and thus our acts also become living prayers. We also have been blessed with the "Keys to the Kingdom of Heaven." Does this then mean that we are to enter therein and exclude everyone else from the glories we now experience? Of course not! We have been led into the Kingdom that we may also lead others. We have through our service and efforts been able to unlock doors upon which many others are still knocking. We have been blessed with some degree of spiritual sight and are able to discriminate between

IN A WORLD



that which is man's illusion and that which is God's Truth.

How, then, do we live in the material world? When we see life in a material world as a glorious opportunity to live the Truth we know, to "see" truth work in our everyday lives, we've begun to deal properly with the demands of a material existence.

Marcus Aurelius, one of the great rulers of Rome, said, in speaking about the duties of a man: "In the morning when thou risest unwillingly, let this thought be present: I am rising to the work of a human being. Why then, am I dissatisfied if I am going to do the things for which I exist, and for which I was brought into the world? Or, have I been made for this, to lie in the "bed-clothes" and keep myself warm? But this is more pleasant: "Dost thou exist then to take thy pleasure not for action or exertion? Dost thou not see the little plants, the little birds, the ants, the spiders, the bees working

together to put in order their several parts of the universe? And art thou unwilling to do the work of a human being, and dost thou not make haste to do that which is according to thy nature?"

The Laws of the Universe are both practical and useful. They allow us to improve our lives immensely if we live in harmony with them. We are here not only as "vessels" for spiritual teaching, but also to spread the light and become as the disciples of Christ, examples for all to see. "Ye are the Light of the World; a city that is set on an hill cannot be hid." As cities on the hill, we always are being observed though we may not be aware of it and others are always listening to and watching what we are doing.

The words we speak carry the reality of Universal Law, the awareness of a great creative power working through us. As seekers of Truth, this Truth becomes manifest within our own beings and inside our atmospheres. Whether we are aware of it or not, each of us are like a miniature broadcast station sending out "waves" which are attuned to the Higher Mind. These waves touch all who are nearby and like a radio transmitter set up a similar vibration in their receptive consciousness. What does this mean in regard to the material world? Essentially, it means we have the power to affect other people's thoughts by that which we carry within our own thinking world. If we have an aura of peace and tranquility, this will be sent forth from our transmitter. If we are manifesting anger or resentment, these energies will be transmitted. These things may be readily observed in our everyday lives, and by witnessing it we come to know that it is true.

For those who have not yet attained an awareness of the true nature of spiritual vibrations, this will only be something they *feel* and they will think that what they feel is their own mind guiding them. They are not able consciously to work with mind power, but still are influenced by it. Gradually, as they are exposed to the higher Teachings, these vibrations will become more noticeable and they will begin to unfold that Christ Consciousness within.

Why then, if we have the power of thought control, do we still find ourselves in difficulty from time to time? We said this Earth life is a place for experience which will later be transmuted into soul power. If everyday moved smoothly with no difficulties, there would be nothing to help us build soul power or soul experience. We would be going through the acts of living and breathing as human robots.

Obviously, we are not here to function as robots. In order to strengthen a particular muscle or organ in the body, it is necessary to use it — to put it to the test for which it was intended. So often we allow ourselves to be lulled into a false state of security thinking that if we just study all the Teachings on a regular basis, everything will be just fine. Not so. Suddenly we get a rude awakening and we are faced with something that we didn't expect. This is our opportunity to try out those "spiritual muscles" and see if they really are in good shape as a result of our exercises. We should not try to escape from a new experience, but should face it squarely and seek to understand its meaning. Is it a new test or is it something given to remind us that the Law of Cause and Effect is always at hand?

Being spiritually aware does not exempt us from difficulties in the material world, but it prepares us to overcome them. It gives us a chance to use our consciousness to bring about positive changes within our being — to gain Wisdom. It helps us improve our lives and speed up our evolution towards becoming Divine Beings.

Let us turn our attention to some of the tools we have been given through the Rosicrucian Teachings that will help us to improve our life while living on this material plane. Concentration, Meditation, and Retrospection are three of the most powerful methods available for purifying and strengthening our spiritual faculties.

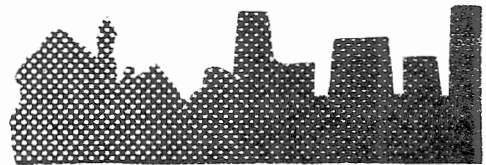
Man has at his command the power to change his life. Once we accept that thought, we must also be ready to accept one more: Man then is responsible for what happens to his life.

The thought that we alone have the power to regulate our lives perhaps frightens some. Much of what we see in the world around us merely is a result of people refusing to take responsibility for what their lives have become. It is always easier to blame someone else than to say: "Well, it looks as though I must change my own ways."


By practicing concentration, we are able to focus our thoughts intently on any problem or situation that arises in our life. By concentrating on it we are able to get closer to the real cause behind it. Concentration is also closely related to power, for when our thoughts are concentrated they do possess greater power to act on the things and persons around us.

Through Meditation we are able to draw information from the great Cosmic Mind regarding whatever we seek to know. It allows us to remove our thoughts from the material plane and be refreshed with thoughts from the Higher Worlds.

Finally, by a daily Retrospection of our lives, we are able to more closely examine the motives and results behind our acts. Thus we become our own teachers and begin to progress rapidly on a course of self-mastery.



In Abraham Lincoln's First Annual Message to Congress in 1861 he made this simple statement: "It is difficult to make a man miserable while he feels he is worthy of himself and claims kindred to the Great God who made him." We cannot be happy and feel complete if we are separated from God and thus from the essence of our own being. We cannot allow the things of the material world to remove us from contact with the great Divine Spirit which flows within each one of us. The material world has been created by God for man's use, so let us not be deceived that we are at its mercy.



BLESSED ARE

the PURE in HEART

“The symbol of the Cherubim with the open flower placed upon the door of Solomon’s Temple delivers the message to the aspirant that purity is the key by which alone he can hope to unlock the gate to God; or as Christ expressed it, ‘Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God.’ ”

Purity is a concept that signifies much in occultism. We encounter it often, for there can be no spiritual progress that is not founded on it. A striving for purity is one of the absolute essentials to higher development. There can be no real spiritual illumination without it, no matter what other qualifications may be possessed. “Surely everyone who entertains this hope (to be like Christ) must purify himself, must try to be as pure as Christ.” (1 John 3:3)

The essential difference between the spiritual aspirant and the man of the world is that the latter lives largely in his physical senses. At a low point in evolution he lives altogether in the physical senses. He is completely dominated by the lunar and martial rays which express themselves as physical desires, passions and emotions. It is the triumph of matter. As evolution goes forward, as experience is multiplied by successive incarnations, the mentality asserts itself and finally becomes the center around which he lives, with mental pleasures gradually outweighing the physical. “The mirror of mind also contributes increasingly to spiritual growth as the thoughts which it transmits to and from the Spirit polish it to greater brightness, sharpening and intensifying its focus more and more to a single point, perfectly flexible and under the control of the Spirit.” (Cosmo, p. 95) Ultimately spiritual joys will rise triumphant over both, but for

a long period the individual is slowly rising from one stage to the other, with the new and higher dawning in him while the old and lower still hold firmly. When he discovers that he can work intelligently with Nature in hastening his own evolution and turns his attention to a definite method of doing so, he enters into a contest with his lower nature, the duration of which is dependent upon his earnestness no less than upon his will-power.

At the point where the aspirant for higher things awakens to the fact that the old life of sensation is undesirable slavery, realizes dimly that something better lies above and beyond it, and resolves to attain this, he is likely to be surprised at the strength of the old fetters which hold him back. There are certain appetites that he would gladly be rid of, but they assert themselves at intervals with astonishing vigor. There are passions he thought dead which he finds were only sleeping. There are impulses he believed were under control, but they flash out without the slightest warning and throw him off balance. There are certain classes of undesirable thoughts that he hoped to be done with forever, but they leap into his mind in spite of himself.

Why is it that even when we have the perfectly pure motive of rising above the lower nature — the sincere desire for a loftier life — and make an earnest effort to achieve it, we do not promptly comprehend that the

change is necessary to our happiness and most devoutly desire its consummation? Why is a prolonged struggle necessary to accomplish this change? Because the difficulty is not in our strivings at all but in the bodies we live in. The Higher Self has resolved upon the higher life. It has succeeded in impressing the waking consciousness — in arousing a longing to escape from the thrall of the lower nature. But the bodies are the seat of what commonly is called “sin” — the fortress of the lower nature, and that fortress cannot be carried by assault. It can be taken only by siege.

The progress of purification is a process of changing the matter that composes the physical body and its invisible counterparts, as actually and literally as one would reconstruct a house, making it into a totally different habitation. The very desire to attain the higher life begins the reconstruction. But just as one could not instantly raze his house and as instantly rebuild it, although he could effect any desired change by taking the necessary time, so also any change that we are capable of imagining can be made in ourselves within a reasonable period. We cannot unbuild in a few days what we have been so long in building. Our battle is against the automatism that we have created. The matter of which the desire body is composed, long has been accustomed to act in a certain way under certain circumstances, and it continues to do so, for a time, in spite of all our genuine desires to the contrary. If a man long has given way to great anger on slight provocation and resolves to do so no more, his good resolution will help a little toward his eventual self mastery; but when the good resolution is followed by sudden and unexpected provocation the desire body responds before he is aware of what is happening. So, too, with the mental body: however much he may desire to be pure in mind, an impure thought that often has been harbored in the past will flash in when a connecting thought or old association opens the way. Of course the vital, desire, and mental bodies work together — desire and thought being inextricably mingled and interwoven (Lucifer’s

gift to humanity) — and the purification of both goes forward together.

Although the purification of the lower nature is not an instantaneous process and is likely to be attended with some temporary failures in the efforts to live up to ideals, the final triumph is certain if there is reasonable persistence and earnestness, together with some knowledge of how to proceed. There should be no feeling of an effort to escape from something undesirable and degrading. The mind should not be turned in that direction at all. It should be kept busy in the opposite direction; it should be occupied with pure and lofty thinking. There should be no mental effort to crush the old order of things. Let it be crowded out by thoughts of the opposite nature. To set the mind determinedly against a certain objectionable thing is only to give that thing new vitality and invite it to battle. Non-resistance has its value here as elsewhere. “Let sleeping dogs lie.”

Another helpful thing to remember is that association and environment are important factors. Suppose a man is trying to overcome a certain thing — the desire for liquor or tobacco or meat; what is true of these will apply to all other desires of the lower nature. He may escape them for a time and almost believe that the desire for them is dead when some old association will arouse them again. Environment is a thing to be taken into account. Until one has grown strong enough to touch elbows with old temptations and remain absolutely unmoved, it is wise to keep as far from them as possible. A man who is fighting an alcoholism habit need not increase his difficulties by living next door to a bar. One who is trying to purify the mind can keep away from certain classes of much advertised films in which the public desire for the salacious is gratified under the mask of dramatic art of a high order. It is remarkable what vitality the desires of the lower nature have, how tenaciously they cling, and how subtly they masquerade in attractive disguises. Art is invoked to refine them and wit is used to adorn them and keep them alive in clever songs and apt story.

Every person has his varying moods, and the emergence and decline of certain feelings may be predicted by the astrologer as the transiting Moon passes through the 12 signs (and through each individual's 12 houses fertilizing the inherent possibilities of each planet contained in the horoscope). There are times when we feel spiritually very strong and easily dominate the lower nature. But there are other times when materiality rises against us in its might and we are in danger of losing our balance and being swept from our footing in the tide of reaction. In such moments of peril a definite course of action is useful. The Christian prays, which draws his mind away from lower things to the higher. The occultist can concentrate steadily on the Christ, the Christ within, or some object that is linked to purity (a lily, a rose, the Rose Cross), all of which he regards as embodying what is pure and exalted. He can remind himself of the too-often forgotten fact that his efforts are known and observed and that he does not strive after purity unaided.

If we hope to succeed in dominating the lower nature, we must clearly understand the danger of permitting the mind to turn even for a moment to impure thoughts. Any sort of dallying is fatal and safety lies only in turning the mind instantly in the other direction when the old thoughts and impulses crowd in upon him. This is repeatedly emphasized in such invaluable, inspiring words as *The Voice of the Silence*:

"Strive with thy thoughts unclean before they overpower thee. Beware disciple suffer not even though it be their shadow to approach. . . ." and, "One single thought about the past that thou hast left behind will drag thee down, and thou wilt have to start the climb anew."

To be pure is to be strong. Purity and spiritual strength are inseparable. There can be no real strength without purity — not even mental strength. In proportion as the lower nature dominates a man's life he is physically and mentally weak, as well as morally weak. The physical, mental, and moral are so inextricably interwoven that

each necessarily reacts upon the others. None of them can stand alone because they are really a blended whole, gaining or losing together. There must be purity and strength for all or for none. Purity, then, is literally the way to strength, to power, to illumination, and to immortality.

MISSING THE MARK

[Continued from page 246]

We have seen how the Rosicrucian explanation of sin is in harmony with the biblical explanation, and how Adam and Eve were tempted by the Serpent and were thus expelled from the Garden of Eden.

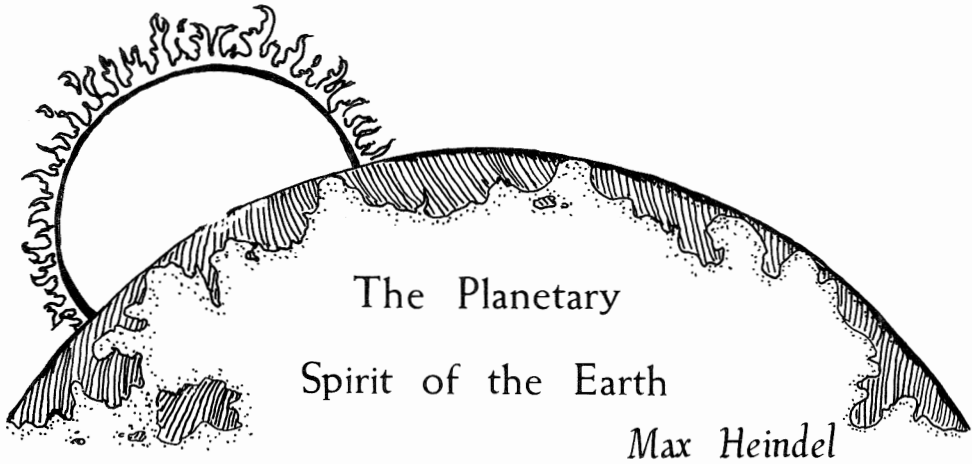
From the Rosicrucian viewpoint Christ came to cleanse the Earth's desire body, thus giving us the opportunity to once again make spiritual progress — progress that would have been impossible had He not come. He is in the truest sense, our salvation.

We can see how this is in harmony with the biblical teachings best summed up in John "... for God so loved the world that he gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should have eternal life."

We must understand that Christ died and was resurrected for all of us, and that *without Him none of us could have been saved*. Nothing, however, can be forced upon us. We have free will. "A man convinced against his will is of the same opinion still." Therefore, although Christ has already made the sacrifice for our sin, we must accept Him of our own free will. Outside of Christ there is nothing that can save us. There are not special works that we can perform to atone for our sins. All the money in the world could not buy our salvation.

The Christ impulse counteracted the influence of the Lucifer Spirits. In the truest sense of the word, our sins have been forgiven. All we need to do now is to acknowledge our sinful nature and accept Christ's supreme sacrifice for us.

If you haven't done so already, please open your Hearts and accept Christ into your life.



The Law of Analogy holds good everywhere. It is the master key to all mysteries, and you will find that what applies to the microcosmic man also applies to the Macrocosmic God or the Divine Power. The animals are guided now by spirits from *without*. At a later period they will become *indwelling spirits*, and learn to guide their vehicles without assistance from other sources. Similarly it was with the Earth as stated in the *Cosmo* and various other parts of our literature.

Up to 2000 years ago Jehovah had charge and guided the Earth from without as the animals are guided by the group spirits. Thus the Earth was held in its orbit by His power, and He was up to that time the Supreme God, but at the change made on Golgotha the Christ Spirit drew into our Earth in order that He might aid us to evolve faculties which Jehovah could not give us.

Jehovah gave us laws which hold us in check, but the Christ gives us Love. One is the restraining force, applied *from without*; the other is an impelling energy applied *from within*. Thus the Christ is now guiding the Earth in its orbit from within, and will continue until we have learned to vibrate to that great attribute, Love, whereby we shall be able to apply the power to our own planet and thus guide it in its orbit from within.

Christ is the highest initiate of the Sun Period and as such has His dwelling place in the Sun. He is the sustainer and preserver of

the whole solar system, and in one sense it is right to speak of that which dwells within our Earth as a ray, yet it does not convey the exact idea of what is the case. Perhaps we can get at the matter by an illustration. Let us liken the great Spirit in the Sun to a refiner of metal. He has upon His furnace a number of crucibles and is watching them all. Heat is melting these metals and throwing the dross to the top. The refiner is gradually skimming the crucibles, until at last the metal is absolutely beautiful and clear and he can see his face in each.

Similarly we may see that Christ turns His attention from one planet to another, and as He turns Himself to our Earth for instance, His image is reflected in the Earth, but it is not a dead image, *it is a living, feeling, sentient being*, so full of life and feeling that we ourselves in our present dead state, dwelling in these bodies of earth, can have no idea of that faculty of feeling possessed by the indwelling Spirit of the Earth.

Thus for a time His energy is imparted to this picture as a focus, and while really being in the Sun, the Cosmic Christ feels everything that is going on in the Earth as if He were actually here present, for that picture within, which is not a picture in the ordinary sense of the word, that must be thoroughly understood, that picture is a counterpart, a part, of the Solar Christ, and through it He knows and feels and senses

everything upon Earth as if He were actually present.

I have repeated this, but it might be repeated time and time again without detriment, for this is something that should be very thoroughly understood. That is really what is meant by Omnipresence, so that while the Christ is the indwelling Spirit of the Sun, He is also the indwelling Spirit of the Earth, and must continue to hold this office of helpfulness for us, feeling everything, enduring everything that goes or would go with an actual presence, for our sakes.

Let us now consider for a moment what that which we call the Earth really is, that is to say, its origin. The solidification commenced in the Sun Period, when we were unable to vibrate at the high rate demanded to remain there. Thus we gradually worked ourselves out of the Sun and were projected into space.

The rate of vibration was gradually lowered until the middle of the Atlantean Epoch, and thus the Earth crystallized into a mass of stone, we might say. Thus *we ourselves have made the Earth* what it was, and if no help had been given we should have been unable to extricate ourselves from the meshes of matter.

Jehovah from without endeavored to help us by *laws*. To know the law and to follow it would in time aid us, provided we had the requisite strength, but no man is justified by the law, and by the law all spirits must become further enmeshed. Therefore a new impulse had to be given, which should inscribe the law *into men's hearts*, for there is a great difference between what we do because we must for fear of an outside master who metes out a just retribution for every offense, and the inner urge which impels us to do right because it is right so to do. We recognize what is right, when the law is inscribed in our hearts, and then we obey its dictates unquestioningly, even though it may cause our whole being to vibrate in pain.

Thus we, collectively, are the spirits of the Earth. We must some day guide the vehicle we have created. Jehovah guided it

for us from without by means of laws, but as this was not sufficient to bring us to the point of individualization where we shall be able to take care of ourselves, Christ came in as a Saviour, and is helping us until the time comes that we shall have evolved a Love nature within ourselves which is sufficient to float the Earth. So there have been no other spirits in the Earth. The Christ is only here temporarily to help us, and in time it will be our privilege to take up the task for ourselves, and guide our planet as we want and as we should. The increased vibratory force has already made the Earth much less dense, much lighter, and in time it will become ethereal again as it once was. It will cease to be dead in sin. It will become alive in love.



... The good forces, which are symbolized as servants of the Holy Grail, live and grow by unselfish service which enhances the luster of the glowing Grail cup.

... Unless the Brothers of the Black Grail are provided with works of wickedness they will die from starvation. Therefore they are ever active in the world stirring up strife and inciting others to evil. Their pernicious activity is conteredacted in a great measure by the Elder Brothers at their midnight services at which they make themselves magnets for all the evil thoughts in the Western World and then by the alchemy of sublime love transmute them to good.

... The Transfiguration is an alchemical process by which the physical body formed by the chemistry of physiological processes is turned into a living stone, such as mentioned in the Bible.

STUDIES

in the



cosmo-

conception

Vital and Physical Bodies in Rebirth

Q. What is the relation of the vital body to the physical?

A. In the Ego's descent to rebirth the vital body, having been molded by the Lords of Destiny, will give form to the dense body, organ for organ. This matrix or mold is then placed in the womb of the future mother.

Q. Where is the seed atom for the dense body?

A. The seed atom for the dense body is in the triangular head of one of the spermatozoa in the semen of the father.

Q. How does this affect procreation?

A. This alone makes fertilization possible and here is the explanation of the fact that so many times sex-unions are unfruitful. The chemical constituents of the seminal fluid and the ova are the same at all times and were these the only requirements, the explanation of the phenomenon of fertility, if sought in the material, visible world alone, would not be found.

Q. It depends, then, upon the seed atom?

A. It becomes plain, when we understand that as the molecules of water freeze only along the lines of force in the water and manifest as ice crystals instead of freezing into a homogenous mass, as would be the case if there were no lines of force previous to coagulation, so there can be no dense body built until there is a vital body in which to build the material. Also there must be a seed atom for the dense body, to act as a gauge of

the quality and quantity of the matter which is to be built into that dense body.

Q. To what extent is heredity a factor?

A. While heredity is true only as regards the material of the dense body and not the soul qualities, which are entirely individual, the incoming Ego also does a certain amount of work on its dense body, incorporating in it the quintessence of its past physical qualities.

Q. Is not the new body a combination of the qualities of the parents?

A. No body is an exact mixture of the qualities of its parent, although the Ego is restricted to the use of the materials taken from the bodies of the father and mother. Hence a musician incarnates where he can get the material to build the slender hand and the delicate ear with its sensitive fibres of Corti and its accurate adjustment of the three semicircular canals. The arrangement of these materials, however, is, to the extent named, under the control of the Ego.

Q. When does the Ego enter its new body?

A. When the impregnation of the ovum has taken place, the desire body of the mother works upon it for a period of from eighteen to twenty-one days, the Ego remaining outside in its desire body and mind sheath, yet always in close touch with the mother. Upon the expiration of that time the Ego enters the mother's body.

WESTERN WISDOM BIBLE STUDY

Corinne Heline

Saul and the Church at Antioch

After the martyrdom of Stephen and the persecutions which followed, the Christian evangelists were scattered abroad, traveling as far as Phenice and Cypress and Antioch. In this latter most flourishing center of the new faith, Saul performed his first outstanding work. The names of Peter, Barnabas, Mark and Silas are still associated with the activities of this church. "There is to be found there to this day that gracious spring of water which was brought forth by the prayers of St. Paul for the baptism of the Antiochians."

Peter appointed a head of the church in Antioch in A.D. 53, who was succeeded by Ignatius, one of the foremost disciples of John.

The Christian centers of Greater and Lesser Asia, and of all the countries of the East, were under the jurisdiction of Antioch. These numbered at one time considerably more than a hundred and fifty-three. Antioch Christians followed the custom established in Jerusalem. Centers were founded in the homes of the faithful known as "church houses." History records that as late as the second century divine services were performed in private homes. This continued until the time of the saintly Theophilus, seventh Bishop of Antioch, who, when the number of followers had grown too large to be accommodated in members' houses, set aside his own residence exclusively as a church.

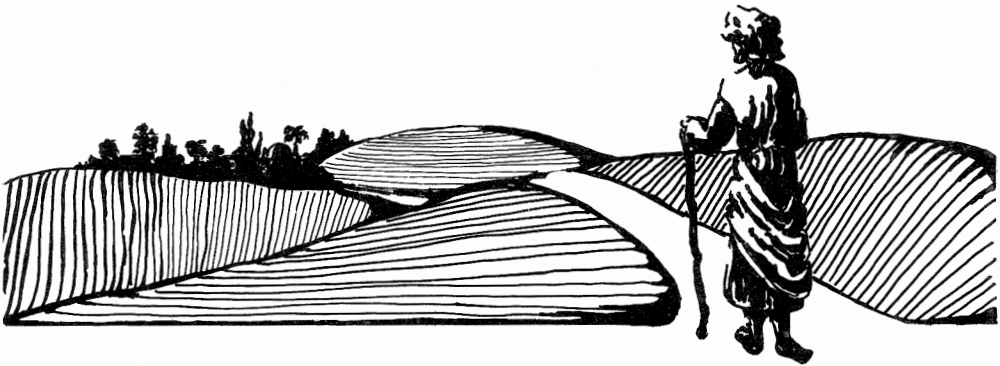
In the magnificence of her public buildings, the city of Antioch rivaled even the Eternal City. The principal street, broad and

decorative, stretched for a distance of about two and a half miles. Herod, known as the great builder, had this thoroughfare paved with polished marble and had imposing colonnades erected both sides of its entire length. The city's population at this time was about half a million.

According to Cicero, Antioch had an enviable reputation for learning and culture. The Antiochians were also known for their extreme licentiousness. Historian Gibbons describes the great temple, five miles from the city proper, as situated in "that sweet grove of Daphne." Amid gardens and terraces, bowered in laurel and cypress, adorned with bright pools and sparkling fountains, was this shrine dedicated to Daphne and Apollo wherein ceremonials had degenerated into bestial exploitation of feminine beauty and charm — so much so that "the morals of Daphne" became a familiar byword and Roman soldiers were forbidden to visit the temple or its environs. The temple itself, however, ranked with those of Alexandria and Jerusalem in beauty and grandeur.

In Seleucia, seaport of Antioch located fifteen miles distant upon the coast, are the remains of a massive Roman pier, with huge boulders extending into the Mediterranean, which is known as "the pier of St. Paul."

This was the Antioch which offered refuge to followers of the new way when they fled the wrath of the Sanhedrin in Jerusalem after the martyrdom of Stephen. Their work flourished and grew so rapidly that the



Mother Church in Jerusalem sent Barnabas to direct their activities. He, soon needing assistance, went to Tarsus to ask for Saul's aid.

Thus Antioch became the center of this exalted Apostle's work. It was always considered his home church. For two years he labored there with Barnabas, then from that point began the three journeys destined to spread the light of the Christ teachings around the world. At the conclusion of each of these memorable pilgrimages he returned to his home church for rest and refreshment.

It was in Antioch that the followers of Christ first came to be called "Christians." The Greek word *chrestoe*, meaning good or useful, was pronounced much like *Christos*. Many ancient inscriptions have been discovered in which *Christian* is spelled *Chrestian*. It has been suggested that the good and useful work of the Christians gave rise to their distinctive appellation.

Saul was, perhaps, forty-five when he came to help Barnabas. He is described as small and bald, with contracted brow and large nose. Lucian states that he wore a long flowing beard, dark brown in color. St. Chrysostom gives the added information that "his eyes were bright and sparkling."

At this time Jerusalem knew the golden age of Pharisaism under the reign of Agrippa I. In order to please this orthodox sect, the Emperor continued to persecute the Christians. James, brother of John, was executed. Peter was imprisoned. This renewed attack upon the Mother Church caused an increas-

ing number of its members to seek refuge in Antioch. Hence, the work of the Christians and Paul's fame increased rapidly.

Judea was ravaged by a severe famine in 45-46 A.D. Saul's heart was with "the poor saints in Jerusalem" during this trying ordeal, doubtless because many of them had been widowed and orphaned by his own persecutions. Accompanied by Barnabas and Titus, he visited the Mother Church in the summer of 46. He was received with open hearts and arms by the converts, who soon fell under the "gracious spell" of his spiritual power and eloquence.

Weeks and months passed. Saul would have liked nothing better than to remain in Jerusalem; but one day, while he was in solitary prayer in the temple, the glorified One appeared to him and bade him leave. "They will not receive thy testimony concerning me," were the words of the Blessed Lord. "Depart: for I will send thee hence unto the Gentiles." (Acts 22:18, 21)

Companioned by the noble and gracious Barnabas, Saul obeyed the heavenly vision and returned at once to his home church in Antioch to make ready for his journey further afield. They were eagerly welcomed by friends of the church, who experienced the high exaltation of reunion with their leaders. During a season of fasting and prayer, many received illumination of the Holy Ghost. They could read in the cosmic scrolls something of the great work awaiting their beloved Master Paul who, now embarking upon his spiritual adventure, his divine

Apostolate, no longer bore the name of Saul. Henceforth he was to be known as Paul, the greatest of all evangelists.

SAUL BECOMES PAUL

Each picture in the life of Paul evidences a specific phase of occult development. Such a progression marks the life of every aspirant who attains to Paul's exalted status. Saul, the persecutor of Stephen, bears little resemblance to Paul, author of a divinely inspired Song of Love. It was because of the transformation in character and consciousness that the name of this eager, ardent spirit was changed from *Saul* to *Paul*. Esoterically, names are but numerical expressions of spiritual ideas. Saul of Tarsus is far removed in consciousness from the Paul who penned in his final Epistle to Timothy, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith."

Saulos, a famous Jewish name, and Paulos, a Latin name of Greek origin and form, symbolize the two natures of the man: the lower (degeneration) and the higher (regeneration). Saul of Tarsus, the intolerant and revengeful persecutor, came out of his experiences as Paul, the New Man. The Adam in him died and the Christ was born within. His ambition became humility. His bigoted sectarianism was transformed into an all-embracing fellowship and compassion. His intense zeal of race expanded into love for all humanity. His brilliant future was sacrificed for a career of persecution and renunciation; honors and adulation were gladly exchanged for scourgings and imprisonment. He willingly renounced all this world offered that he might become even as the least among the Apostles of Christ, "If by any means I may . . . save some of them."

After this transcendental experience which came to Saul on the journey towards Damascus his name was changed from Saul to Paul. It will be noted that in this change

of names it is only the first letter of each name that is changed. In other words, "P" is substituted for "S." It is always the beginning letter of a name that carries the principle intonation which makes harmony or inharmony. It is for this reason that many persons sensing this inharmony change their names. "S" in the Hebrew alphabet is the letter "Samech," and this letter means to be tried and purified by fire. The Tarot describes this letter in the following words: "When thou hast been purified by fire, then the beauty of thy gold will shine forth that all men may observe the Divine Light which is within you." The letter "P" in the Hebrew alphabet is "Phe." This is symbolized by the eight pointed star. Eight is the numeral representing tremendous spiritual power and the Tarot description for the letter "Phe" is found in the words: "Man liveth not by bread alone but by all that proceedeth from the letter 'Phe'." Thus it may be observed how accurately the spiritual development is described as the name of Saul has been changed into Paul. Saul had literally been tried and purified by fire, and as Paul, the heights of his spiritual consciousness had become so increased that words of living power poured forth from him and his letters and Epistles bear the inspiration of this living bread of life that will endure as long as civilization shall endure upon the Earth; for Paul belongs not to any one age or time, but he belongs to all ages and to all times.

Paul placed mystic keys in each of his Epistles as an aid to all disciples who enter upon the way. Fourteen of the twenty-seven Books comprising the New Testament testify to the work of this great evangelizer. "Every letter of Paul is a picture of Paul," says Adolf Deissman.

As before stated, Paul's experiences in super-physical realms for three days and nights left their impress in various ways on each page of his Epistles, every letter of which spells immortality and every page glows with the splendor of Life Eternal. Each one contains both an inner and an outer message. Each has "milk for the babes and meat for the strong men."

Animal Experience

Elman Bacher



This discourse is presented for the consideration of students who in their studies often make inquiries regarding the horoscopes of animals. These inquiries are, of course, perfectly legitimate and germane to a familiar factor of life-experience — one which is of great interest and concern to many people.

Because astrology is essentially a study of consciousness, as a vibratory science it is applicable to any form or plane of life and the consciousness which ensouls and informs that life. If our knowledge of astrology, per se, were greatly extended beyond its present scope we could — all other factors being equal — do the horoscope of individual animals as we do those of individual humans. We could do the horoscopes of planets, solar systems, and galaxies as well as those of minute forms of life which inhabit this planet. When astrology is apprehended as being the study of those principles or laws by which all consciousness evolves, then its useful application to life throughout the cosmos may be perceived by correspondence with the life we know as humans.

However, and here is the rub, in order to comprehend the astrology of other life-forms and life-waves, we have to *know* the consciousness pertaining to those forms and waves. We can observe and study the evidences of other types of consciousness than our own but we, being particularly and pecu-

liarily “Earthian” humans, cannot comprehend the planes of consciousness to which other forms, sub-human and super-human, are aligned. In fact, many humans have but a dim and distorted comprehension of the consciousness of fellow-humans! Animal-life is informed from a different center than are we. Given that we humans are much more autonomous and the animals are much more completely under specialized guidance.

It has been told us that of the sub-human evolutionary lines, those that are now mammalian will make their higher evolution through the human pattern. Thus, it is not only of interest but of great importance that we learn to spiritualize our awareness of, and relationship with, the members of the animal kingdom. They are fraternal to us as inhabitants of this planet and we, as the higher evolutionary expression have a decided responsibility to them, as older brothers and sisters have to younger ones in a family — the correspondence in relationship is almost exact.

Therefore, though we cannot do the charts of animals, we can study our own charts in reference to our experiences with, and feelings about, sub-human life and thereby expand our consciousness of evolution on this planet. Using the astrological factors that we do use, a chart calculated for the birthtime of, for example, a pet kitten or pup would picture the significance of the ani-

mal to our experience. The same would apply to the timing of our decision to bring a new pet into the home, or any animal into our personal experience. In the latter case, *motivation and purpose* would represent the key-notes of the astrological reading; that chart being correlated with our natal chart would picture the interrelated factors of the experience we might have with the animal. A chart calculated for the time when we select the animal could indicate basic points concerning the suitability of the animal to our purpose. Many people find that their relationship with an animal opens up a remarkably significant experience, and these experience possibilities are what we will study.

Individual human relationship consciousness is no respecter of persons or things. A man may love his wife and children with tender, solicitous devotion, but if his relationship consciousness contains an area of hatred, fear, or prejudice toward another man — or other persons — who happens to be of another race or nationality, his relationship consciousness is not clear or pure. A woman may fulfill the requirements of her professional work with unwavering conscientiousness, but if her attitude toward her colleagues — or a colleague — is tainted with envy or false superiority, then her relationship consciousness toward her profession is correspondingly tainted.

Many such hypothetical illustrations may be considered. The point to keep in mind is this: our relationship with another person is primarily qualified by our feeling about him or her and that area of feeling is ignited by vibratory contact with the person. In other words, other people symbolize qualities of consciousness to us because by the action of vibratory sympathy, any person can serve to stimulate any point of feeling in our relationship consciousness. We, until we gain true understanding, tend to identify the person with the quality stimulated in our relationship consciousness. When we have gained relationship wisdom, we know that our reactions of an unpleasant nature are to be transmuted into the spiritual potency of

good-will (Love). Therefore, all points in relationship consciousness which we identify as hatred, envy, jealousy, fear, false superiority, tyranny, etc., may be apprehended as being materials to use for transmutative exercise. The fact that many, many people have proven the law of good-will through their transmutative efforts may be ascertained by a few moments of considered thought.

Any magnetic focus of relationship attraction can be utilized to intensify existing negatives in consciousness or to nurture the already evolved regenerative qualities. And "relationship" is your viewpoint of yourself in vibratory alignment with any other person, any creature, thing, activity, event, endeavor, or environment. Your natal horoscope performs its greatest service to you in picturing to you your basic tendencies of viewpoint in relationship consciousness. Truthfully to apprehend these tendencies and the ways of right fully using them is to obtain the master key to all other phases of studying your chart. The evolution of the Consciousness of Humanity is furthered in direct proportion as each human learns rightfully to align himself in relationship to fellow humans and fellow creatures.

Note carefully the last fifteen words of the previous sentence. That which is now was determined by that which was; that which is to be will be determined by that which is now. Each human of the present period of Earth manifestation was at one time in the "animal status." Each creature now is potentially a human. In no absolute sense is a human superior to an animal. The difference is simply one of evolutionary timing. The truth of this statement will be instantly perceived from considering the fact that all Initiates, Masters, and Adepts — the spiritual vanguard of present Humanity — serve by inspiring and encouraging our spiritual unfoldment and progress. If they, using an absurd hypothesis, were related to us by "absolute superiority," why would we be encouraged in any way at all to "walk the path they have trod?" If we were related to creatures by an "absolute superiority,"

there would be no impulse in the human heart to improve the conditions of creatures, there would be no inspirational impetus to love them. Yet, many humans love creatures with unselfish and sympathetic devotion. Is that not in itself *proof* that we *inwardly know* that creatures will walk the path we are now treading? The realization, by a human, of his con-fraternity with creatures is a high peak in the course of his evolutionary so-journ. It is a tremendous expansion of his consciousness of Love, and such a point in experience is inevitably attended by an increased apperception of the nature of Divine Love.

Every position and aspect in your natal chart can be studied as representing a phase of, or tendency in, your relationship-consciousness. Therefore your attitudes toward, and feelings about, sub-human life are also pictured by these horoscope factors. Since relationship with sub-human life is inextricably interwoven into the fabric of human evolutionary experience, we will consider this subject as it is abstractly portrayed by the Great Astrological Mandala. For cross-reference, create a copy: The twelve-housed circle centered by the traditional symbol for the Sun; Aries as Ascendant sign with thirty degrees of each sign to each house; the planetary rulers of the signs appropriately placed in the houses they rule. This is the abstract horoscope of humanity, of which your natal horoscope is an individualized variation.

To enter into a deeper sensing of the con-fraternity of humans and creatures, we will first consider the diameter Sagittarius-Gemini, the signs on the ninth and third houses of the Great Mandala, which are ruled respectively by Jupiter and Mercury. Jupiter, in the cosmic sense, is the Principle of Organic Function and the Principle of Hierarchy. It is that power of Divine Mind by which every factor of an archetype is conceived in perfect relationship with every other factor, for function, expression and use. (It is the considered opinion of the author that Venus, as ruler of Libra, is exalted in Sagittarius; its exaltation in Pisces

derives from its rulership of Taurus.) As the Principle of Organic Function, Jupiter represents the growth of parts of a thing in terms of their purpose and in terms of interrelationship with the other parts of the same thing. As the Principle of Hierarchy, Jupiter represents the interrelated function of things in terms of relative intelligence or relative susceptibility to the forces of intelligence.

In these terms is seen the placement of parts of a thing in relation to other parts corresponding to affinity with directive intelligence. Sagittarius is polarized by Gemini, the third sign of the Great Mandala in counter-clockwise sequence from Aries, the zodiacal significator of the root of fraternal consciousness. *Fraternal* consciousness is that apperception of parallelity or correspondent similarity in relationship. All the cells of your body are fraternal to each other, being cell-parts of the same body, but the cells of both your eyes are fraternal by specialization. All inhabitants of this planet are fraternal to each other, quadrupeds are specially fraternal to each other, birds are specially fraternal, etc. Each specialization has further specialization but all specializations are grouped in the unity of Earthian Inhabitant. The planets of our system are fraternal to each other and our system is specially fraternal to the six other systems which comprise our immediate galaxy. On whatever plane of dimension you care to consider, organic function in terms of hierarchy and fraternity is illustrated. That means that the human's consciousness of fraternity is not complete until he has perceived the value of this interrelated togetherness on this planet with all other creatures, sub-human and super-human. A question naturally arises from this point: what can we humans do, and what must we do, concerning our feelings about the inhabitants of other planets? This question can be solved by each human for himself, in due time.

Service is also a two-way thing. He who desires to be well served must in his turn serve well. Animal life has been utilized for service by humans for countless ages of time and in the abuse of service-principles, man

has engendered much uncomfortable karma. The sixth house and the sign Virgo symbolize the human's consciousness of the principle of service. It is externalized by his experiences as a server and by his relationships with those who serve him, animal as well as human. Animal life has been and is sacrificed to serve as food for the human kingdom, but what of the human who abuses the (unconscious) service of animal-life by senseless, wanton destructiveness? The sixth house is polarized by the twelfth house and the sign Pisces. Can you see the possibility that many humans, through an act of uncontrolled passion in this life, spend many years confined in prison as a karmic result of malicious destruction of, or hurt to, sub-human life in a previous incarnation? Malice and destructiveness are in consciousness and whether they are directed in action toward humans or toward sub-humans does not invalidate the karmic potency.

Life, through some means or other, provides restraint for those who have, by action, proven themselves unqualified to enjoy freedom. Therefore, if you contemplate the purchase, or other means of admission into your experience, of animal-life for service, make it part of your project to give good service to those who are to serve you. If you are dependent on them for the fulfillment of work programs, they are correspondingly dependent on you for care and protection. If your attitude toward your sub-human server is one of respect — which is Love — you will not fail your responsibility and it will be enabled to perform its maximum of service for you. Also, by mutual experience in Love, you will further the creature's evolution in training and it will further your mundane requirements without your engendering retributive karma.

Many people give devoted care to creature companions who, at the same time, reveal very limited and constricted attitudes toward fellow humans. It would appear that karma to the animal world is being expiated by this type of life program. These persons are being focalized in the present life on a specialization of the consciousness of life and

love. It is possible that only through expressing love to, and giving service to, their creature companions can these persons spiritually polarize their relationship-consciousness so as subsequently to unfold richer and higher apperceptions of respect and good-will toward humans. This facet of human experience would be illustrated by the diameter Leo-Aquarius being cross-polarized by the diameter Scorpio-Taurus. The regeneration of negative emotional residues, represented by Scorpio, being externalized by the stewardship of the creature life, represented by Taurus, is the way by which the temporarily restrained Leo-Aquarius consciousness of Love is inwardly re-polarized for subsequent better release.

In conclusion, we will consider the significance of the air trine to the relationships of humans to creatures. Libra, cardinal-air, ruled by Venus, is the apperception of relativity, the basic, essential core of relationship-consciousness. It is the apperception which makes it possible for any human to realize relationship with sub-human, human, and superhuman life. Aquarius, the fixed air-sign, ruled by Uranus, is the resource of impersonal, transcendental consciousness of love by which a human realizes an impulsion and a capacity to love life itself, through any of its external forms. Aquarius illustrates the love felt by Luther Burbank for plant life, the love-bond which unites a blind human to his or her seeing-eye dog. It is the regenerated consciousness of love which unites humans in groups to serve the furthering of sub-human welfare. Gemini, the mutable air-sign, ruled by Mercury, and ninth sign from Libra, is the apperception of relationship as fraternity — that en-wisdomed consciousness of similarity by which humans perceive their togetherness with other humans and any or all other forms of life. St. Francis, the inspired and life-loving mystic called all creatures by the terms *brother* or *sister*. He knew that he was *older brother* to those who crawl and fly and in loving them as he did he apprehended God's love for him. May Light and Love permeate our consciousness of all of our fellow in life.



THE CHILDREN OF GEMINI, 1981

Birthdays: May 21 to June 20

The children of Gemini are wonderfully mentally alert and bright, and have the ability to express themselves clearly and to the point. Conversation never lags when they are present, in fact they are sometimes given to monopolizing it entirely, but then they are often so interesting that other people are happy to listen. They learn quickly and are very well informed on most subjects. A good memory is usual also, provided the horoscope is otherwise well-aspected. Where there are serious afflictions the native may exhibit opposite characteristics and may be, for example, inveterate chatterboxes, shunned by everybody who can possibly get out of their way. The great point to remember with these children is that they have the ability to express so their parents are wise to do as much as possible for them during childhood to mold the character in such a way that it expresses itself in a manner congenial to others and to the general benefit of the child and its surroundings.

The children of Gemini are, generally speaking, of a very kind and friendly disposition and easy to get along with. They are adaptable to other people and circumstances to such an extent that they become all things to all people, and because of this trait they

usually easily make friends and have few enemies. These children love to travel and move about from one place to another. They are attracted to scientific or clerical activities as well as those professions connected with the field of journalism and media, or any other Mercurial fields.

From the moral point of view it is not so good to have a flexible nature. The children of Gemini are only too easily made victims of flattery and therefore are apt to be led unconsciously into paths of wrongdoing. The parents of these children should hold before them, consistently, the ideal of the straight and narrow path and point out to them how this path should be adhered to under any circumstance.

The children of Gemini are very high-strung and nervous and therefore are easily worried and irritated, which is often reflected in their bodily health. To this extent parents should take care not to demonstrate temper or harsh reproof in order to help them while they are young to learn to avoid the tendency to be quick-spoken under wrath, and to strengthen their moral constitution in this respect.

Moderate outdoor exercise should be made a part of the daily routine of these children so that plenty of oxygen can be taken into their bloodstream. This will help

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Readings for Subscriber's Children

Janelle J. M.

Born February 14, 1978, 8:35 P.M.

Latitude 21N19; Longitude 157W52.

With planets scattered throughout most of the houses, this chart indicates a life of many experiences in many different fields. Cardinal signs on all the angles is a further indication of a very active life.

The Sun is in the fixed-air sign Aquarius, in the fifth house, conjunct Venus in Pisces, trine the Cancer MC, trine retrograde Jupiter in Gemini in the 9th house, but square the Moon in the first degree of Gemini in the 8th, and opposition a retrograde Saturn in Leo in the 11th. This little girl is basically of a rather shy, retiring nature, but affectionate and constant in her affections. With Libra on the ASC, she may be interested in music and all the arts, and with proper training could perform well in those fields of endeavor. The conjunction of Sun with Venus in Pisces adds to her artistic and musical inclinations, as well as to her general health and popularity with her associates.

The position of Venus in Pisces denotes a strong emotional nature, in this case a helpful balance to the intellectual Aquarian Sun. This native is capable of feeling or yearning to help others who are in need. Many people with this configuration are to be found in charitable or prison work helping to assuage the sorrow and suffering of others. However, Janelle would do well to keep her behavior circumspect or she may have trouble through slander. The square to the Moon also suggests the possibility of digestive troubles and poor circulation. Hence carefulness in diet and exercise are recommended.

Mercury, planet of the mind, is also in Aquarius, suggesting that the qualities of

originality and independence are a part of the mental makeup. The sextile of Mercury to Neptune in Sagittarius in the third house points to a mind peculiarly adapted to the occult art. Janelle should have no difficulty in following the teachings of the Western Wisdom School, and will find her life much enriched if she does so when she reaches maturity. Since Mercury squares Uranus, she should guard against being erratic and destructive at times. Her strong inner compassionate nature should be a great help in controlling the wayward mind.

The Moon in the first degree of the airy sign Gemini partakes to some degree of the stability of the preceding sign, Taurus, which is a helpful balance to the rather flighty Gemini influence. Nevertheless, there is a strong attraction to the intellectual side of life, including both literature in general and science in particular. The square of Moon to Venus, Sun, and Saturn, points toward lessons to be learned in connection with marriage, children, and legacies. Janelle should be taught to complete whatever project she begins, but to consider carefully the wisdom of any ventures she should wish to participate in. The sextile of Moon to Mars in Cancer in the 10th house adds to the vitality and the ability to overcome hardships. Courage, ambition, and resourcefulness are also indicated.

Jupiter in Gemini in the 9th house, unafflicted and sextiling Saturn, trining Sun and Venus, points toward an optimistic, broad, and tolerant mind, with an interest in religion. There is a love for travel and pleasure and gain from it. Jupiter is retrograde in this chart, though, so its full influence will be manifested only if encouraged by the attitude and actions of this native.

This child is bright and impressionable, and with proper parental training should live a very gainful life on the spiritual path.

Daniel S. O.

Born November 16, 1971, 6:06 A.M.

Latitude 41 N, Longitude 74 W.

This chart shows a strong grouping of planets in the 11th, 12th, 1st, and 2nd houses, indicating that destiny will have strong play in the life.

The Sun and Moon are both in the fixed-water sign Scorpio, which rises, and fixed signs are also on all the other angles. This is a very fixed individual, and it will not be easy for him to cultivate the adaptability which is essential to spiritual progress. However, if he is brought up with a proper respect for right action, and a determination to progress, he will certainly forge ahead.

The solar orb in Scorpio suggests great energy, courage, and independence. The mind is active, and success in a martial occupation, such as surgery or soldier is indicated. Since there is no aspect to the Sun in this chart, except the square to the MC, there is not as much of the drive as would come from favorable aspects. But the qualities of the Scorpio influence are increased by the presence of the Moon in this sign, and also by the fact that Scorpio is on the ASC. Altogether, there is plenty of the Scorpio influence, and this native will do well to cultivate the gentler qualities to balance the strong martial influence. The trine of Moon in the 12th to Mars in Pisces in the 4th adds courage and independence, but since Mars squares Saturn and Neptune, there is apt to be a disagreeable side to the nature unless curbed in early years. Care to avoid conditions favoring fevers and inflammatory diseases should be a primary endeavor in the daily life, as well as conditions which might lead to accident or fire in the home.

Venus in Sagittarius in the 2nd conjuncts Mercury (in the 2nd) and Jupiter (in the 1st). This configuration denotes benevolence of character, a strong urge toward good-will among men, and this is an excellent configuration pointing toward optimism, sympathy, and generosity. The imagination and intuition are favored, and all this is a strong counter-foil for the martial

side of the nature. Venus sextiles Uranus in Libra in the 11th, too, indicating mental alertness, quick intuitive perception, and a love for art, music, and poetry. The 11th house position of Uranus suggests many friends of an advanced nature who will be of benefit and assistance.

Mercury, being in close conjunction with Venus, and therefore also in Sagittarius and sextile to Uranus, points toward a noble mind of a religious and philosophical turn. This is especially fortunate for this child, for it indicates a mentality that, while independent and unconventional, will not lead into paths contrary to the accepted paths of moral usage and conduct. There are apt to be battles between the emotions and the intellect at times, but Daniel is well equipped mentally to hold to the higher path. He will enjoy travel, seeing the sights of nature, and investigating the ways of and customs of strange people, as well as of animals.

Daniel's earning capacity is good, as indicated by Venus and Mercury in the second house, but he needs to learn that there is responsibility attached to material possessions, to using material means with wisdom and care.

Saturn, the great teacher, is posited in Gemini in the 7th house, is retrograde and squares Mars, trines Pluto, opposes Neptune. Here is to be found very probably the area of life — partnership — which will offer the most opportunities for soul growth. He should make special effort all through life to live up to his highest promptings in all partnership relations. By doing this he will have accomplished a great hurdle in this life and be ready for another incarnation where better partnership conditions will exist.

... It should always be kept in mind that the stars impel but do not compel. . . . Good or evil configurations are not the result of chance or luck, but are the product of our own past acts. . . .

— Max Heindel

*An Astrologer
Talks with
Three Archangels*

Jonah Michaels



When making astrological interpretations there is much confusion about the nature of planets, particularly Saturn, Mars, and Mercury. Saturn may be considered a cruel obstructor, Mars an instigator of discord, and Mercury a reflector of worry and nervous tension. Using a little imagination let us speak with Cassiel, Samael, and Raphael the ambassadors from Saturn, Mars and Mercury respectively. These are Archangels who work with Christ to help mankind evolve.

Astrologer: Cassiel, in representing Saturn on Earth, what is the purpose of the crystallizing and obstructing effects which Saturn has on humanity?

Cassiel: Saturn's purpose is not really to be crystallizing and obstructing. He brings to the human consciousness the inner realization of the Law of Cause and Effect. Unfortunately, at the present time people perceive Saturn negatively because they are really ignorant of the Law of Cause and Effect. Just the other day I observed a man have a heart attack. He worked as a business executive for thirty years. He was quite dedicated and responsible. His difficulty came from his denial

of the spiritual aspects of life. His work consisted of manufacturing material goods, and he believed that the world consists of nothing but matter. When people sought his emotional support he would send them away with money. He could not tolerate the mistakes of his employees. Their mistakes, he felt, were a reflection upon himself, and were therefore embarrassing to him. Since he could not tolerate his own errors he could not deal with errors his workers might make. As a result he was gradually cut off from the etheric flow of energy from the Sun. He closed himself off from the flow because of his attitude. He most feared having his business fail.

Circumstances within his business forced him to work closely with the Vice President of the company. The Vice President had developed within his character love and patience which the President lacked. The Vice President ran the spiritual side of the business. As long as the two worked together the business was successful. However, the President was inwardly jealous of the Vice President's capacity to respond to personnel problems and his ability to inspire workers. Out of this jealousy developed a long-term

feud which ended when the Vice President moved to another company.

This was the last straw for our businessman. With the loss of his right-hand man his fear of failure became so intense that his inner crystallization accelerated. For eight months he was given time to change his attitude. Finally at a time when his vitality was at a low ebb and his receptivity to higher ethers also reached a critical low point the heart attack occurred.

Saturn teaches humanity that for good or evil, men reap the effects of their own behavior. When humanity truly understands that they are responsible for their own limitations, they will be able to free themselves from the bondage of the material world.

Astrologer: Samael, why does Mars produce so much hostility and discord?

Samael: Open hostility and fighting is only the outer manifestation of a serious inner discord which humanity has yet to overcome. When mankind was given the force of desire to energize their actions it was not anticipated that so many people would keep it bottled up inside themselves. In their daily lives people put such little effort into their work. When work is performed in a dedicated, generous fashion, the colorful energy that flows through the body is infused into the surrounding environment as a unifying force. Think of the energy which the concert pianist transmits from his body to instrument to sound to audience. Think of the energy which the craftsman transmits to his product to make it beautiful, functional and long lasting. It takes a great amount of energy to overcome the open hostility of another person. The peace maker must radiate a force of love equal to or greater than the force of anger or hostility which he encounters. The energy he puts into his words during a negotiation will require sufficient force to reach the heart of his adversary. Though the adversary may not then and there respond to that love, in one way or another the force of love will be felt.

When desire energy is not spent constructively it remains bottled up inside. It becomes a reservoir of emotion like an expand-

ing balloon. When the balloon expands to the point of bursting, an emotional explosion occurs. The force is then radiated in a destructive manner.

When a person lives his life as a powder keg of unspent emotional energy he is more vulnerable to accidents, mishaps, fights, and fits of passion. Murder and war are the devastating effects of this misused force. When man realizes the importance of directing personal energy into constructive channels that are beneficial to all mankind, he will discover unimagined joy and inner peace.

Astrologer: Raphael, how can Mercury help mankind work constructively with Saturn and Mars?

Raphael: Mercury brings to each person a capacity for reasoning appropriate to his stage of development. There are several ways in which the beneficial use of the mind is neglected. Let us take, for example, a person experiencing a physical limitation such as a heart attack. The mind in this case may be often used as an instrument subservient to the personality. The pain and fatigue of the heart attack brings to the patient's mind fear, depression, and worry. His mind dwells upon the "unfairness" of his situation, speculates upon the worst things that will happen, and creates a shell of gloom, fear, and withdrawal.

When used constructively the mind enables men and women to discover the Law of Cause and Effect as it applies to themselves. They may learn from the experience of others. They may study their own lives and analyze where they have been wrong, and look for the good in themselves and others to give themselves hope and understanding.

When the mind is passive it is used as an instrument to collect sensory impressions. When in one life a person has expressed his desire energy in a destructive manner to the detriment of his family and friends, he may be born into this life with a nervous system which is hypersensitive. He receives in an uncomfortable manner the negative expressions which he once expressed. In this way

his mind is sensitized to the need for controlling the emotions.

At this time humanity's mental development is being stimulated by the proliferation of knowledge. Some people devote themselves to knowledge at the expense of emotion. A gifted child will be given tremendous educational advantages. He or she may become specialized in a field of science, literature or art. Yet this gifted person remains emotionally immature and eventually feels unsatisfied and unhappy because the mind has remained detached from love, trust and emotional stability.

The mind is a precious instrument for observation and sensory perception. In a life of darkness it will register discord and discontent. When humanity seeks the light, person's minds will serve as true guiding lights.

Astrologer: Let us close with the student's prayer. "O God, increase our love for thee so that we may serve thee better from day to day. Let the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord our strength and redeemer."

THRESHOLD OF GREATER SERVICE

[Continued from page 249]

exceedingly subtle. It is persistent faithfulness in all the little things of our daily lives, and consistent effort to serve the Forces of Light that help keep of focused upon our goal and prepares us for greater service.

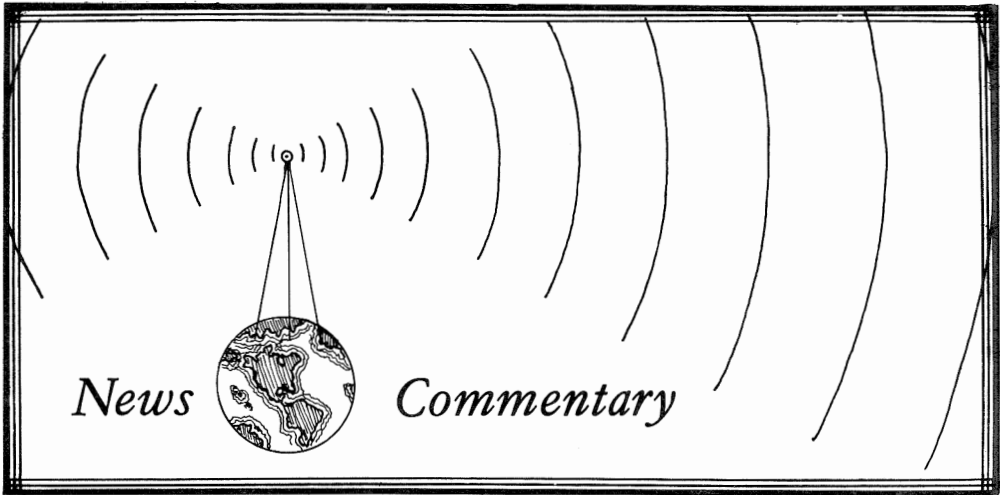
At first the Light is outside. Then as we enter the Baptismal waters the Light enters into us. When we have passed our tests and have "ranged ourselves upon the side of good," we are fitted to use the gifts we have received and the Light then radiates through us for the benefit of others. "It is a wonderful power which is centered in the Christian Mystic at the time of his Baptism by the descent and concentration within him of the Universal Spirit; and when he has refused during the period of temptation to desecrate

it for personal profit or power, he must of necessity give it vent in another direction, for he is impelled by an irresistible inner urge which will not allow him to settle down to an inert, inactive life of prayer and meditation. The power of God is upon him to preach the glad tidings to humanity, to help and heal. We know that a stove which is filled with burning fuel cannot help heating the surrounding atmosphere; neither can the Christian Mystic help radiating the divine compassion which fills his heart to overflowing, nor is he in doubt whom to love or whom to serve or where to find his opportunity. As the stove filled with burning fuel radiates heat to all who are within its sphere of radiation, so the Christian Mystic feels the Love of God burning within his heart and is continually radiating it to all with whom he comes in contact. As the heated stove draws to itself by its genial warmth those who are suffering with physical cold, so the warm love rays of the Christian Mystic are as a magnet to all those whose hearts are chilled by the cruelty of the world, by man's inhumanity to man."

The dedicated aspirant is ever seeking the Light, and more and more of it. The "soul body," vestment of Light, is woven by pure living, all-encompassing love, and acts of loving, self-forgetting service. "Loving, self-forgetting service to others, is the shortest, the safest, and the most joyful road to God."

There is no end to a prayer. It echoes on forever in your soul. Long after the visible demonstration has been made and forgotten, the prayer that produced it continues to work for your spiritual advancement, for the creative power of a God thought is unlimited and eternal.

— Emmet Fox



America's Hunters — Sickest of Sick

It was a busy morning on the radio talk show. The topic of discussion was the murder of John Lennon, and most of the callers wanted to express their opinions on gun control. Many were for it.

"Of course," one voice said, "we're only talking about handguns here. No one is suggesting that rifles be taken away from hunters and sportsmen."

Of course.

Every time the subject of gun laws comes up, people are quick to exclude the "sportsmen" from any possible sanctions. Hunters aren't in the same category as street killers, the theory goes; hunters are solid, decent, respectable Americans.

Well, maybe I'm a minority of one, but I've never agreed. Hunters, it seems to me, are sick — sick in a different way than street killers are sick, but sick just the same.

A person who murders another human being is usually doing it while filled with some sort of emotional passion. Ten minutes before he pulled the trigger, he might not have done it, and 10 minutes later he might not do it. For an instant, though, he is filled with the awful killing instinct, and he takes a life. Often he regrets it later.

A hunter, on the other hand, plans months in advance. He reads up on his subject. He prepares his weapon. He joins friends. And then, sanctioned by the law and

by public opinion, he goes out to kill an animal he has never seen before, and who has done him no harm.

Why? He likes to kill, that's why. He enjoys the sight of seeing an animal bleed to death. He is turned on by the extinguishing of another life. If that sounds perverted, you understand me precisely. We are talking about perverts here.

Maybe it's because I can't conceive of having fun by killing something that I have such contempt for these people. But the day is long gone when hunters truly hunted for food — an infinitesimally small portion of hunters are out there because they need to be to sustain themselves. Most hunters are there because something inside them makes them feel good to watch a living thing die.

They call themselves "sportsmen." What a joke. Unlike other sports, hunting takes little agility, no physical conditioning, no speed. Any slob with a gut full of booze can go into the woods and — if his weapon is powerful enough, if his telescopic sight is strong enough — stand a good chance of making a kill.

In a way, the hunters are much more pathetic than people who arm themselves to the teeth in the name of "self-defense." The latter are acting out of genuine fear; it might not be wise to keep loaded guns around the house, but at least the people who are doing

it have no real desire to see anyone else die. They just have become so frightened by the times that they have succumbed to the perceived need for protection.

Hunters, though, unlike the nervous homeowner who keeps a pistol in the drawer of the night table, do not talk of fear. They are the aggressors. No one is out to get them, and they know it. They wake up on a weekend morning, have a hearty breakfast, say goodbye to the wife and children.

They polish their weapons and select their bullets with care and talk about which rifles have the most killing power. Their fetish becomes ritual; it is twisted in the textbook meaning of the term, and only because their pursuit has become so all-American do they escape the scrutiny of their neighbors. The thinking has always been that since there are so many of them, what they do must be all right.

I always find it interesting to see those pictures hunters like to display; pictures of themselves standing proudly next to some forest animal they have just killed. The hunters are invariably smiling. I like to look in their eyes. What I see are men so insecure of their own worth and abilities in the real world — so doubtful of their capacity to compete with other men in American society — that they must take pride in the fact that, aided by the most savage firepower they can buy, they can cause something large to die. The smiles on their faces seem fragile and weak and sad; the dead animals beside them exhibit much more dignity and strength.

So in the aftermath of the Lennon murder, the national debate is starting anew on the merits of gun control for American citizens. Probably nothing will come of it; after every assassination we have experienced, there has been much talk, but as time goes by the gun lobby always prevails.

This time, though, when you hear people automatically exclude the hunters from their arguments, pause a moment and think. A famous public figure is cut down by a suddenly-famous assassin only once in a great while. The hunters, though — the "sportsmen" — are out there every day,

wandering the land, the sickest of America's sick.

by Bob Greene, *The Blade Tribune*
Oceanside, Dec. 23, 1980

We are delighted to find an article such as this in the public press. It needs no comment from us, and we hope that many people will take it to heart.

"WEED EATING GEESSE" — A PROFITABLE BUSINESS

An Idaho organic food grower has come up with a method less expensive and less environmentally harmful than the use of chemicals to rid crops of weeds — weed-eating geese — and has turned it into a profitable business.

Idaho Seed Co. of Burley has been using the geese for about one year. President Bill Rolley said the company was searching for an alternative method of getting rid of weeds after chemical weed killers were ruled out because of their potential for contamination, and hand picking of weeds was found to be too expensive.

"We've been growing organically for years," Rolley said. "And we'd come up with only two methods of weeding — by hand and with chemicals. We don't use chemicals because we feel they are detrimental to the crop and the soil and hand picking is extremely expensive."

The company now has 80,000 Chinese Weeder geese which it uses to weed its own fields and also leases to area farmers.

He said the geese originally came from China as their name suggests. The breed first was produced about 2,000 years ago. Since that time, cross-breeding has increased the size of the white bird to about that of a swan, Rolley said.

Rolley said the geese can be used to weed many crops although they also may nibble on leafy plants such as spinach and lettuce. He said the geese cannot be used to weed grain crops but can be used in corn after the plant reaches a certain height.

The geese are housed in a building

which covers two acres, but Rolley said most of the birds roam freely on a 40-acre area.

He said the cost of using geese to get rid of weeds is initially about the same as using chemicals. But geese get cheaper to use, he said.

Aside from the obvious elimination of chemical contaminants, geese help enrich the soil because their manure is a good fertilizer, Rolley said.

Blade Tribune, (Oceanside), Oct. 5, 1980

There *are* natural methods of weed control, and this is one of the most intriguing we have encountered. Naturally a goose in every city dweller's yard is out of the question, but we believe that many people with sizeable gardens might use one or two geese effectively enough. In some suburban or rural areas it might be possible to have a "community flock" of geese, allowing them to weed different yards periodically. Geese also make excellent "watchdogs;" these excitable fowl are likely to honk at the slightest disturbance and because of this have been used successfully to keep prowlers away from private and industrial property.

ANIMALS AS EARTHQUAKE WARNINGS

"... and if there were cannonlike sounds and dogs barked together, then immediately prepare for this earthquake trouble."

— Record in Ningsia, China, 1739.

The Chinese long have believed and are leaders in the scientific investigation of the possibility that animal behavior can be used to predict earthquakes. The U.S. Geological Survey has looked into recent Chinese findings, and is funding a statewide project in California to compile data on the significance of barking dogs — or nervous fish or agitated horses — as possible quake forecasters.

Project Earthquake Watch in Menlo Park has about 1,600 volunteers and is seeking more pet owners and people who

work with animals who are willing to observe and report on animal behavior.

Volunteers are watching pet fish, reptiles, dogs, cats and farm animals — all species are eligible — for any change in their ordinary behavior or appetite. They fill out a brief daily log provided by the USGS and are asked to call a 24-hour, toll-free hotline when they observe any uncharacteristic animal behavior. Participants receive the monthly Earthquake Watch Newsletter containing information on the project and related earthquake research.

Los Angeles Times, Sept. 28, 1980

This item appeared in a column that lists and describes "involvement opportunities" in the Los Angeles area for people interested in volunteering their services to help others. It is intriguing to consider that animal Group Spirits — Archangels who actually are the sources of their charges' "instinctive behavior" in the face of impending natural disasters — now may be playing a larger, if still unrecognized, role in related human activity. Because of their "personal" one-to-one relationships with their pets, perhaps these volunteers will be able to unearth data that, taken together, can enhance human understanding of animal behavior, and also of natural catastrophies.

ANIMAL CONSCIOUSNESS MOVEMENT SEEKS TO INCREASE ANIMALS' RIGHTS

In the shadow of Michigan State University's agricultural research program, where livestock is studied in terms of profits and production, philosophy Professor Martin Benjamin champions his own non-human rights movement called "animal consciousness."

It's more than an extension of the Humane Society or a pet club. Benjamin and others in the animal consciousness movement feel basic ethical theories should be applied to the welfare of animals.

"I don't think you can resolve in a deep and satisfying way lots of issues about life and why it's wrong to kill people without

what you're saying having implications for . . . animals," Benjamin said.

Animals largely have been viewed as disposable, cuddly or edible — with no regard for their moral and ethical rights, he said.

The animal consciousness movement, however, seeks to make people aware of animals' feelings, desires and intelligence, Benjamin said.

Benjamin became involved in the movement a few years ago through his studies of medical ethics. He found that to discuss basic questions such as abortion and mental retardation in humans, he had to examine his views about animals.

Last year, Benjamin moderated a conference at MSU, which drew 400 philosophers and scientists to discuss basic animal consciousness questions.

Some of those questions may anger those outside the movement.

"What's the difference between a severely retarded human being and a non-human animal?" Benjamin asked. "Why do we think twice about putting away a retarded person and not (about killing) an animal?"

What's so special about being a human being, as such? Why should one species make a difference? It's just prejudice."

Benjamin's main concern is trying to give animals the respect he feels they deserve.

Part of his effort is a personal boycott of supermarkets that buy meat from "factory farms." The farms, he said, produce livestock for quick slaughter, regardless of the animals' feelings.

Chickens are jammed into small cages. Because they would peck each other to death under such conditions, they are declawed and their beaks cut off, Benjamin said.

"Life for a modern animal is awful," he said.

The Blade Tribune, (Oceanside),
Jan. 18, 1981

We applaud this latest in a growing series of concrete attempts to channel the general human attitude toward animals along

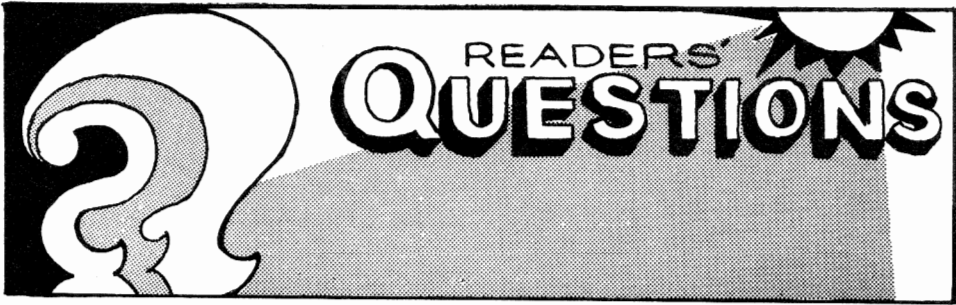
more realistic lines. Many people, whether consciously or unconsciously, regard animals either from a selfish or an indifferent point of view. Pets are lovable or useful — in either case offering an advantage to the owner — and many other animals are regarded solely as sources of labor or of food. Wild animals often are looked upon either as curiosities or as legitimate objectives of hunters. Relatively few of the world's human population views the animal kingdom as a whole as having their own reason for being worthy of protection for that reason, and fewer still understand that the animal life-wave is as "important" as is the human life-wave in God's plan and is also evolving toward ultimate perfection in God.

Professor Benjamin's effort represents a step forward in this regard. Animals do indeed have feelings and desires, and the intelligence manifested as the result of activity by their Group Spirits. There is, of course, a big difference "between a severely retarded human being and a non-human animal." Humans, subject to the Law of Cause and Effect, are responsible for their own mental retardation, while animals have not yet been assigned the vehicle of mind. Nevertheless, animals, just as retarded — and all — human beings, have the God-given right to be left free to evolve in accordance with the divine plan set for their species.

THE CHILDREN OF GEMINI

[Continued from page 266]

them constructively use some of the abundant energy they have as well as temper their restless natures. Gemini children need to be taught the importance of finishing what they start and not to waste their energies by becoming involved in too many things at the same time. "Jack of all trades, and master of none" has all too often applied to these natives who are remarkably versatile, yet not necessarily disciplined to "master" any one thing.



Organ Removal After Violent Death

Question:

Is it exact to say that in the case of accidental, violent, instantaneous death there would be no inconvenience for someone to authorize the removal of his body's organs for transplant, since there is no panorama of life in that case?

Answer:

No, it is not exact to say this, because no matter what the cause of death, there always is a life panorama. It may be, certainly that the person is unable to concentrate on the panorama because of the violence preceding his demise or because of other factors involved in the suddenness of this event. That, however, is another matter. The fact remains that the panorama does take place, and we believe that any individual who is aware during his lifetime of the esoteric teaching concerning the panorama would be doing himself an injustice by assuming in advance that he would not be able to respond to it when his time came. If he is sufficiently informed and/or sufficiently evolved, he may be able to shut out even the externals of violence and concentrate on the panorama no matter what may have preceded it or what may be happening in the physical surroundings while it is taking place.

The general Rosicrucian Fellowship position on organ transplants has been published previously in these pages but is worth repetition. Many facets of the matter must be considered. First, it is important to remem-

ber that every atom of each physical body belongs peculiarly to the Ego inhabiting that body. This condition of the physical vehicle and its organs, nerves, and tissues represents the essence of the way in which the indwelling Ego has lived in his previous Earth lives and has been able to construct the counterpart of his body during the periods between Earth lives. For this reason, transplanted organs and certain types of blood, as well as artificial substances, are on occasion rejected by an Ego, for no Ego will accept physical insertions into his dense vehicle which are too much at variance with his own singular makeup. The Ego must dominate the cells of foreign matter brought into his physical body or he will reject the substance. He should be as sure as he can, therefore, before the insertion of any foreign material into his body that he will be able to dominate that material.

To receive a transplanted, healthy organ for a hopelessly diseased or malfunctioning one might give an Ego the wherewithal and the incentive to live more usefully. The use of a transplanted organ, however, no matter how well its atoms may harmonize with the rest of the individual's dense body, will not help that person make the archetype of a better organ for use in his next life. The ability to do this will stem from the spiritual progress he presently is able to make. If he does not correct the underlying spiritual cause of debility in the organ concerned, it is to be expected that similar or

even worse trouble will plague him in a forthcoming Earth life.

If a person is willing to institute spiritual reform within himself, the use of a well-functioning transplant might provide sufficient immediate relief of suffering or helplessness to enable him to review his situation more rationally and to put forth the needed spiritual, mental, and emotional effort. We can conceive of many situations in which a transplant might give a helpful advantage to an Ego who otherwise would be greatly hindered in life, provided he undertakes to conform, in the future, to the rules of right living and right thinking. All this, of course, presupposes the Ego's understanding of the situation.

Another important consideration is the fact that transplanted organs must be "fresh." They are, therefore, removed from the donor's body as soon as possible after his death. However, during the first three and one-half days after the seed-atom of an Ego ruptures and he is considered dead, a singularly important period in his evolution takes place. He is engaged in viewing a panorama of the life just ended. This panorama will form the basis of his post-mortem experiences in the spiritual worlds. The degree to which he can view the panorama without distraction will determine the extent to which he will be able to learn permanently the lessons of the Earth life just ended. The importance of this particular period in an Ego's over-all evolution cannot be over-emphasized.

While the panorama is taking place, the silver cord is still intact, connecting the higher vehicles with the dense body. Thus, although the Ego is considered physically "dead," there still is a connection with the physical vehicle, and he cannot help but be aware of disturbances to that vehicle. Furthermore, any interference with the physical body during this period tends to disintegrate the vital body, which should be kept intact until the panorama has been viewed fully. Any tampering with the physical body during this period, whether it be an autopsy or the removal of organs for trans-

plant, is noticed to some extent by the Ego. This distracts him from the panorama, and to the degree that it does so, it will prevent him from profiting fully from the experience.

Finally, we believe that heart transplants must be considered in a different light from those of other organs. The heart contains the individual's seed atom, the forces of which have been immanent in every dense vehicle which he has ever used. The record of past experiences inscribed on the seed atom is as indispensable to his evolution as the heart itself is indispensable to his survival in the physical world. Thus it appears that evolutionary hazards could occur to both donor and recipient as the result of a heart transplant.

ROSICRUCIAN TEACHING CONCERNING CHRIST

Question:

What is the Rosicrucian Teaching with regard to Christ?

Answer:

The Christ is a Divine Being, the highest Initiate of the Archangelic life-wave, whose true home is the Sun. He had guided humanity in its evolution on Earth for countless years before His coming, and He is the founder of the universal religion of the future. He came to Earth to lay the foundations for this religion, which has as its basis the Rule of Love as opposed to the Rule of Law which had underlain the religion of the pre-Christian era. He has made it possible for man, of his own free will, to advance spiritually by practicing the principles of compassion and selfless service to others.

It was necessary for Him, although Divine, to appear on Earth in human form that His mission might be accomplished. He needed a physical body for this purpose, and this the man, Jesus of Nazareth, was chosen to supply. Jesus was and is a member of the human life-wave — an advanced Spirit who, through many lifetimes of pure, chaste, and spiritual striving, had perfected himself sufficiently to be able to prepare a body worthy of

habitation by the Christ. Jesus, before his birth, voluntarily agreed to make his body available to Christ at the proper time. He was aware throughout his entire life that he was preparing a vehicle for Christ.

Thus it came about that, at the time of the baptism, when Jesus was 30 years old, the Christ Spirit entered into his body to use it for the next three years. This composite Being is known as Christ Jesus.

It must be remembered that the tenets of the new religion which Christ came to preach were startlingly at variance with the mores and beliefs of the times. For thousands of years the religion of the Old Testament — stressing law, fear, harsh judgments, and punishment — was dominant, and few men, in this context, fully could grasp the principles of humanitarianism, compassion, brotherly love, and service to others which characterize true Christianity. People generally accept new ideas slowly. Consider that it has taken 2000 years for our active concern for human welfare and our understanding of the meaning of brotherhood to develop as far as it has. Many crimes and atrocities have been committed in the name of Christianity since Christ's Teachings first were given to mankind, and many distortions of these Divine Truths have been made by both the unscrupulous and the ignorant. In time, however, universal brotherhood in its truest sense will become a reality, and the true Christian religion, as given by Christ, will be the religion of all mankind.

The Crucifixion was a necessary part of Christ's mission, and is far from being the unmitigated tragedy commonly pictured. When the blood flowed from the body of Christ Jesus, the Sun-Spirit Christ was freed from the physical body and literally entered into the Earth in His own radiant, powerful desire body, permeating the planet with His Divine Life, Light, and Love. He became the indwelling planetary Spirit of the Earth, and was thus able to work upon Earth and its humanity from within rather than from without.

The tremendous vibrations caused by the Christ Light passing into the Earth

blinded the people and made them believe that the Sun had been darkened. Actually, they were blinded by light rather than by darkness. The Christ Light cleansed and purified the Earth and its immediate environment and provided men with the substance wherewith they could commence their own spiritual improvement.

Since that time, the Christ Spirit has returned to the Earth each year to imbue it anew with His Light, Life, and Love, thus purifying our external surroundings more and more each year and enabling us thereby to progress in our spiritual development. The Christ Spirit enters the Earth's atmosphere every year at the time of the autumnal equinox, and reaches the very center of the planet at the winter solstice. He leaves the confines of the Earth at the time of the vernal equinox, and returns to the "throne of God" at the summer solstice. Thus, the annual celebrations of Christmas and Easter mark more than simply the birth of Jesus of Nazareth and the resurrection of Christ. Christmas marks the time when the Christ power and light is strongest, and it is the most propitious time for rededication to spiritual ideals and spiritual striving. At Easter, the Christ Spirit is liberated from the confines of the Earth and is free again to soar to the World of God, there once again to renew the spiritual radiance and strength which He will bring to Earth in a few months, as the cycle repeats itself.

We see then that the Christ is more than an individual who brought a Divine Message to Earth some two thousand years ago. Christ is our indwelling planetary Spirit Who enters the Earth each year to renew the sustaining gift of Divine Light, Life, and Love which is enabling mankind slowly but surely to make spiritual progress. With the help of His continuing love and care we will all eventually rise to the epitome of compassion, brotherly love, and spiritual service, which is the foundation of His religion.

HELPING THOSE WHO HAVE PASSED ON

Question:

Is it possible for us to help our relatives and friends after death while they are going through Purgatory?

Answer:

Yes, it is possible, provided we can get the cooperation of the person we are trying to help.

We know that in Purgatory the pictures of the evil committed during our past lives unroll before us, and they are embedded in the coarsest desire substance of which our desire bodies are composed. The coarser this desire substance, the more tenacious is its hold upon the individual; therefore, expurgation by the force of repulsion causes great pain. If the individual is perfectly willing to let go and acknowledge his or her faults when the pictures of them appear in the panorama instead of rationalizing or making excuses there is much less pain involved in the purgative process.

After we fall asleep at night, if our last waking thought had been a desire to go to our loved ones to help them, that desire will take us to them in the purgatorial region and we can explain this to them. If they will follow our directions and be willing to acknowledge, from the depth of their beings, their past wrongs and mistakes, the process of purgation will be shorter and less painful. Then they will rise to the higher regions where the forces of attraction hold sway in much less time than would ordinarily be the case.

Similar results also can be obtained by prayer, for kind thoughts and thoughts of love, helpfulness, and upliftment have the same effect on those who are out of the body as kind words and helpful deeds have on those who are with us in the world.

SELF-PRAISE IN RETROSPECTION

Question:

The Fellowship teaches that during retrospection a person should praise himself

for his good acts of the day as well as to censure himself for his evil acts. Doesn't self-praise stimulate self-esteem and pride, and isn't there something of the Pharisee in this?

Answer:

Not if the exercise is done properly.

The object of this part of retrospection is to go through the process ordinarily reserved for the First Heaven existence, just as the part of retrospection devoted to the condemnation of evil acts is designed to go through the processes ordinarily reserved for the purgatorial state. The object in both is to hasten our evolution and to take conscious charge of it instead of going through it unconscious of its meaning. In the First Heaven a person relives those deeds and experiences in which he did right and acted in a Christian manner toward others, bringing them happiness and serving the human race as a whole. He assimilates the spiritual quality or essence of those acts, and builds it into his spiritual constitution so that it is available in future lives as a stimulus to right action.

In order to progress in evolution, it is just as necessary for a person to know the spiritual quality of right action as it is to know the unspiritual quality of evil action. Thus, the process of self-praise in retrospection is quite different from the ordinary egotistical habits of pride and egotism which are founded primarily upon the vibration of vanity and the desire for self-exaltation. Because the First Heaven process is part of the great Plan of evolution, we can be sure that its counterpart in retrospection is based on sound principles.

GEMINI, THE FEAST OF LOVE

Love is a mighty, living, pulsating power. It is truly the greatest thing in the world. In this ceremonial, Seraphim and Cherubim together with Angels and Archangels focus their mighty love current upon the earth. St. Paul had witnessed this sublime spectacle before he wrote his supreme Love Song to the churches, as recorded in Hebrews.



Book Review

My Life in the Wild, by Ivan Tors, Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston, 1979.

Ivan Tors' vivid and varied career as movie writer and director (of films such as *Flipper*, *Gentle Ben*, and *Daktari*), ecologist, animal behaviorist, lecturer in science at the University of California, student of ESP phenomena, and wilderness traveler, provides the foundation for this remarkable "animal book."

The book, of course, is a compilation of highlights of Mr. Tors' experiences with such famous creatures as Flipper and Clarence the Cross-Eyed Lion and with a host of anonymous but equally intriguing elephants, rhinos, snakes, crocodiles, and other denizens of the wild. It also tells of people who, like Mr. Tors, have learned to live in and with Nature, partaking both of her blessings and her deprivations. Such people range from Mr. Tors' own three sons, all of whom have become "animal experts" in their own rights, to various native groups such as the "camel people" — nomadic tribes who wander the terrible Chalbi Desert of Africa.

Naturally the reader's attention first and foremost is captured by the stories themselves: the elephant who saved an infant rhinoceros by lifting it out of the mire with its trunk, only to be rewarded by the charge of an enraged mother rhino who misunderstood the gesture; the dolphin who had ignored Mr. Tors' efforts to be friendly but who, when his diving equipment malfunctioned, knew enough to re-appear and guide him safely to the surface of the water; the

bear who jumped up and down on the hard-top of a locked car until he made a hole through which he could retrieve a box of chocolates left on the seat.

In addition, and ultimately more important, interwoven through all the stories, is the sense of unity in life that will manifest for the perceptive reader early in the book. Neither animals nor humans are depicted in isolation; always they are seen in relationship to fellow creatures and to surroundings. Mr. Tors is one of the most outstandingly successful proponents of affection training for animals, and his compassion for all living things serves as a backdrop to the diverse incidents and experiences he describes.

Eventually he puts it into words: "It may sound naive, but I hold to be true that we are interconnected with each other, with each living thing, with everything that exists in the cosmos yesterday, today, and tomorrow, and that love is one of the forces that connects all of us. Love exists just as gravity or magnetism does. Love can pass through time and space. Love changes the flow of adrenalin. Adrenalin changes the electrical conductivity of the human system and modulates our electric fields. Sympathetic force fields of other bodies may very well receive these pulses. In my opinion, telepathy, precognition, and paranormal sensitivity are essential parts of our survival systems."

This book is reminiscent of the equally perceptive *Kinship With All Life*, by J. Allen Boone, with which we believe most of our readers probably already are familiar. We highly recommend both volumes.

HEALTH AND HEALING



Modern Dietetics and the Vegetarian Diet

Dr. E. Wilson James, O.B.E.

(Part 2)

When calories required by the body are lacking, the case becomes similar to that of a person who, requiring wood for fuel and finding none at hand, has to tear down some of the material used in building his house, for the purpose of meeting his requirements. The body in a similar way, in dietary shortages, uses its own tissues — fats or proteins, as the case may be, being burnt to provide energy at the expense of the body. It will be clear, therefore, how very essential it is to make provision in the diet for an adequate number of calories. On the other hand, anyone who eats more food than his energy output demands is likely to store the excess as fat and put on weight, and excess of calories and animal protein in the diet has been linked with degenerative disease of the heart and arteries.

Now as to fats in the vegetarian dietary, modern research suggests some overwhelming advantages in favor of the use of vegetable oils instead of animal fats.

As in the case with the amino acids in

protein metabolism, there are certain essential fatty acids present in various amounts in fats and oils, which are very intimately concerned with body metabolism, but which cannot be synthesized in the body itself and must therefore be supplied in our food. These fatty acids by virtue of their formulae belong to a group described as the "Poly-unsaturated."

Deficiency of these essential acids occur more readily in infants, resulting among other things in certain skin changes. Adults on the other hand are more likely to have adequate storage of the acids (linolenic and arachidonic) than children.

It has long been suspected also and has now been confirmed, that low fat diets supplemented with these essential fatty acids can promote increased excretion from the blood of cholesterol, one of the substances that have been associated with thickening and hardening of the arteries as occurs in old age and heart disease. It has also been observed that vegetarians have considerably lower cholesterol in the blood than non-vegetarians.

With the striking exception of chocolate and coconut oil, vegetable oils, particularly cotton-seed oil, maize, safflower and peanut oil products made from these oils such as mayonnaise, are in general very rich in essential fatty acids, and it has been found that when these are eaten by human subjects on a restricted fat diet they depress the level of cholesterol in the blood. Olive oil, sunflower oil, soya beans, nuts (especially peanuts), cereals, and green vegetables are also fairly well supplied and palm oil to a less extent. Butter, milk, and animal fats are, on the other hand, very poor in this respect.

It should be noted that prolonged heating destroys some of the essential fatty acids in food, and that rancidity indicates their loss.

With regard to the mineral salts required for health, these are generally found in abundant quantities in fruit and vegetables, and in the water we drink. For example, phosphorous and calcium needed for teeth and bone development and other metabolic processes occur in particularly large amounts in milk, cheese, and bread. Calcium is necessary for blood clotting and milk production and its requirements are increased in children, especially during puberty, and in women during pregnancy and lactation. Old people are apt to get too little of calcium and Vitamin D in their diet.

Iron, necessary for hemoglobin formation in the blood, is widely distributed in green vegetables and is present in good amounts in oatmeal, lentils, and split peas. It also occurs in cereals, bread, cheese, fruit, and vegetables, though parboiled rice loses most of its iron. The need for iron is increased in periods of rapid growth, pregnancy, and lactation. Flourine and silicon needed for bones and teeth are found in cereal foods, particularly wheat flour. Carrots are rich in iodine, so necessary for thyroid metabolism and the prevention of goiter.

Bread, cheese, egg white, and cornflour are very rich in sodium, and this is important to note whenever salt (sodium) variation is necessary in the diet. Occasionally mineral deficiencies occur in certain individuals, but

such deficiencies are very much less likely to occur on purely dietary grounds in persons on a vegetarian diet, as that diet insures a particularly rich supply of mineral salts.

Good sources of calcium are: apples, apricots, string beans, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, celery, cheese, coconuts, cranberries, lemon juice, lettuce, milk, orange juice, pineapples, prunes, rhubarb, spinach, turnips, and watercress.

Rich sources of flourine are: brussel sprouts, beets, cabbage, cauliflower, cheese, milk, oatmeal, spinach, tea, watercress, and whole wheat flour.

For iron there are: beans, barley, beets, bran, bread (whole meal), cabbage, carrots, cherries, coconuts, dates, figs, grapes, dark fruit juices, lentils, loganberries, molasses, mushrooms, nuts, oatmeal, olives, peas, prunes, raisins, rye, spinach, split peas, and watercress.

For iodine there are: artichokes, asparagus, bananas, carrots, grapes (green), mushrooms, onions, peas, pears, pineapples, skins of baked potatoes, strawberries, and tomatoes.

Phosphorus is found in almonds, apples, barley, beans, beets, green beans, bran, bread, cheese, cherries, chestnuts, cucumbers, corn (yellow), milk, oat water, oatmeal, onions, olives (ripe), peas, peanuts, prunes, and raisins.

Silicon is found in almonds, apples, asparagus, barley, black figs, cabbage, carrots, chestnuts, cucumbers, oats, spinach, prunes, strawberries, peas, and whole wheat.

Vitamins now known to be vitally essential for utilization of food stuffs, and for body maintenance and growth, also find a rich supply in vegetables, fruit, and dairy products. Medical science knows of a formidable array of these vitamins — Vitamins A, B1, B2, B6, B7, C, D, etc. — at least 120 altogether.

Vitamin A occurs widely in green vegetables in the form of its precursor carotene, which is converted into the vitamin in the walls of the small intestines. This vitamin is readily available in milk, butter, egg-yolk,

and other vegetarian foodstuffs. It is heat-stable but is destroyed by light. Vitamin A, among other things, aids in body resistance against infection, and is of value to the eyes, in the perception of light. It has a special relation also to the skin and mucous membrane and is stored in the liver. Severe shortage of Vitamin A can cause a form of blindness.

The B Vitamins are necessary for the nervous system, and are particularly concerned with the burning up of carbohydrates in the body, and the production of energy. Vitamin B1 (Thiamine), for example, is needed in proportion to the caloric or carbohydrate content of the diet, and its lack can ultimately lead to neurological changes, edema, and cardiac failure. Another B Vitamin, Niacin or nicotinic acid, found in fair amounts in bread, rye flour, oatmeal, and peanuts, is involved with Vitamin B2 in such things as the nutrition of the skin and mouth, and severe nicotinic acid deficiency can result in mental impairment.

Biotin, another member of the Vitamin B complex, and a protective factor against anemia, occurs abundantly in yeast. Vitamin B6 (Pyridoxine) is of special importance in protein and fat metabolism, and B12 in red blood cell formation.

Vitamin B12 is of special importance to the vegetarian, since except for yeast it is not abundant in vegetable products. It is obtained in plenty from eggs and dairy products, and its absorption into the body is greatest when it is spread over the meals. A certain amount of the Vitamin is manufactured spontaneously in the body by bacterial synthesis in the intestines. Another B Complex Vitamin also important for the blood is Folic Acid. This is abundant in spinach, dark green vegetables, and yeast, and like Vitamin B12 and Biotin, is formed within the body.

(To be continued)

Some Favorite Recipes

HERBED BROWN RICE

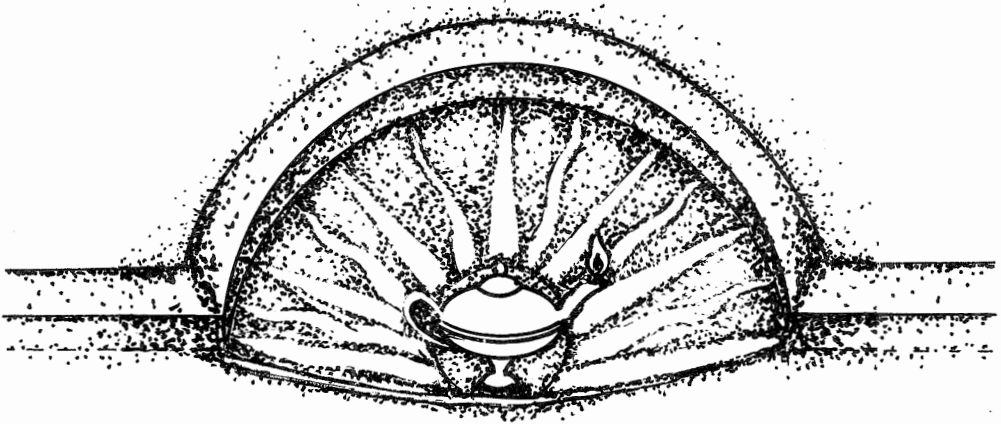
1 clove garlic, minced
 1 c. brown rice
 2 Tbs. soy sauce
 1 1/2 cups warm vegetable broth
 Parsley
 Chives
 Pinch each of basil and oregano herbs
 Optional: Vegetable salt

Saute rice, garlic, and herbs in oil. Add broth and cook tightly covered, letting no steam escape; simmer 40 minutes over very lowest flame. Stir lightly to separate. Add chives and parsley as desired. Serves 2 to 3.

STEAMED MUSHROOMS

1 lb. fresh mushrooms
 2 Tbs. butter
 Dash paprika
 1/2 tsp. vegetable salt

Prepare by wiping with cloth or use brush to clean. Separate caps from stems. Place with butter in top of double boiler over boiling water; cover tightly; steam about 20 minutes until tender. Season. Serves 4.



Factors in Spiritual Healing

Until the Christ illumines us from within we do not comprehend, neither do we follow, the laws of Nature, and consequently we contract disease by our ignorant or conscious contravention of these laws.

Let us understand that the whole universe is pervaded with the power of the Father, always available to cure all ills of whatever nature; that is the *great certainty*.

Selfishness is the prime cause of most disease and selfishness is the supreme besetting sin of ignorance.

A "cure" involves a physical process. Healing, however, is radically different, for here the sufferer is always required to cooperate both *spiritually* and *physically* with the healer.

Faith without works is dead, and in every case where Christ Jesus healed anyone the person had to do something — he had to cooperate actively with the Great Healer before his healing could be accomplished.

Whatever good there may be in any system of healing, the effects upon a certain person will be beneficial or the reverse in exact proportion to his faith in its healing power.

It is a scientific fact that the state of the blood affects the mind and vice versa. A sound body is therefore indispensable to a sane mentality.

Each one expresses without exactly

what his thoughts are within. In each case the body is an accurate reproduction of the mind meaning that each person suffers from the ailments peculiar to the trend of its mental activity.

We must try to devote ourselves lovingly to performing unselfish work and try increasingly to purify our thoughts doing "all unto the Lord."

We must devote ourselves to performing unselfish work and try increasingly to purify our thoughts doing "all unto the Lord."

Visible Helpers are just as necessary as Invisible Helpers, and our friends and patients may share in a high privilege, as well as add much to the power of liberated healing force, by joining us in prayer for the sick. Our Healing Service is held every evening in the Healing Temple at 6:30 P.M., and Pro-Ecclesia at 4:15 P.M. when the Moon is in a cardinal sign.

Relax, close your eyes, and make a mental picture of the pure white rose in the center of the Rosicrucian Emblem on the west wall of our Pro-Ecclesia, and concentrate on *Divine Love and Healing*.

June 4-11-18-25



Dagmar Frabme

Part I

Once upon a time, not too long ago, there was a tiny little hummingbird called Chiquita. Now hummingbirds aren't very big to begin with, as you know, but Chiquita was the tiniest of all. She was about half the size of most other hummingbirds, and that would make her just about as long as many of your little fingers.

Chiquita's mother was born in Mexico, and that's how Chiquita got her name. (Chiquita means "little" in Spanish, which is what people speak in Mexico.) But after a while her name was shortened from Chiquita to Chiqui, and that is what we'll call her from now on.

Chiqui was so tiny that she was forever getting lost. She got lost in places where no one would ever think of getting lost. She got lost inside a big rhododendron bush and Randy Robin had to find her and lead her out. She got lost in Farmer Brown's cornfield once and it took the entire Bluejay family three hours to find her. And one time when she was taking nectar from a huge peony blossom she slipped on one of the petals and sank down so deep in the blossom that she couldn't get out. Nobody heard her calls for help, and it wasn't until Mrs. Bumblebee came by on an errand of her own and found Chiqui and called the Crow brothers, who

made a rope of grass with which to pull her out, that she was rescued.

Chiqui lived in Mrs. Jones' garden, and spent most of her time there — especially after that unnerving experience in the cornfield. The garden was quite big and very, very pretty, and Chiqui found enough to do there without having to go off to other places. Some good friends of hers lived in the garden, too. There were the Wren twins, who had a comfortable big nest and often invited Chiqui over for supper. There was the enormous Bumblebee family, and Chiqui could always find one of them to go nectar-gathering with her when she didn't want to go alone. There was Pete the Praying Mantis, a real clown who often sat on a leaf doing and saying funny things and making Chiqui and her friends laugh and laugh. And there was Dexter the woolly caterpillar, who was very thoughtful and always doing things to help others. One night when it got unusually cold and Chiqui's feet felt simply frozen, he even slept lying across them so that his nice woolly coat would warm them up.

Mrs. Jones loved having Chiqui in her garden, and could often be heard saying to her visitors, "Look, look, there is my adorable little hummingbird."

Chiqui wasn't sure she liked being known as an "adorable little hummingbird"

— it all sounded rather gushy! But Mrs. Jones was really a very nice lady and took excellent care of her garden, so Chiqui didn't mind too much.

Sometimes when she felt particularly like having fun, Chiqui would wait hiding under a leaf when some of Mrs. Jones' friends came to sit in their chairs under the big elm tree. After everyone was seated and talking Chiqui slipped out from under the leaf, flew right around the ladies one time as fast as she could, and hid under the leaf again.

Then she giggled to herself while the ladies got all excited. "Oh, Wilma, did you see that enormous bee?" said one, pushing herself far back in her chair and looking for the enormous bee to come back.

"It wasn't a bee, it was a moth," said another in a very positive tone of voice.

"No, no, Henrietta, I'm sure it was a bee — and such a big one. Oh dear — hadn't we better go inside?"



By this time Chiqui was giggling so hard she could hardly fly, but she came out from her hiding place and did the same thing again. This time the scared lady jumped up and was all ready to go into the house and Mrs. Jones, who knew all about Chiqui's little secret and got almost as much fun out of it as she did, had to say, "No, dear, no.

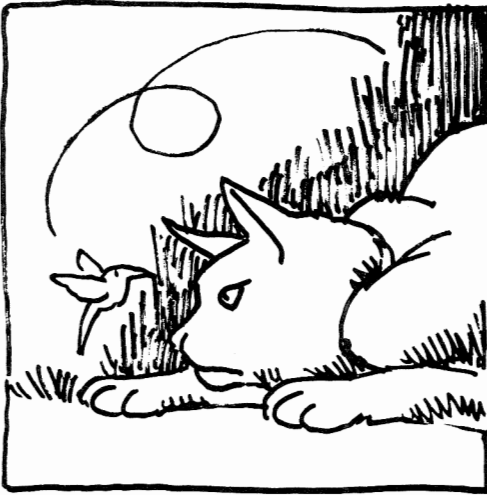
That was really not a bee. That was my adorable little hummingbird."

The scared lady didn't believe her at all, and finally Chiqui came out from her hiding place and flew around — much more slowly, this time. The ladies "ooohed" and "aaaahed," and sometimes even said some cooing words in baby talk, which made Chiqui shudder. If there was a blossom nearby, she let them watch her hovering in the air in front of it as she gathered some nectar. They seemed especially to like that. Then she flew away, leaving the ladies to wonder out loud how she could possibly move her wings so quickly.

In fact, it was a wonderfully happy life in the garden except for one thing — Roscoe the cat! Roscoe was a very large, very gray, and rather bad-tempered tom cat who belonged to Mrs. Jones and had lived in the garden for many more years than Chiqui. Roscoe and the birds did not see eye to eye on anything — least of all on who should be allowed to live in the garden. Roscoe didn't think that *any* birds should live there at all. Fortunately, however, Mrs. Jones liked the birds, and they knew it, so they did their very best to ignore Roscoe and stay out of his way.

The Bluejay family had no trouble with Roscoe, since all of them were as big as he was and had very sharp beaks, and he knew better than to even try and get them to leave. He often lay under a shrub glaring at the Bluejays when they were around, but he didn't dare do any thing more than glare. The Wren twins had had some trouble with Roscoe until one day when he came stalking up behind them while they were in the bird-bath. Cindy Wren saw him first, beat her wings as hard as she could and splashed a lot of water right in his face. Then, while he was still busy rubbing the water out of his eyes with his paw, Mindy Wren pinched his tail hard with her beak. That taught Roscoe a lesson, and from then on, he left the Wren twins alone.

But when Roscoe was prowling around, all the animals and insects in the garden worried about Chiqui. She was so tiny, and

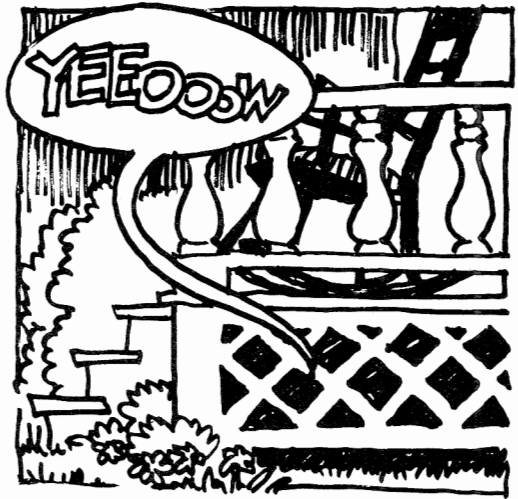


Roscoe was so big! He could, they all thought, swallow her in one gulp. The only one who wasn't worried was Chiqui herself. She knew that she could fly much faster than Roscoe could move, and sometimes when Roscoe saw her and was thinking about getting ready to pounce, she lifted her wings and had disappeared before he could even blink his eye. And so Chiqui simply refused to spoil her happy life by worrying about Roscoe, and the other animals and insects became even more worried when they saw that Chiqui was *not* worried.

One day Chiqui was flying around the big honeysuckle which had just begun to bloom. She was enjoying the delicious nectar and the wonderful smell of the honeysuckle and was thinking about getting her friends the Bumblebees to come and enjoy it too. Suddenly, from somewhere quite close by, came a loud yelp, followed by the most unhappy weeping and wailing you have ever heard. It sounded like one long "owwww-www" — sometimes louder and sometimes softer — and it very definitely came from someone who was miserable.

Chiqui looked around but didn't see anyone or anything unusual. The noise seemed to be coming from the ground, and Chiqui flew down to look under the honeysuckle. Nothing there. She looked under the birdbath, behind the azaleas, and in the zinnia bed, but there was nothing there, either.

Then Chiqui decided that the sound was coming more from the direction of Mrs. Jones' little house which stood right in the center of the garden. She flew around the house a bit, and finally traced the noise to the front porch where Mrs. Jones often sat in a rocking chair and read. She flew around the porch but still found nothing. Then she did something that she had never done before, and which was in fact, quite dangerous for a hummingbird — especially such a tiny one — to do. She flew down to the ground and stood on it. The noise was somewhere right near by. There was a narrow space between the bottom of the porch and the ground, and Chiqui peered into the gloomy darkness inside that space. The noise was most definitely coming from there!



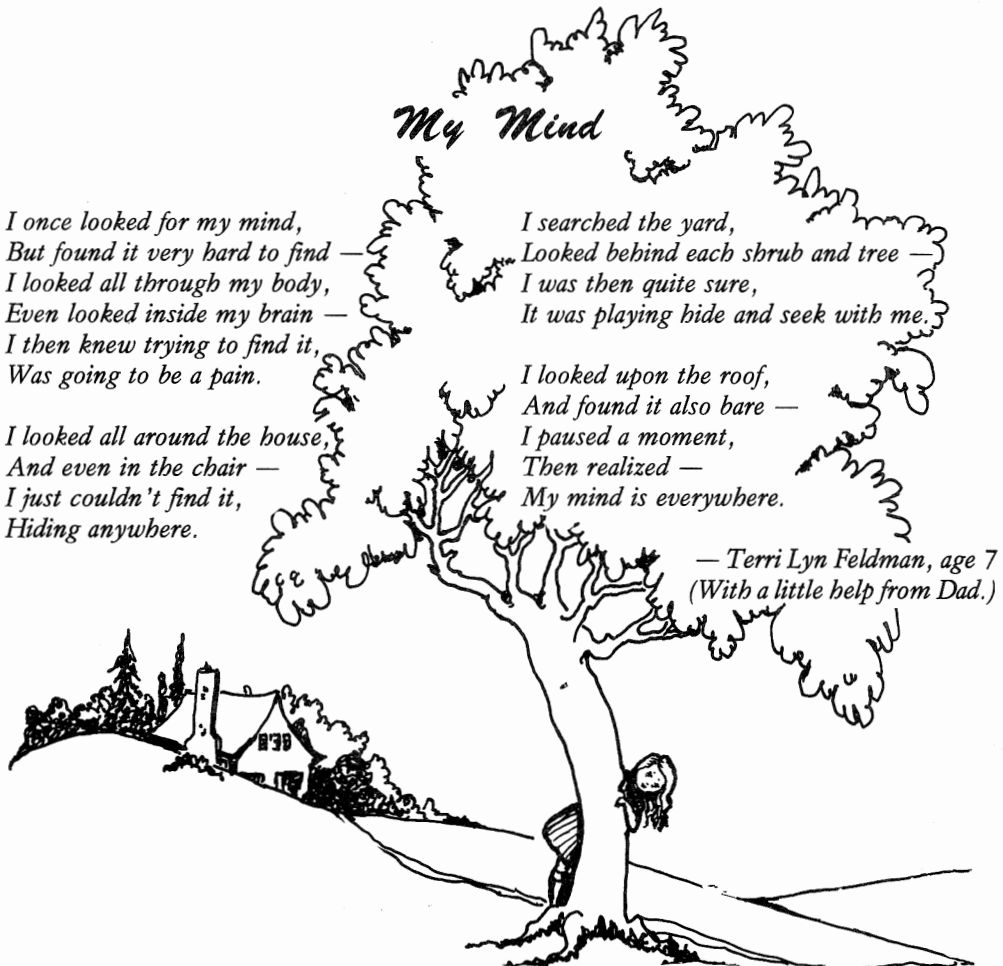
Now Chiqui had never been in a place like that before, and certainly didn't like the thought of going into that darkness and gloom. But someone or something inside was in trouble, and there seemed to be no one around to help except Chiqui, so, it seemed, she had to go in. She took a few cautious steps into the darkness. She wasn't used to walking on the ground, and especially not in such a scary place, and she soon began to get a goose-bumpy feeling up and down her back. But she swallowed hard, told herself not to be silly, and went slowly on, one cautious step at a time. The further into the darkness

she went, the louder the noise became and the more unhappy, it seemed, the wailing was.

It was very hard to see at first, but little by little her eyes became used to the darkness. She made out a few strange shapes — something that looked like a broken flower pot, a big brick all covered with caked mud, and an old wheel that looked as though it had come from a doll carriage. Then Chiqui froze in her tracks, and for a minute it seemed as though her heart had stopped beating. There, in the very far corner, was Roscoe the cat! It was only a dim shape in the darkness, but there was no mistake. It was most definitely Roscoe.

And that weeping and wailing was coming from him. He must be hurt. Chiqui didn't know what to do. Roscoe still didn't know she was there, it seemed, and she could leave quietly while there was still time. And that is what she wanted to do. But she just couldn't go and leave Roscoe in there suffering — even if he was a cat! Who else would go in there and help him? She knew that her friends certainly wouldn't — not the way they felt about Roscoe. And Mrs. Jones, who would undoubtedly hear the noise after a while, was much too big to crawl into that little space and get Roscoe out.

(To be continued)





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