

VIRTUE

By Alden Truesdell

THERE IS a perfect prototype for everything in heaven and on earth including man. The perfect man must perfectly represent this prototype. Such a man is likened to "a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season." So far as we know, Jesus Christ is the one example of this perfect man. He was "in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin," because at all points He touched God.

This Perfect Man described the vital essence which sustained Him as "virtue." When the woman with a hemorrhage touched Him, He felt virtue go out of Him. We might give some attention to this quality. What do we know about virtue - this essence in man enabling him to endure as beholding the Invisible, enabling him to do mighty works?

Virtue is of course not negative or prohibitive; virtue is positive, constructive, creative. It is also healing. Virtue is not refraining from doing that which is wrong, but is in itself that which is right in the sight of the Most High. It is the essence of the Most High that can do no wrong. Therefore virtue is its own reward.

It goes without saying that virtue is clean, pure, sweet, and holy; for virtue incorporates all these qualities and more. Virtue is the spiritual spark of all conception. Virtue is the basis for Virginity, the reason for celibacy.

Jesus said: "There are some eunuchs, which were so born from their mother's womb: and there are some eunuchs, which were made eunuchs of men: and there be eunuchs, which have made themselves eunuchs for the kingdom of heavens sake. He that is able to receive it, let him receive it."

Virtue is not continence, but continence may lead to virtue. Virtue is instrumental in refining the whole consciousness - mental, emotional, and affectional. Like God, it sees no evil. It is the amity above all togetherness. It promotes the overcoming that is above all spiritual or occult achievement. Virtue identifies with the original prototype that is above all that claims to be new. Virtue is the spiritual resurrection above all birth, rebirth, or reincarnation. Virtue is the vitality of the man of God by which miracles are exposed.

This is that to which we aspire. The shortcut to this life of the Spirit is to turn completely to God within and to believe on the Name of Jesus Christ.

"This is life eternal," Jesus said, "that they might know Thee the Only True God and Jesus Christ whom Thou hast sent. . . . I have declared unto them Thy Name, and will declare it: that the Love wherewith Thou hast loved Me may be in them, and I in them."

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THE WORD OF TRUTH IS POTENT

By H. B. Jeffery

A LITTLE BOY was told his mother was going off to a far place and he would not see her any more.

He had been taught that God is All-in-all, and so he went off by himself and thought along those lines. Then he went in to the bedside and said:

"Mamma, you are not going to go anywhere - you can't go anywhere."

She caught it and lived.

God is All. God is fully present everywhere. Man is created in the Image and Likeness of God. Anything else is not of God and so is not true. The healer must know this and must be of a firm mind. The healer must ever abide in this consciousness; then he will never be caught off his guard when appearances assert the contrary.

The healer knows that sickness is not good, want is not good, weakness is not good; he denies these things silently: they have no substance, no reality. There is only One Substance; God is the Only Reality.

The healer never wrestles with evil or tries to "educate" it by making it something it is not, for you can't educate the devil. The healer knows the nothingness of evil; but he does not stop there. You can arrest sickness, pain, etc. in this way; but you will leave your patient doing nothing. You have to get him to the positive pole - to do something. There must be some action of good, for that is the only thing that will heal. You must put into force the good that appears to be lacking, the opposite of the evil that appears to be present: for jealousy, kindness and service, for weakness strength, for hate love, for sorrow joy, for inharmony peace.

Nature abhors a vacuum. When you only deny, you leave a vacuum and nature fills it. Therefore you must fill it first with the Goodness of Truth. Jesus warned about this when He said:

"When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and findeth none. Then he saith, I will return unto my house from whence I came out; and when he is come, he findeth it empty, swept, and garnished. Then goeth he, and taketh with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first."

In every case that Jesus healed you will find some action taking place. Peter's mother-in-law got up and "ministered unto them." Others leaped up and rejoiced; they got up and did something. So you must put into effect some action of good.

Some persons ask, "Can you help a person who hasn't asked for treatment?"

Yes, you can.

"Can you help those who know nothing about metaphysics?"

Yes, you can. You can help even though the person is hundreds of miles away. The Spirit is everywhere present. There is no time nor space in Spirit. God is omnipresent. This is a universe of intention. You touch God at one point, and it is everywhere. You can touch a person hundreds of miles away as quickly as you can walk half across the room.

Your word of Truth is potent. It does not heal one alone; it heals whoever is looking for healing and is open to it. And so you may heal many. They do not know what heals them, but they catch your word and are healed. As you grow in spiritual understanding, you will fully see that there is no time nor space in Spirit.

You will also heal people's affairs. Many say they don't want a lot of wealth; all they want is enough to get by. Well, they are telling a lie; for in the next breath you will hear: "Oh, if I could only buy that for so-and-so!"

The world of God's creating is a world of opulence and bounty. As you see it and become aware of your oneness with the One Substance you will be living in that bounty and so helping others to see it.

In healing always speak the word silently for your patient. He does not like to be told of his shortcomings; he resents it and so he stops the healing word. Speak it silently. Jesus said:

"I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves."

Resentment always makes things worse. Never resent anything; always send something good in return for an affront. If you have an enemy he will disappear. The healer is always getting his own consciousness straight; and the more negative a case is, the more positive he becomes.

Our own egotism, our own will, is what makes us sick and prevents our healing. A young lady was a slave to her father. He had made a slave of his wife until she died; then he made a slave of his daughter. When she awakened and would no longer be his slave, he became ill and was sent to the hospital. He would not do anything the hospital wanted him to do because he wanted his own way. With this attitude he checked out in a few days. He died of his own ego.

"Hell" is bondage. They "hell" in sheep when they separate young sheep from their mothers. So are we in hell when we are in bondage to fixed beliefs of a material world. It is not a material world; it is a spiritual world.

Have you ever thought about Love or Joy or Peace? They are not divisible; they cannot be divided. Peace is always fully present. You are in the presence of Peace now. The Kingdom of God is within man. Beware of teachers who teach otherwise. There is only the One. He will "instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go."

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COME OUT

By Robert Applegate

IS our Western Christian Civilization going the way of Rome? Yes. There can be no doubt about it. The symptoms are all there. "Ye can discern the face of the sky," Jesus said, "but can ye not discern the signs of the times?"

Most of us are aware that there have been many civilizations that have come into being, flowered, and passed away. Arnold Toynbee in his ten-volume Study of History has made a survey of these civilizations and presents all the evidence for comparing our own civilization with those that have already passed on. Two facts stand out with clearness: (1) no civilization has been destroyed from without until after it had disintegrated within; (2) civilizations are different in their origin and growth, but they are similar in their decline, so that it is possible to see a "pattern of disintegration." This makes it possible to compare our civilization (comprising the countries of Western Europe, North and South America, which form a cultural unity) with other civilizations, and to see that we are now in our second relapse of a three-and-a-half-beat rhythm of rally-and-relapse, leading to dissolution.

A civilization starts to fall when an unhealable split occurs in the "body-social." So Toynbee writes:

"The nature of the breakdowns of civilizations can be summed up in three points: a failure of creative power in the (ruling) minority, an answering withdrawal of mimesis (willing imitation) on the part of the majority, and consequent loss of social unity in the society as a whole."

The loss of unity within a civilization manifests itself in two ways: (1) as inter-sectional war (which has been occurring in our society with increasing bitterness and destructiveness since the Sixteenth Century) and (2) as a class-war (of which the recent riots and strikes are too obvious examples). Toynbee writes:

"The breakdown of a civilization gives rise to a class-war within the body social of a society which was neither divided against itself by hard-and-fast divisions nor sundered from its neighbours by unbridgeable gulfs so long as it was in growth."

These divisions within the body of a civilization are manifestations of a split within the soul of the civilization, or the souls of those human members who make up the civilization, and who no longer feel at home in their social environment. This soul-sickness manifests itself in various ways in the different departments of action, thought, and feeling; and these manifestations are all the same in all civilizations in their periods of decline. Toynbee lists them as follows:

Abandon (a casting-off of traditional restraints) - in the field of personal behavior.

Truancy (a running-away from all one's responsibilities) - in the field of social behavior.

A Sense of Drift (the feeling that chance or necessity governs everything)
- in the realm of feeling.

A Sense of Sin (the feeling of being guilty for not being able to control oneself).

Archaism (trying to bring back the good old days) - in the field of action.

Futurism (trying to make a clean break with the present in order to bring in a golden future, as Communism promised to do).

A Sense of Promiscuity (mixing everything together), producing:

1) Vulgarization and Barbarisation in manners and customs, in art and literature; and

2) Syncretism in Religion (the mixing-together of all religious beliefs and practices, so as to get the benefit of all of them).

All these symptoms are in evidence today. And there is yet one more: the turning of intellectual vitality towards the goal of discovering a practical philosophy for daily living. All these are manifestations of a feeling of lostness, of not belonging, of helplessness. They are not the causes of the breakdown of a civilization any more than spots on the face are the cause of measles. They are the symptoms of a deeper malady. And the cause of the malady is that which seems to be far divorced from the fate of nations and the destinies of mankind: "When they knew God, they did not reverence Him as God and were not thankful. . . . They turned and worshiped the created thing rather than the Creator." This has caused the death of every civilization that has passed away. And if this seems too naive - Toynbee gives all the evidence; I can see no way around it.

So the handwriting is on the wall. But who can read it? We do not like to think about these things and so we push them out of our mental view. But if we do accept the obvious, what can we do?

The usual answer is to get some good men in charge of our governments, to get the right men into office. But history shows that even the most dedicated and intelligent statesmen have never been able to stop the process of social disintegration, although they may have been able at times to slow it down.

Second Isaiah, writing when the Syriac Civilization was disintegrating, wrote:

"Turn away, turn away; come out from among them; touch not the unclean things (with your attention)." (Isa.52:11)

Paul, writing when the Hellenic Civilization was disintegrating, repeated these words. This seems like the coward's course, and it has often been called that. But "by their fruits you shall know them." Both of these men have left something that has outlived the respective civilizations in which they lived and that has been of more value than any other contribution of those civilizations. The turning-away, the withdrawal, need not be physical; but it must be a withdrawal of attention, expectation, and desire. "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." And where your heart is, there will your treasure be. You cannot do any good by either fighting or analyzing a situation

you cannot control, but you can do much good by laying up "treasure in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt," by seeking the Kingdom that "is not of this world." The paradox is that those who have turned their attention away from the world have always been the light of the world.

But to withdraw is not enough. Man has to do something and he has to feel that what he is doing is worth while. Paul wrote to his converts at Corinth:

"Since you are eager for the things of the Spirit, seek that you may excel (overflow) in building up the Ecclesia (the Body of those who follow the Teaching of Jesus Christ). . . . Let all things be done for building up (this Body)."

This is worth doing. This will last. Jesus told His followers: "You are the light of the world." Those who follow His teaching are still the light of the world.

The early Christians could not stop the disintegration of the Greco-Roman Civilization; there were too few of them. But they did more to mitigate the agonies of this disintegration than all the statesmen and philosophers. And they built up something that not only took the place of the collapsing civilization, but that also disseminated light, hope, joy, and healing to the entire world.

In this day there must be a new building-up of the Body of Christ - the fellowship of those who are dedicated to obeying the Teaching of Jesus. The old institutions cannot hold the new wine of true living of the Gospel. "New wine must be put into new bottles." To join in this work of building will give men the outlet they need for their energies, capacities, and resources; and they will have the satisfaction of knowing that what they are doing will be of lasting value.

The disintegration of civilizations are not complete tragedies; they have always brought about spiritual advance. The price has been high, but the reward has been worth the price. The Sumeric Civilization in decline brought forth an Abraham; the Egyptian Civilization in decline brought forth a Moses; the Syriac Civilization brought forth the prophets of Israel; the Hellenic Civilization, Jesus and His followers. So we may expect our civilization in its decline to bring forth a new spiritual advance. If we may have a part in it, we are indeed fortunate.

Strive to excel in building up the Body of Christ.

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SPIRITICITY, October 1966

AS I SEE IT

By Nell Truesdell

Air-borne syllables are not the Word of God.

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Whenever you realize that things fall far short of expectations, channel your attention at once toward God. Don't waste your substance by fretting about your disappointments.

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The body-senses are like the superhighways of our nation that furnish transportation to a traveler who, on his journey, may give his attention to whatever interests him. He controls his attention, not the highways.

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The negations of life - the disappointments, frustrations, defeats, anxieties - teach us our most valuable lessons if we are able to look THROUGH them to God and master techniques that we have missed. Success often leads to selfishness, shallowness, and harshness toward others.

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If a person has knowledge only of earthly things, he has nothing to distinguish him from brute creatures.

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No man can exalt himself and Christ at the same time.

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Modern discoveries neither set men free from fear nor transform their souls, though on the surface life has been altered.

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God's Word became Incarnate in Jesus of Nazareth, who as the Anointed One, the Christ, delivers us from our own schemes that lead to defeat and death. We must believe in Him; only believe.

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Spirit is the Substance of your Being. Know this and have true prosperity.

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As I face this day's work, I pray that I may cross the span between this moment and the day's end with love in my heart; for love, the oil of gladness, gives me ease and comfort while I work. May I be willing to meet, without strain or resistance, unexpected tasks that demand considerable labor. May I throughout the day weave together, in orderly manner, all the threads of toil so that on the morrow I shall not be forced to return to an uncompleted task nor have the burden tonight of knowing that I have left something undone.

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I pray for added confidence in God that I may know that His Presence blesses, upholds, comforts, and strengthens me hour by hour, and that it is He that enables me to finish my tasks knowing that I have done my best.

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Alphabet of
DAILY MEDITATIONS
For every Week Day of the Month

OCTOBER, 1966

1. Before they call, I will ANSWER.

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3. BLESSED is he that BLESSETH thee.

4. I COMMAND thee this day to love the Lord thy God.

5. Ye shall DWELL in the land in safety.

6. The EARTH is the Lord's.

7. Master, I will FOLLOW Thee.

8. Desire spiritual GIFTS.

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10. I shall be HEALED.

11. I will INSTRUCT thee and teach thee.

12. The meek will He guide in JUDGMENT.

13. O KEEP my soul, and deliver me.

14. LAY up for yourselves treasures in heaven.

15. He that hath a MERRY heart hath a continual feast.

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17. Love thy NEIGHBOR.

18. Set thy WORDS in order.

19. The Lord Most High gives each his PLACE.

20. QUIETLY wait for salvation (deliverance, or healing).

21. REST in the Lord, and wait.

22. Make God's Justice the SOURCE of your bliss.

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24. TURN TO THE Lord THY God.

25. Good and UPRIGHT is the Lord.

26. I will pay my VOWS unto the Lord.

27. WISDOM is better than rubies.

28. Gather YOURSELVES together.

29. The Lord is great in ZION (the within).

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31. I will cry to God, and the Lord will save me.

"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."

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

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