

THE WAY OF LIFE IS ABOVE

By Alden Truesdell

MAN IS never sure of his place in the world. For there is always a great flux and a constant conniving taking place. Each one in the world is trying to better his position and others seem to want to usurp the advantages of that position.

Everywhere everyone is seeking some sort of stability and security. This has shown forth in the legislating of social security, by which the effort is made to keep everybody supplied with all needful things and make him content. But men are not content, although many are resigned to making the best of the situation.

There is still discontent; there will always be discontent as long as there is hope of satisfaction in the world. For, actually, man is not supposed to be satisfied with the world. Man's satisfaction is in Spirit, for man is a spiritual being. "In the world ye shall have tribulation."

We are all familiar with the Scriptural statement (Proverbs 15:24): "The way of life is above to the wise, that he may depart from the hell beneath." The "hell beneath" consists mostly of the attachments man has made and the dependencies he has assumed upon persons, things, and places in the world. As long as he is satisfied with these holdings, there is little point in discussing a better state of being with him. But when he begins to chafe and to become discontented, then does he become candidate for heaven or for worse hell, depending upon where the discontent is directed.

If the avenue of escape, or the search for satisfaction, is downward and outward, the end is destruction. But if the inward, secret, spiritual way of life is chosen, the seeker finds willing helpers all along the line, and the end is eternal life. Either of these ways is preferable to standing still. For the radical in hell and the saint in heaven are better off than the lukewarm, middle-of-the-road conservative, who takes the lines of least resistance and conforms to all the accepted patterns.

The study of Truth strikes the note of the uplook consistently and the instruction to look up is expressed or implied in every lesson. For unless the practice of the high watch is the preliminary practice, the return is not to the Most High and there is no spiritual escape. "Where there is no vision, the people perish."

Even star-gazing, or looking up to the constellations, will expand minds and straighten bodies. But the High Watch of the faithful servant is within. And the "upright," from whom no good is withheld, is the one who finds the inner watch tower and the pathway of the Lord that is hidden from the outer eyes and from the mind preoccupied with outer things. "For the Lord God is a sun and shield: the Lord will give grace and glory: no good thing will He withhold from them that walk uprightly."

SPIRITICITY, April 1959

THE SCROLLS AND THE NEW TESTAMENT

By Robert Applegate, Jr.

THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS, first discovered in 1947, are valuable in helping us to understand the time in which Jesus lived, in which our religion originated. They do nothing to elucidate the teaching of Jesus and they in no way explain His Advent. But they do help us to understand the intellectual environment in which He lived and taught. They show the ideas that were in the air. They reveal how the men of that day thought, what they believed, and how they expressed themselves. Thus they often help us to understand the language of the New Testament and the actions of its main characters (beside Jesus).

All religious instruction is an attempt to describe the Infinite - or the way to the personal experience of the Infinite - in finite terms, in terms that are understandable to the men to whom they are directed. If Jesus and His followers were alive today, they would express themselves far differently than they did two thousand years ago. But Jesus had to speak in terms that were understandable to the men to whom He talked. And His followers not only repeated His teaching in the familiar idioms, but they understood that teaching only within the framework of the ideas with which they were familiar. To know this and to go behind the words used to the meaning they were intended to convey will bring us closer to understanding what the essence of Christianity is.

Baptism, or ceremonial bathing, was an Essene practice. It was carried on by John the Baptist, who had probably been an Essene, but had separated from the group. Thus baptism came to be a widely accepted and recognized practice. We are expressly told that Jesus baptized no one, and He gave no instructions about baptism. (The two statements in the New Testament that He did are later additions.) His disciples baptized, because everyone expected it, and they felt it was the right thing to do. Jesus did not forbid it, because there was no harm in it; but the ritual is not of the essence of Christianity. It is an accretion from the environment in which Jesus lived and taught.

Similarly the sacred meal was an Essene custom, which had come to be an expected part of any new movement. Jesus taught that every meal is a holy communion since it is a partaking of God's divinely given substance. "Do this (give thanks), as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." But His disciples, following the Essene custom, made the sacred meal a special occasion.

There is nothing wrong with the accepted rituals, as long as we remember what they are - unimportant accretions occasioned by the environment in which Jesus lived. We should never mistake them for the essence of Christianity, which is the teaching of Jesus Christ of the Fatherhood of God and of man's direct access to the Father.

(To be continued)

SPIRITICITY, APRIL 1959

THE TEACHINGS OF JESUS

Paraphrased by Nell Truesdell

JOHN, Chapter 8

(IN OCTOBER of A.D. 29 Jesus attended the Feast of Tabernacles in Jerusalem. On the eighth day, as was the custom, there was a holy convocation (see Numbers 29:35); and early in the morning Jesus, who had spent the night on the Mount of Olives, returned to the Temple, where a crowd gathered around Him. In the courtyard of the treasury He sat down and as He taught the people, some Pharisees brought forward an adulteress. To test Jesus, they asked Him whether she should be stoned to death according to the Mosaic Law (see Leviticus 20:10); but Jesus stooped down and wrote in the sand with His finger, seeming to pay no attention to them. When they persisted, He got up and said:)

---- Let the man who has never made a mistake be the first to throw a stone at her.----

(After this statement, Jesus again stooped down and wrote in the sand. When the conscience-stricken accusers had slunk away, He got up and asked the woman:)

----Woman, where are the men that accused you? Has none of them pronounced you guilty? ----

(When she answered, No, Jesus said to her:)

---- Move along, and do not transgress further; for neither do I reprove you. ----

(Turning to the waiting group of listeners, Jesus said:)

----- Intelligence, which is the Knowing Faculty in human beings, is of the Supreme One. The person that submits to Its guidance will not remain ignorant, but will have conscious knowing of his Spiritual Being. ----

(The Pharisees who were present complained: You bear record of yourself; so your record is not valid. Jesus answered them:)

---- Even though I give testimony of my own Sonship, my report is true, because I am certain about where I came from and where I belong; but you are unable to discern my origin or where I belong. Your opinions are based on man's human characteristics; I do not consider these things. Yet if I appraise man, my conclusion is based on truth; for I am never by myself, but am always united with the Supreme One, which has made me His Agent.

---- Too, your sacred writings assert that the evidence of two persons is valid. I am one that give evidence of my Sonship, and the Supreme One, which made me His Agent, supports me. ----

(When the Jews asked Jesus where the Supreme One was, He answered:)

---- You know neither who I am nor what the Supreme One is. If you clearly understood who I am, you would also understand the Supreme One. ----

(So Jesus taught in the treasury of the Temple, and no one seized Him because His mission was still incomplete. He continued:)

---- I follow my course; you will soon look for me, but you will perish for your transgressions. You are unable to follow in my path. -----

(Among themselves the listeners questioned, Will He commit suicide? But Jesus went on:)

---- You are from a lower level; I am from a higher one: you belong in the realm of humankind; I do not belong in that area. For this reason I declared to you that you will perish for your transgressions; for if you refuse to accept me, you will perish in your unbelief. -----

(His listeners asked, Who are you? Jesus answered:)

---- Exactly what I declared myself to be from the first. I have yet many observations to make concerning you. For the Supreme One that made me His Agent is Real, and I declare to humankind the truths I have been taught by Him. ----

(Jesus' listeners did not grasp what He was saying; so He said to them:)

---- When you have raised up your Spiritual Identity (see SPIRITICITY, Dec. 1958:5) you will then clearly understand that I am that One, and that I do not do anything on my own. I communicate the truths that the Supreme One teaches me. He that instructs me abides with me. The Supreme One has never abandoned me, because I always do what pleases Him. ----

(Many who heard these words believed, and to them Jesus said:)

---- You are truly my followers only if you steadfastly adhere to my teaching. When you comprehend the Principle of Being, then that Principle of Being will liberate you. ----

(These words disturbed some of the listeners who claimed that, by being descendants of Abraham, they were not in bondage. Jesus frankly said to them:)

---- Truly, I declare to you, Whoever continues to violate the Principle of Being is enslaved by that violation. And a slave does not stay in a household permanently, but the Son stays there permanently. If the Son liberates you, you will be truly freed. -----

---- I am aware that you are descended from Abraham, but you want to destroy me, because you do not understand my teaching. I reveal what I have learned from the Supreme One and you copy what you have observed in your earthly parents. -----

(Angered, the dissenters yelled, Abraham is our father! Jesus answered them:)

---- If you were Abraham's children, you would copy his actions. But you connive to do away with me because I have reported truths to you that I have learned from the Supreme One. Abraham did not do this. You exhibit the deeds of your earthly parents. ----

(Outraged, they shouted; We are not bastards; we also claim that God is our Father. Jesus replied to them:)

---- If the Supreme One were your Father, you would reverence me, because I originated in, and came forth from, the Supreme One. I did not come here on my own, but was sent by the Supreme One. Why do you refuse to accept my statement? Because you are unable to comprehend my teaching.

---- You are the fruit of fleshly craving (passion), and you will continue in the inordinate passion of your earthly parents. Sex lust has been a betrayer from the dawn of man; it does not exist in truth, because there is no truth in passion. Passion is a false stimulant that promises joy, but passion is a liar and the begetter of liars. But because I make known the facts, you refuse to believe me. Which of you convicts me of error? And if I state the truth, why do you reject me?

----He that abides in the Supreme One comprehends the Supreme One's instructions; you do not hear them because you are not godly. -----

(The Pharisees, attacking Jesus, called Him a Samaritan, who was possessed by a demon; but Jesus answered:)

---- I am not possessed; rather I revere the Supreme One, and you certainly insult me. I do not demand praise for myself; there is One that demands it and evaluates truly. Indeed, I declare to you, If a man obeys my teaching, he will never lose his Spiritual Being. -----

(The Pharisees, unable to grasp what Jesus was saying to them, argued that He could not be as great as their ancestor Abraham, or as the prophets. And what was He trying to make them believe about Himself? Jesus replied:)

---- If I revere myself, my reverence counts for naught; it is the Supreme One who esteems me. You say that He is your Deity. Yet you have never understood Him; but I understand Him. If I deny that I understand Him, I shall be a liar along with you; but I know Him and I am obedient to His instruction. Your ancestor Abraham delighted to foresee my period of influence; and he was happy to discern it. ----

(To the Jews, who thought only in terms of age, Jesus asserted:)

---- Truly, I declare to you, I preceded Abraham's existence. ----

(For this they wanted to stone Him, but He passed among them and left without their seeing Him.)

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SPIRITICITY, APRIL 1959

THE POWER OF THE NAME

By H. B. Jeffery

IT HAS BEEN declared, and well proven, that every letter, every word, and every name has within itself a certain potentiality and power, which, when that letter, word, or name is spoken, goes forth as a vibratory force and is registered in the ethers. Not only is it recorded in the ethers, but, first, it is felt throughout the whole body of him who speaks it.

We have long been taught that our every word is recorded in our body. The enlightened of all ages have declared this to be so, but mankind has been reluctant to accept it as true. Our words become flesh and dwell among us. One of old said: "By thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned." Knowing the great law of the word, He spoke "as one having authority."

If every name has a power peculiar to itself, the greatest of all names must necessarily have involved mystically within itself the greatest of all power. And if the power of a name is put forth when that name is spoken, the greatest of all power must be set in motion when the greatest of all names is sounded.

There is a Name "far above all principality and power" - a Name which the sacred Scriptures say, "Every tongue shall confess." It is the Name of the only begotten of God: JESUS CHRIST.

Hidden in the Name Jesus Christ is the secret of all power in heaven and earth, and to him who will enter into that Name it will be given to know the mysteries of the Kingdom of Heaven.

How shall we enter into the Name? By intending our mind toward it, by repeatedly speaking it, and by meditating upon it.

Since every name, when spoken, vibrates throughout our whole body, then this Name when spoken shall move every cell and atom of our being, and set it to a rhythmic movement in harmony with itself. As repetition of any name serves to fix it in the mind, so also will our repetition of the everlasting Name establish the vibratory action of that Name as a moving force in the body.

And if that Name is much dwelt in, the power of it shall become the major force with us, until we shall no longer hold the Name, but the Name shall possess and sustain us. Thus do we become imbued with it; thus we are buried in it; thus we are absorbed in it - baptized in the Name of Jesus Christ. And only as we become baptized in it shall we know its mighty power and significance.

Not only is it the name of a man of history, but it is the name of a principle. It is the Name of The Principle of Life, even as He said in His own Name: "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father but by Me. . . . He that hath seen Me hath seen the Father."

The Man who bore that Name was given it because He was the embodiment of the Principle. He was not named by His mother. She was told what His name should be before He was born. "Thou shalt call His name JESUS: for He shall save His people from their sins."

Out from the Silence came this Name. Jesus, from His childhood, knew its meaning and, from the beginning, determined to live up to it. It means GOD WITH US, IMMANUEL, THE WONDERFUL COUNSELOR, THE MIGHTY GOD.

If we study Jesus' life, we see that He never lost sight of the meaning of His Name and never wavered in His determination to reveal its significance and power. So truly did He live it that He became "the fulness of the Godhead bodily," the Saviour and the Redeemer of the race. Being true to His Name, He made manifest His oneness with the Father, and declared this truth, saying, "I and My Father are one." In so knowing and doing He learned the Unspeakable Name, the Lost Word. This He must have possessed in order to do the works that

He did; or, rather, those works which were done through Him by the Unnamable One. "The Father that dwelleth in Me, He doeth the works. Believe Me that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me. . . . All things that the Father hath are Mine."

Since Jesus was one with the Father, all that the Father had was His to do with as He wished. The Lost Word was His to use. He used it, but no one had the ears to hear it. So, as an access to it, He gave His own Name, requesting that His followers dwell in His Name until the secrets held by Him should be revealed to them, even until they came into the same mind that He had and were possessed of the same spirit.

We invoke the nature of that which we behold and whose name we repeat. So we come into possession of the wisdom and knowledge that Jesus possessed if we behold Him and repeat His Name. Then the mysteries of the Kingdom of Heaven are revealed to us.

Desiring that all might be and know what He was and knew, and wishing to give to all whatever the Father had given unto Him, He said: "Abide in My Name."

"Abide in Me, and I in you. . . . If ye abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. . . . The Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in My Name, He shall teach you all things."

(To be concluded next month)

Inner assurance
is
outer insurance

Alphabet Of
DAILY MEDITATIONS
For Every Week Day Of The Month

APRIL 1959

1. Each one of us shall give ACCOUNT of himself to God.
2. BRING an offering and come BEFORE Him.
3. Let us CONDUCT ourselves becomingly.
4. He will DELIVER and keep us alive.
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6. The EYE of the Lord is upon them that hope in His mercy.
7. He who loves his neighbor has FULFILLED the law.
8. Thou hast GIRDED me with GLADNESS.
9. May the God of HOPE fill you with all joy.
10. Build houses (in consciousness) and INHABIT them.
11. I do not JUDGE myself.
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13. The faith you have, KEEP between yourself and God.
14. I will LIFT up my heart in Thy Name.
15. How MANIFOLD are Thy works!
16. We are a holy NATION.
17. If ONE loves God, ONE is known by Him.
18. Let us PURSUE what makes for PEACE.
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20. The effect of righteousness is QUIETNESS.
21. Christ REDEEMED us from the curse of the law.
22. My SOUL SHALL be SATISFIED.
23. TEACH me, and I will hold my TONGUE.
24. His greatness is UNSEARCHABLE.
25. Together with one VOICE we may glorify God.
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27. Blessed is he that WATCHETH.
28. YOU YOURSELVES are full of goodness.
29. Be ZEALOUS to be found by Him at peace.
30. Give thanks unto the Lord; for He is good.

"When thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly."

SPIRITICITY is the working Power of the Spiritual Principle,
As electricity is the working power of the electrical principle.