# The Path of Truth and Practical Philosophy



Non-denominational World-Wide circulation

MAY/JUNE 2022 Number 80

### SCHOOL OF TRUTH (NPC)

(Reg. No. 1943/016078/08) SARS No. 13 000 3641w

Established 1937

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#### THE PATH OF TRUTH

Published bi-monthly World Wide Circulation

May/June 2022

Editorial

#### About our Father's Business

Let us never regard our religion as a kind of narcotic. It should make us energetic and spur us on to further achievement.

By our works we shall be known. Never imagine that all we have to do is to sit with folded hands and say, "The Lord will provide". He does not intend us to be a race of idlers who expect Him to do what we are quite able to do ourselves. We must rouse ourselves. We must be about our Father's business not only on Sunday but every day.

There are people who spend a great deal of time on the study of some form of religion and are inclined to shut themselves away from their fellows. There are others who live a full, rich life gathering all the experience possible and doing what they can to make the world a better, more beautiful, or more joyous place in which to live. Which type of person is more pleasing to God do you think – the passive or the active one? We all need to study but we must also work – we must give as well as take.

# "I asked you to pray -"

Extracts from letters received by the School of Truth

I asked you to pray for my father's recovery after his gall bladder operation. I am now pleased to be able to tell you he is his old self again. My son is also fit after his sixth operation and the surgeon says he is now 100% cured. As for the sale of our house which I also asked you to think of in your prayers, it has now been sold after I had handed the whole matter over to God. Thank you for leading me in the right direction.

We extend our most sincere gratitude to all our known and unknown friends for their constant and faithful spiritual and material support given to this work of Truth done in God's service. Our love and blessings go out to them.

You will be glad to hear that my son has been given a fabulous chance in that the directors have sent him abroad as they believe the company there requires re-organisation. He is to take over as manager and if he can make a success of this, they intend opening up intensively over there and he will then take over as managing director. He says this is the opportunity he has been waiting for. Words cannot express my gratitude and thanks for your kindness, help and prayers in this matter.



When I phoned and asked you to put my brother-in-law's name on your prayer list a panel of doctors had decided to operate for what they thought might be cancer of the lungs. When they operated, they were amazed to find nothing but a small non-malignant growth. It was the first case of its kind in that hospital and was recorded as a historical event at the medical school. My gratitude to God and the School for your prayers is overflowing. My brother-in-law is recuperating wonderfully well, and we all realise that this wonderful thing could never have happened without your loving prayers together with ours, knowing that God is Love.



I asked you to pray for my son-in-law who had forgotten that he is the father of seven children. As a result of your prayers and God's great love, he is now an entirely different man. The whole household is beaming with love and joy. Thank you very much for your prayers. I simply cannot do without *The Path of Truth*.



A few months ago, I asked you to pray for my brother-in-law as he was to undergo a very serious operation which involved the removal of his stomach. I am happy to be able to tell you that he is now fit and well, having recovered very well from the operation.



Some time ago I asked you to pray for my son who had been involved in a serious accident. I am very pleased to be able to report that he is now completely healed after a head operation and that his hearing has been wholly restored.



I am just writing this letter to thank you for praying for me to be given an appointment on the permanent staff of the firm where I am employed. Well, I am very glad and thankful to tell you that the manager called me into his office a few days ago and handed me a letter telling me that I have been put on the permanent staff with a salary increment of R40 per month.



Last month we asked the School to pray for a young man who had collapsed at work and been transferred to hospital. A specialist warned that a serious brain operation was his only hope and that the chances of recovery were no better than even. His father was released from work so that he could be with his son during the critical period. We are happy to write that not only has his recovery been complete, but he has been permitted to return to his work. He received his full salary during his absence and the same concession was granted to his father for the days he spent at the bedside.



I wrote to you a few weeks ago asking you to put my name on your prayer list as I was feeling very depressed about trouble at work. I am now very pleased to inform you that I am once again back in my original position and generally everybody seems to be much happier.



I phoned you last week to ask for help for my son who had his car stolen from the Zoo where he had taken his baby daughter for an outing. You told me to give thanks for its safe return. I am happy and grateful to be able to tell you it was found 10 days later at the nearby Zoo Lake. Except for the wiring it was quite intact, and no other damage had been done. We are very grateful to God and the School of Truth for helping us out of another awkward situation.

#### Lecture delivered in Johannesburg

# Just for Today



Why are you so fearful? You, and most other people, say that they believe in God and, if this is true, why the anxiety and insecurity, the hurrying, and fearfulness to which most of us give way?

I want you to look at me for a few moments, seeing me with only my virtues as a personality called "God." I. who am All-power, All-knowledge, and in a spiritual way part of you, tell you that all, not some, of your needs are provided for, adding that you have nothing in the entire world of which to be afraid. You would trust me, would you not, partly because many of you are intimately acquainted with me and also because you know I cannot afford to let you down. I am the temple that is the Spirit, mind, soul, and body of God; my voice is His Voice speaking through me just as your ears are His instruments of understanding hearing through you. This cannot be otherwise because there is only one Presence pervading the whole cosmos, one Voice speaking in terms of Truth and Good. Since you trust me, you must trust the Voice speaking through me as "just for today amid the encircling gloom" it leads you on, one step at a time. That is enough! The whole Universal Presence – Omniscience, Omnipotence, Omnipresence – is concerned, not with me, but with Itself,

because there is no duality – there is one Power, one Knowledge, one Extension of Being.

A while ago a lady asked me to read, and check something she had written setting out that there was no such thing as dualism. I did so and found it to be a perfect explanation of what I believe, think I understand and know. As I told her so she said, "I can perceive and understand this intellectually, so why does it not work for me?"

"I can perceive and intellectually understand a millionaire spending his money," I answered, "but if I had not his consciousness, I shall not be able to do likewise. I can see someone's chronic disease being dissipated into its native nothingness without sharing his awareness. Humanity can observe great disharmony in the lives of a family and see this condition transmuted into peace and concord and still be at a loss because, in general, it looks and listens to what it reads and hears but delves no deeper than into the intellectual consciousness. People's brains accept what has come to pass but there is no inner assurance, so they look and do not see."

This woman has the mental capacity to look, to analyse, to assess, but it is evident to me (for out of the fullness of the heart the mouth speaketh) that somewhere in her mentality she is rejecting the relevant truth. She says, "I know it is true and I am health, happiness, security, etc. but —" If you *know* something there are no "buts"; you are conscious of it and it is an integral part of your entire spiritual, mental, emotional make-up.

We teachers who are continuously dealing with people's sicknesses, poverty and other miseries get tired, drained, and like batteries go flat. Then we feel, as you do, and almost a form of depression disturbs the natural ebb and flow of our lives. However, following upon years of experience – yours, not ours – we know that if we persist, regeneration will set in. We realise that what goes down, must come up; that if you get flat, you will be recharged; if your pockets are empty, they will be filled; if your heart is sad, it will become joyous; and if your body is sick, you will be made whole. Of all this we are convinced, so we take whatever practical steps are indicated and live in the consciousness of what we believe to be the Truth. We are careful not to reject It or to take time off to doubt It for we know that negative conditions must pass, as the seasons do.

Not for one moment can I permit myself to assume that God is limited or that He imposes any limitation upon you or me – that is quite unthinkable. For many years now I have been walking along the Path of Truth with you. When I started the School of Truth, I was older than my youngest child is now, and in all those years in which there were periods of frustration, of emptiness of heart and pocket, a powerful force within me compelled me to go on and on. Why, I cannot say, the reason eludes me. It is something connected with the taking of the last step. If you have the courage to do that you will, ultimately, reach the end of the trail.

One day I was sitting meditating in our flat in Durban prior to going to a friend's garden to prune his roses and happened

to be looking at a picture painted for me by a woman whose hands were badly crippled by arthritis. It depicts a long, dusty road at the end of which is a little shadow. Suddenly a ray of light (probably coming in through the venetian blinds) struck that shadow and formed a tiny patch about the size of a twenty cent piece which looked exactly like a minute sunrise, and I thought how symbolical of God, for it is always there, on the right in winter, on the left in summer. I know that when I get up in the morning, I shall find it in place. I do not have to pray about it, meditate on it, or speak the word for it, I have nothing whatever to do with it, without any faith on my part that little sun will be upon its appointed spot. This is knowledge, this is what I have experienced for many years, that God always rises in Truth. Man puts on dark glasses and through them he beholds negation which becomes a reality for him because he cannot see the sun – enlightenment – or Truth. Every one of us looks at times through beclouded lenses at the reflection of temporary separation which is housed in our own awareness. The moment we lay aside these optical instruments we once again have light which does not change, since it is a Verity.

Lately I have been helping a man who had a stroke some months ago which not only paralysed his right side but affected his throat to the extent that he is now unable to speak. I visited him daily, gave him relaxations, holding, as is my custom, his hand in mine and could not but see that he was violently opposed to spiritual aid. One day I chanced to glance up and saw him looking belligerently at me, so I said,

"You do not want to be helped, do you? You are trying to escape from something, aren't you? This stroke was brought on by your fear of having to face some problem in which you were mixed up, and this was a way in which you could avoid involvement. Now nature has taken over, you are unable even to speak, and you do not want to see or hear so I am not going to help you anymore. I am handing you over to the School of Truth, but as you are a friend of mine will still come to see you, bring you the latest gossip, but I will not give you any more relaxations. You are on your own now, but I will tell you this: in spite of yourself you are going to walk and talk again because this is what your wife and family want for you. They are not going to allow you to avoid this issue!"

He just glared at me, but I took no notice of that and continued to see him regularly. Gradually he started to smile and make sounds, and this is very important for you, so I want you thoroughly to understand it. It was not because of him that he began again to speak but because of the faith his wife, children and the School of Truth brought to bear that he was first, spiritually healed, after which, before long, he will be physically healed also.

What is of vital moment to you is that if two of three (not of necessity including the person concerned) agree upon a thing it will be established. Christ, who was a wonderful psychologist, said that if they agreed upon anything touching this earth (their physical bodies or mundane affairs) it should be established in heaven (in the harmony or mind of the individual).

Look now, honestly, into your heart and ask yourself, "Am I binding myself to poverty, sickness and unhappiness or have I released their opposite qualities *which are God within me?*" It is not God, conditions, circumstances, or personalities that are binding you, but yourself. You have the key that will unlock the whole spiritual Kingdom of Omniscience and Omnipotence. You can, however, lock the door in which case the negation will remain imprisoned, though ultimately you will have no choice but to come into the realisation that you are indeed GOD-EXPRESSED.

In my own life with my just-for-today outlook God is the Presence that constitutes His many ideas (myself included) which make up the universe in terms of Health, Happiness, Security and Prosperity. He is the Macrocosm, I am the microcosm; but it will not serve me to accept this intellectually only, I must believe that it is so and live it.

A young friend of mine who wanted something very badly told me the other day that he could not afford it. "Do you think." I asked him, "that God can afford to give it to you?"

"Oh yes," he said, "God can afford to give it to me because all things are of Him, but why should He do so, I don't deserve it."

"Let us," I suggested," go into the matter. Is this desire of yours an overwhelming one?"

"Yes, it is," he answered.

"You think it is a necessity," I probed further. "It is something you simply must have. Does your longing for it take its rise in the emotions or the mind? Be careful how you answer this."

"Well," he said, "it cannot spring from my emotions because I feel I cannot afford it and do not deserve it."

"Where then does it come from?"

"From the mind", he said."

"Who is mind?" I asked. "Who and what is the intelligence that constitutes the world? Do you understand what you are saying? You feel you cannot afford; you do not deserve – and so on. The mind insists it wants you to have this. Whatever it may be it is already in beginning, coming forth into expression through you in terms of the spiritual good of health or happiness, or the material ones of prosperity and success. The emotion by its rejection is locking out the mind – the givingness – to which you possess the key so, if I were you, instead of declining the gift I would start giving thanks for what God or the mind is imparting to the personality, which is that the good is already coming through you. It is the shadow cast before the reality to acquaint you with that tangibility."

"Well," he demurred," what is going to happen?"

"I am going to open the channel. The key is in your hand (which is mine also) and I am about to unlock the door for my good neighbour who has apprised me of his forthcoming visit." "Do you mean that it is as simple as that?" he exclaimed.

"Yes," I replied. "Just-for-today everything you can ever need in your entire life is encompassed in your consciousness, and you are aware of it, but you will not allow it to come through. The key is in the keyhole, why do you not turn it?"

"What about my feeling that says I can't afford or do not deserve it," he queried.

"Every aspiration for the good," I told him, "is God seeing and thinking through you. Everything that is negative is the separation in your own mentality looking at the *nothingness* of health, happiness, and security."

"This," he announced, "I must accept for it is the Voice of God talking to me, telling me what is mine, and surely I am an ingrate if I refuse to receive it."

"Do you now believe what I told you?" I asked, and he replied, "How true are the words, Ye have eyes but ye see not, ye have ears but ye hear not."

The negation we behold is nothing, the noise we hear does not exist; it is all in the consciousness of the individual. Therefore when we draw aside the curtains (discard our doubting thoughts) we see that God works harmoniously, naturally, so that just-for-today we are happy, just-for-today we are healthy, just-for-today we are prosperous and can afford whatsoever we desire. When tomorrow and the next day come, they are today because we cannot live in the future.

I do not know whether I shall be here tomorrow, but I am certain that in this moment of time I am here before you. None of us knows, except in the current second, where we are so I build my life on the just-for-today concept and in the momentary realisation of God and His Love, Protection, Guidance, Prosperity, Help and Happiness. These qualities flow abundantly, without any pressuring from me in, through, for and AS me.

We do not have to work for the things of the Spirit, we have to accept them as being true. Once humanity realises (as we teach) that the vast storehouse of God, containing All-good, is within, we will find hatred dissipating itself. We are perturbed only because we are afraid of people, we hate only because we think they may deprive us of something precious, we resist and fight only because we imagine they may harm us. When we realise that the whole Presence of God permeates us from the centre to the circumference, that in Him we live and move and have our being, there will be in us no room for fear because perfect love and perfect harmony of Spirit and flesh can produce only that which is healthy, harmonious and prosperous.

Work on the concept of just-for-today. Let your heart, mind and emotions accept the Truth that I AM GOD FULFILLED JUST-FOR-TODAY and then ask yourself, "What is God?" to which comes the call, "GOD IS HEALTH, HAPPINESS AND PROSPERITY NOW AND FOREVERMORE."

# MEDITATION The Truth in Every Man



Again and again, my Father, do we try to understand that "God is Omnipresence" which, we are told, means that *You* are everywhere equally present at the same time. So runs the teaching and most of us accept it, but how do

we prove it to ourselves, how to *find* this God-quality in all people and all places?

No one of ordinary intelligence and cosmopolitan experience, can shut his eyes to the mundane fact that there is much enmity in the world between, for instance, capitalists and workmen, Arabs and Jews, blacks and whites, untouchables and princes, the underground and the police. Not all these folk hate each other, by any means, but many of them do. How then are we, my Father, who belong to one category or another to *find* Your Spirit Which is in each and every one of us?

I have myself often failed to do this and on occasion I have succeeded quite unintentionally. A glance, the shadow of a smile, some word, well meant and kindly spoken, a tone of voice, even a gesture; any one of these can cause a tiny spark to leap the dividing ether, or a warm friendly flash can unite two people who because of some language barrier,

social gap, or tribal taboo, cannot so much as communicate; but the Spirit of God in the one has, for a fleeting moment, recognised and greeted the Eternal Truth in the other. This common denominator is never absent, at the North Pole and the South, in the jungles of India, under brassy sun at the equator, upon the highest mountains and in the deepest valleys, on burning deserts and salty seas, the spark can be lit between men as the Spirit within them, Your INDWELLING, my Father, is revealed.

"Ye shall ever find Me, when ye seek Me with all your heart" is Your precious promise, and we know that in no heart, however black and depraved it may seem to be, however stony and closed against us, however cruel and devoid of mercy, in none shall the Spirit call to Spirit and not be answered, and that is how we know that Your Omnipresence is no fairy tale, no illusion, but the very truth everywhere equally present, in all places, and at all times.

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I am finding that being grateful, thinking, feeling gratitude for what I have, narrows down the field of my needs. I am not so conscious of lack – wanting things – but more conscious of the fulfilment of good all the time, as though the realisation of the Presence of All-Good (God) is the fulfilment, and there is no pressing need for manifestation. – A Student.

# The Acceptable Time



Are you one of the people who put off doing the things they dislike for as long as possible; or do you perform what you consider unpleasant tasks as soon as may be and so get them behind you? That visit to a friend in hospital, why postpone

it? And that cheque you have been meaning to write out for a certain charity, why have you not done so? It is probably not that you don't want to send it, but merely that you have been negligent, so why not do it now?

We all have duties to perform at times which we would prefer to leave undone, but we cannot go through life doing only the things we like. And don't you think that life would become boring if we could? We'd possibly feel like the little girl in the story who asked her mother who had modern ideas: "Mummie, must I always do as I like?" Dr Foxley Norris says: "Do, as soon as maybe, what has to be done. Get on with things. Time wasting is slow poison to progress. If only we forged ahead with what we have to do, we should save ourselves a great deal of unnecessary worry, and other people much vexation"

James A. Barrie said: "The secret of happiness is not in doing what one likes, but in liking what one has to do". Then would it not be a good thing to change your ideas about the things you do not enjoy and find something to like about

them? If it is a thing that has to be done, regard it as work done for God, and give thanks that you are being used as His instrument here on earth. That will help you to take a different view of the distasteful task, or it should do.

Now is the acceptable time to turn to God – not tomorrow or next week, or next year, but today. Why wait until you are in some great trouble before you approach Him? If you are not already aware of His Presence within you, lift up your heart to Him now, that you may become accustomed to the feeling that you are one with Him and with all He has created. Then, if trouble should come, you will find comfort in the knowledge that He is ready and waiting to help you to overcome a difficulty; to uplift you when you are in despair; or to solve your problem for you. In Him you live, and move, and have your being; and underneath are the everlasting arms.

Today is the acceptable time to turn within and realise your unity with the Spirit of all love, all power, all wisdom, and all knowledge. You should give some time each day to pondering on things spiritual that you may FEEL the Presence within you.

Every day is a new page in the book of life. If, yesterday, you failed, determine today that you will be successful with the help of God. If, yesterday, you did not live up to your highest ideals, decide that you will not make the same mistake today but will do your best in all ways. If, yesterday, you were moody and bad-tempered, make up your mind that in future

you will smile and express the love of God to all with whom you come into contact.

Never procrastinate but do today's tasks today instead of putting them off until tomorrow. If you have a talent which you have not developed but are waiting until you have more time to cultivate it, give up waiting and begin now. We always find time for the things we really want to do, and we SHOULD want to make use of any talent God has given to us for He does not intend us to allow it to lie dormant. It is our duty to cultivate it not only for our own pleasure but that others may enjoy it too. If we can help in any way to make life easier, more pleasant, or more beautiful for those around us, let us begin to do so now.

David Starr Jordan says: "Today is your day and mine... the day in which we play our part. What our part may signify in the great whole we may not understand; but we are here to play it, and now is our time. This we know: it is a part of action, not of complaining. It is a part of love, not fault finding. It is for us to express love in terms of human helpfulness."



A grateful thought toward heaven is of itself a prayer. – Lessing.



O Lord, Who lends me life, lend me a heart replete with thankfulness. – Shakespeare.

## Generous with Praise



Why is it that so many of us are more liable to blame than to praise? Yet a little appreciation can go far to help people on their way, especially if they are suffering from a sense of inferiority, as so many people are. It is something which most

of us have to overcome; and we should all help each other to do so and probably find that we are also helping ourselves.

But let us be discriminating in our praise. Only a foolish person would welcome mere flattery. To be worthwhile, praise must be deserved. The thing to do is to look for what is commendable instead of for something to criticize and condemn – which is the mistake many people make. Constructive criticism should always be welcomed, and we should learn to accept it and appreciate it; but destructive criticism should always be avoided. Certainly, without helpful criticism we should not make progress – we should continue to make the same mistakes; whereas if they are pointed out to us, we can correct them. Let us never resent such criticism, even though it may make us squirm. Let us learn to be grateful for it and make use of it.

There are so many of us who lack self-confidence and who really need someone to tell us that we can when we say we can't. We are unsure of ourselves and so, perhaps, we are afraid to develop the talents that are ours. Or possibly we start

to do so and are afraid to show the results of our efforts to anyone with knowledge of the subject. What a mistake this is! If we do not venture, how can we expect to win? But if we do pluck up enough courage to show our work to some authoritative person and we receive a word of praise for it, what a fillip it is. What an incentive to go on trying.

If we look for the best in those about us, we shall help them to give of their best and we shall find something to commend. The Christ Spirit is in each one of us and we should search for it even though it may seem well hidden. If we have love in our hearts, we shall not look for the worst in people. We shall want to say and do something that will uplift them and make them think better of themselves. We shall want to spur them on to further efforts. We should be spendthrifts with praise and misers with blame. If we are asked for an opinion on anything and we cannot truthfully be complimentary about it, let us at least 'gild the pill' If we must make an adverse comment, let us do it in such a way that it does not hurt or give offence.

We should be particularly careful in our own homes to give praise where it is due. We so often take those nearest and dearest to us for granted, and yet a word of appreciation is precious, especially when it comes from those we love. There are few people, even among the great, who do not find pleasure in a compliment. Let us not wait until people have passed on to another plane of consciousness to show our approval of them or of what they have done. Let us do it now, while they can enjoy it.

A word of praise may be all some people need to send them on their way to success. We do not know how far-reaching the results may be and, in any case, the results are not our business. Our task is to help where we can and give as much joy as possible to our neighbours. We can leave the rest to God. And let us not make shyness the excuse for not paying a compliment. Shyness can and should be overcome – it will be, if we think more of the other person than of ourselves.

One word of warning – a compliment should never be fulsome, or we may embarrass the recipient, especially if others hear it. Have you never felt uncomfortable when you have been forced to listen to someone paying extravagant praise to another in public?

If we are kindly folks we shall not be stingy with approval. It will please us to give pleasure to those around us and boost their morale. It should be our aim to spread as much happiness as we can wherever we happen to be, and one way to do it is by showing our appreciation of people and their work. Let us not neglect to do so.

It may serve as a comfort to us in all our calamities and afflictions, that he who loses anything and gets wisdom by it, is a gainer by the loss. – L'Estrange.

No man was ever so completely skilled in the conduct of life as not to receive new information from age and experience.

- Terence.

# Elementary Thinking



If you need to remake your life let us for a moment imagine that you are suffering from certain negative conditions and, being a student of Truth, you want to get rid of them by the application of principles that Truth teaches.

The following approach would help if you would persist in thinking along its lines.

You are suffering from a severe cold, you are short of money and cannot pay your rent, or you have guarrelled with your family and are wholly miserable. Never mind how real all this seems to you to be, since it is not good it is a lie. Again and again, you can tell it, "You are a lie, your opposite (naming it) is the Truth and Truth (because such is Its nature) MANIFESTS". Ask yourself, "If there is only God, what can I be but Godness? All is God and His multifarious Self-expressions, consequently I am a God-product, made according to His Ideas, and this rules out all negation so that I am perfect as God-being-me is perfect. Any and every form of negation – that is, all imperfection – is a human delusion. It has no more Reality than a nightmare which is a fantasy, a lie. If I can become convinced that everything that troubles is a lie I can (logically) refuse to believe in its existence and when I do, it will cease to be and I shall automatically be free of it."

I do not need to do anything about any kind of negation except to know that its opposite is true, an ever present, manifesting Reality, mine to possess and to enjoy. My spoken word, addressed to the condition, must be, You are a lie because you are not Godness, and only Godness is real. All limitation is a lie, only abundance of All-good is true; all lack is a lie, only plenty is true; all ugliness is a lie, only beauty is true, and throughout the entire world daily manifest".

All discord of whatever kind is a lie, only harmony is true. All phenomena are facets of the Spiritual Whole, the Creator of the universe, for there is nothing anywhere apart from Him. All needs of whatever nature are constituents of Spirit and factually indwell the phenomenon that is claiming to lack them. In the oak is strength, in the cheetah is speed, in the rose is beauty, all of which are but attributes of the Godpresence living through and AS them.

Man, the Creator's end-product, brought forth in His image and likeness, is endowed with all his Maker's qualities so he automatically lacks no good thing. This establishes that there *is* only God in me and my affairs, plus – on a temporary basis only – my own false acceptances which at any moment I can, and now do, cast out of my awareness. The Divine Presence takes all forms of Its own volition in order fully to express Itself so any form (thing, quality) I desire I can know to be in me, ready to express through me because I am the whole of that Presence, including the Power and the Knowledge, which are not just linked with me but are my

very Self. The All-good has no choice but to spill out of me into my day-to-day livingness – the Inner flowing through to the outer – as I become still and know the Truth about the Creator and His entire creation.

This is the "risen awareness" that shall bring changes in me and my affairs making all things new and glorious. Whatever is amiss in me or my concerns is uniquely the outpicturing (on the surface only) of false human ideas, and the moment I can with conviction claim that the Divine Design of me *is* me this will express in, through and AS me, and all will be well with me in this best of all possible worlds.



When I consider the wonderful activity of the mind, so great a memory of what is past, and such a capacity of penetration into the future; when I behold such a number of arts and sciences, and such a multitude of discoveries thence arising, I believe and am firmly persuaded that a nature which contains so many things within itself cannot but be immortal. — Cicero.



Nothing short of an eternity could enable men to imagine, think and feel, and to express all that they have imagined, thought and felt. Immortality, which is the spiritual desire, is the intellectual necessity. – Bulwer.



Our dissatisfaction with any other solution is the blazing evidence of immortality. – Emerson.



## An Inspiring Thought for Each New Day

"Speak to Him, thou, for He hears, Where Spirit with Spirit can meet; Closer is He than breathing, And nearer than hands and feet."

- TENNYSON.

#### May 1 Sunday

## MEDITATION **BLESSINGS ARE EVERYWHERE...**



My Father,

All around me I see the manifestation of Your Love and Goodness. I delight in the colour and beauty of the flowers. the loveliness of the country, the charm of well cared for homes, and the amazing expressions I see in Nature. My heart gives praise for these beautiful blessings around me.

Much that I had previously taken for granted I now recognise as of real value in promoting my spiritual growth. I behold Divine Love working in and through all, and in beholding the Truth I am blessed.

All sense of doubt has been eliminated from my consciousness, for my understanding has grown with each experience, I know that you have set Your Love upon me and my perfect abiding place is in the quiet acceptance of Your guidance at all times.

I accept the multifold blessings that You have given me and I do my part in blessing all whom I contact.

#### May 2 Monday

♦ Mine own mouth shall condemn me. – Job 9:20.

# I LOOK FOR THE BEST IN OTHERS THAT I MAY BRING OUT THE BEST.

If it is true, as the psychologists tell us, that we often blame in others what we dislike in ourselves, then we give ourselves away badly in our criticisms of our neighbours.

It is amusing, to say the least, to listen to people condemning in their neighbours the very faults of which they themselves are guilty. Obviously they are unable to regard themselves objectively; or else they close their eyes to their own imperfections. Before we talk about others we should learn to be completely honest with ourselves, then we shall remove the beam from our own eye before we try to extract the mote from another's. We make excuses for our own shortcomings, but we are far less lenient with our neighbour's.

We have been told to judge not, if we would not be judged. It is a pity we do not obey this command. We can criticize if our criticism is constructive, but we should not condemn. Constructive criticism is good – where should we be without it? – but destructive criticism is hurtful and unhelpful and should be avoided at all times.

Let us try to inspire rather than condemn.

# Meetings: May/June 2022

Due to lockdown some meetings are cancelled until further notice.

Contact your local representative.



#### New version of Psalm 23

The Lord my Shepherd rules my life.

He gives me all I need.

He leads me by refreshing streams.

In pastures green I feed.

Thy goodness and Thy Gracious Love persues me all my days.

Thy house O Lord shall be my home.

Thy name my endless praise.



#### May 3 Tuesday

♦ Above all things being fervent in your love among yourselves. – 1 Peter 4:8.

#### I LOOK BEYOND ALL APPEARANCES AND SEEK THE GOOD IN MY FELLOWMEN.

There may be people whom we feel we cannot love. And, indeed, some make it very difficult for us to do so. How can we be expected to love someone who has not only ruined his own life, but has dragged others down with him? Nevertheless, we should be ready to help him at any time provided we do it in a constructive way. That we help him ONLY in a constructive way, however, is important. It is useless to give money to one who won't work and who fritters away anything he is given, for instance.

If we are in earnest about loving our neighbours whether they are lovable or not, let us find someone whom it is difficult to love and do little things for him whenever we can. Let us pray for him. Let us look for the best in him, and we shall probably learn to like him; for if we really desire to love, we should develop the power to love, since the desire is Godgiven, and God IS love.

## May 4 Wednesday June 1

◆ Forgetting the things which are behind, and stretching forward to the things which are before. – Phil. 3:13.

# I USE MY FAILURES AS STEPPING-STONES TO SUCCESS.

It has been said that the man who never made a mistake never made anything. Well – haven't we all erred at some time or another? How could we learn if we did not make mistakes?

Forget your past failures and look forward to success in the future. But always remember that success does not always lie in achievement. We may not be able to reach our goal, but if we make the way easier, if we prepare the path for others to complete the work, we have played a worthy part.

If we have failed in the past look forward to success in the future. Believe in the power within you, and in yourself as a child of God, knowing that with God's help and your own efforts you can do well. Think in terms of success and act in terms of success and the victory is partly won.

#### May 5

#### **Thursday**

June 2

♦ In peace will I both lay me down and sleep. - Ps. 4:8.

#### I REST IN PEACE FOR MY TRUST IS IN GOD.

Half the so-called civilised world today seems to take "sleeping pills". Many people never even attempt to go to sleep without them; they swallow a couple as a matter of course as soon as they get into bed and then fall into a heavy unrevitalising state of semi-coma.

Perhaps if, before seeking their rest, they would turn their minds from the irritations of the day, set aside their problems, drop from consciousness their doubts and fears and spend a few moments in communion with the one universal Spirit indwelling every man, they would do far better. No matter how topsy-turvy things appear to be, irrespective of how harsh and insistent the outside clamour rings, *God is still His universe* governing, maintaining and sustaining that which is His own self-expression. This being so nothing can be going amiss, all is LOVE, Law and Order and if we accept this we shall certainly be able to lay ourselves down and sleep

#### May 6 Friday June 3

♦ For freedom did Christ set us free: stand fast therefore, and be not entangled again in a voke of bondage. – Gal. 5:1.

#### THANK YOU, FATHER, FOR THE FREEDOM THAT IS MINE.

The Master taught us that we are one with the Father and, if we truly believed this with heart and mind, how free should we be. We should know that the Spirit within us is more powerful than any condition, and that we are the masters of our fate and the captains of our souls.

We are not puppets dancing on the end of a wire controlled by someone else, but free beings – free to think, worship, and speak as we see fit within the law; and free to mould our own characters through our will and creative imagination.

If only we could become ever more conscious that we are made in the spiritual image and likeness of God, and that what He is we potentially are, we should also become conscious of the freedom that is ours.

Naturally, we all have to obey certain man-made laws so our freedom is a comparative thing; but as much of it as we have a right to expect is ours. Let us see that we use it in the right way.

#### May 7

#### **Saturday**

June 4

◆ Unto you it is given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given. — Matt. 13:11.

#### KEEP ME HUMBLE IN SPIRIT, FATHER.

The above text was part of the answer given by the Christ when His disciples asked Him why He spoke to the people in parables.

We should always remember that not all of us are at the same point in our spiritual progress. You may know far more than I and have had greater experience of things spiritual. If this is so, do not let it give you a feeling of superiority, but be ready and happy to explain to me those things which I may not understand.

If we are more enlightened than some with whom we come into contact, let us not be impatient if they cannot accept our views on the right way to live, or on what we think the correct creed to follow. In our Father's house are many mansions, and many paths lead to it.

The foundation on which every true religion is based is love. All men may not be well-versed in the philosophical doctrines of the initiated, but if they love sufficiently they are on the right path.

#### May 8

#### **Sunday**

#### June 5

# MEDITATION UNDERSTANDING



My Father,

I open my heart and mind to a deeper understanding of Your Laws. Today, as I reach out for a closer communication with You, I realise the need for a higher obedience in following the path You have set before me. I do not shirk the common daily activities for I know that the enthusiasm and love I put into the smallest task reflect my willingness to co-operate with You on all levels of consciousness. However, having fulfilled my day-to-day obligations, I keep ever before me the truth that my spiritual growth is important, for spiritual unfoldment is the true purpose of existence.

My willingness to do my share is expressed through my wholehearted working with Your Love and I see reflected in and around me Your Peace and Harmony according to my inner conviction and trust.

Now, resting in Your Wisdom, I give thanks for this Understanding which is Your Gift of Love to me.

#### Monday

June 6

♦ Now faith is assurance of things hoped for, a conviction of things not seen – Heb. 11:1.

# DAILY I SEEK TO DEVELOP MY FAITH IN MY FATHER, GOD.

Every student of Truth probably has a great desire to increase his faith, provided that faith is not absolute. And how many of us can truthfully say that we have no doubts whatsoever?

Faith is something we need throughout our lives. First of all we require to have trust in God, and in the promises of Christ. We also need faith in the goal we have set ourselves to achieve, and our ability, if not to reach it, at least to pave the way for those who will come after. And we need faith in our fellowmen.

When we trust God and put ourselves into His care we know peace – and which of us does not want a tranquil mind? It is one of God's great gifts to man. But it is not enough merely to say or even to feel that we have faith – we must also put it into practice. Faith apart from works is barren. Also, it is something we need to prove for ourselves. If we want to increase it, we must use it.

### May 10 Tuesday

June 7

◆ Let all bitterness be put away from you. – Eph. 4:31.

#### AS I WOULD BE FORGIVEN SO DO I FORGIVE.

You may object, "I have every reason to be bitter. So-and-so has done me a grievous wrong – not in return for anything I have done to him (that I could understand and make allowances for) but of malice aforethought, and right out of the blue! If I pass this over I shall merely be encouraging someone else to treat me in the same way under the impression that I am a weakling, unable to look after myself."

From a purely human standpoint that is a logical and not particularly blameworthy reaction, but the LORD hath said, "I will repay!" and the Master has exhorted us to love our enemies and to do good to them who have despitefully used us. Was He just being soft and perhaps a trifle foolish when He advocated this, or did He – from His understanding that I and My Father are one – realise that *all men were Himself* in various guises and that what He did – of good or evil – unto them, He was doing to Himself, as is the case with you and me?

It is for us, as it is for others, to give only as we would receive.

#### Wednesday

June 8

♦ Open Thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of Thy law. – Ps. 119:18.

## I PERCEIVE WITH THE MIND AND SPIRIT AS WELL AS WITH THE EYE.

The laws of the Universe were made for the benefit of mankind. If we desire to be well, happy, and prosperous we must obey them. We disobey them to our own detriment.

It is necessary not only to study the laws, but to put them into practice. The Christ said that the great commandment was that men should love God with all their hearts, with all their souls, and with all their minds. This, He said, was the great and first commandment. And a second like unto it was that they should love their neighbours as themselves. Love, therefore, is the fulfilment of the law.

We miss much if our eyes are not open to the beauties which surround us on every side. We need to retain our childish sense of wonder if we would appreciate them fully. We shall not do this, however, unless we study them. A primrose by the river's brim should be more than a yellow primrose to us. It should be one of the wonders of God.

### May 12 Thursday

June 9

♦ And my people shall abide in a peaceable habitation – Isa. 32:18.

# I WILL TRY TO LIVE IN HARMONY WITH OTHERS NO MATTER HOW TRYING THE CIRCUMSTANCES.

Peace comes from within, not from without. We may walk out under the stars in the depths of the country where only the sound of the insects or perhaps the call of a night-jar are to be heard, but unless we have peace in our own hearts and minds we shall not find it there.

There is a great lack of this quality in many homes today – often a tragic lack. And so many people put the blame on others; whereas if they would only look within themselves and be completely honest, they would find that some if not all of the fault lies in them. Home should be a place of peace, joy, and harmony; for if families cannot live together without frequent discord, how can we expect nations to do so? If we want a peaceful world, there must be peace amongst individuals.

We should all try to co-operate and not pull against one another. This we would do, if we loved our fellowmen as we should.

#### **Friday**

June 10

♦ Be not sluggish. – Heb. 6:12.

#### I PLAY MY PART AND LEAVE THE OUTCOME TO GOD

Do you ever, when faced with some unfamiliar problem, feel that it is beyond you and that all you can do is to sit back and let things take their course?

Some people might hold that that was a very negative attitude to give way to, but it depends greatly upon the state of mind in which you adopt it. If your feeling is one of "I cannot do anything, so let the worst come to the worst!" Things certainly will not improve, but if – remembering that God is All-power and All-love – you say, "Father, I have no idea how to tackle this difficulty so I am putting it into Your Hands, confident that You are All-knowledge and that Your will is always for my highest good," He will take charge if what faces you really seems to be beyond your strength; He will be the loving assurance that "My Strength is sufficient". All He requires of you is an initial effort, and if that appears to come to nothing keep complete trust in him.

#### THE PATH OF TRUTH

#### May 14

#### Saturday

June 11

♦ So to think as to think soberly. – Rom. 12:3.

#### I WILL THINK AND ACT AS I KNOW GOD WOULD HAVE ME DO.

Do you imagine that your thoughts are exclusively your own, and that they have nothing to do with anyone else?

According to Vera Stanley Alder, our thoughts and actions, performed in the hidden corners of our private houses, go swinging right around the world on the ethers, affecting all life as they go, to an extent we cannot gauge. If this is so, what a great responsibility is ours. How careful we should be when we think or speak of others, to ensure that our thoughts are constructive and not destructive.

Let us not dwell on sickness, misery, and poverty. Let us turn our thoughts in the opposite direction from these conditions. We should be much more cheerful than many of us are. Even though we may not feel like smiling, let us show a glad face to the world. We can at least 'put on an act', and the very doing of it will help us to be what we are pretending to be

#### **Sunday**

June 12

# MEDITATION ACCEPTANCE



My Father,

As I come into Your Presence – thinking as I should not think – of all the things I lack and of others I desire, something reminds me that You have given all Your children dominion over their personal lives.

Because You are our All-sufficiency in all things, each one of us has within himself a vast storehouse of everything – already finished and done – that he can possibly need, but most of us fail to accept this Good. Some perhaps because they cannot see it with their physical eyes, others because they feel that since they have not earned It, It cannot be for them, and still others because they will not put forth the effort of holding out their hands to receive of Your "good pleasure." These are all negative attitudes that we have to learn to put aside.

Today, therefore, I discard my doubts, fears, hesitations and timidities as with joy and gratitude I accept the Kingdom which at my beginnings Your infinite LOVE bestowed upon me.

#### Monday

June 13

♦ *He gives power to the faint.* – *Isa.* 40:29.

### I AM STRONG BECAUSE OF THE POWER OF GOD WITHIN ME.

Do you regard yourself as a weak creature incapable of making a success of your life? If so, change your thoughts immediately. That is not the right way to think about a child of the Most High God. He is All-power, and that power is yours to draw upon at will if only you will believe in it and claim it in love and faith. And always remember that His strength is made perfect in weakness.

If in the past you have not been as strong-minded as you should have been, decide that from now on you will change. You will face life with confidence because of the Spirit of God within. You will build up your courage day by day by overcoming the things which make you fearful, starting with the small ones and gradually passing on to the greater ones.

There may be some habit which you wish to overcome. Go to the God within you and ask for the strength to gain the victory, remembering that each time you succeed in doing so makes the next one that much easier.

#### **Tuesday**

June 14

♦ Not as I will, but as Thou wilt. – Matt. 26:39.

#### LET YOUR WILL BE DONE IN MY LIFE, FATHER.

As we think, so we are, and therefore if we set our minds on the acquisition of some particular object the probability is that we shall obtain it, especially if we subject everything else to the gaining of it.

Before we do this, we should be sure that what we desire is what God wants for us – that it would be good for us to have it. To use the power of thought for anything other than the highest good is meanness; and it is something which we have no right to do.

We must be prepared to yield the human will to the divine will in all things. 'Thy will be done' is the finest prayer of all, because the will of God is always good; so we can leave all to Him. We should be most careful in making affirmations, that we are giving thanks only for those things which are ours by divine right. Never let us use the power of thought, and that of the spoken word for the sake of self-aggrandisement. There is no need, for we are one with all good.

#### Wednesday

June 15

♦ Redeem me from the oppression of man. – Ps. 119:134.

# I STRIVE TO LIVE IN HARMONY WITH ALL MEN, BUT I ACKNOWLEDGE GOD ONLY AS MY MASTER.

Is there someone who is trying to dominate you? Or one who is clinging to you unnecessarily? There are such people, and we should be careful in our dealings with them. We have our own lives to live and our own lessons to learn.

Sometimes, though a desire to keep the peace, we may be inclined to give way to such folks, but this is not always wise. No one has the right to try to possess another human being. Once people have reached years of discretion they should be allowed to make their own decisions and lead their own lives. There are circumstances in which we should put or own desires into the background for the good of someone else; but let us not make UNNECESSARY sacrifices to selfish people.

Even love should be tempered by wisdom, and we should be discriminating in all our relationships. God does not mean us to be dominated by selfish people for their own ends. It is not good for them or for us.

#### **Thursday**

June 16

★ If the readiness is there, it is acceptable according as a man hath – II Cor. 8:12.

#### I GIVE GLADLY OF WHAT I AM AND HAVE.

It makes a difference to the person who is apprehensive or uncertain if one speaks the encouraging word promptly, if the heartening smile comes forth spontaneously, the reassuring pat on the shoulder is given at times. These gestures which spring from sympathetic understanding cost us nothing, yet how often does one hear the self-pitying lament, "I cannot be expected to give, I have not enough even for myself".

If we have nothing to give there will surely be nothing for us to receive. We do not need material riches before we have an abundance of good to pass on to our fellowmen. "Silver and gold have I none", said Peter to the lame man who asked him, as he was entering the temple, for alms, "but such as I have give I thee".

Hardly a day goes by in the lives of any of us in which we do not have the opportunity to help some lame dog over a stile, and as we give to the least of these little ones, we give "also unto Me".

### May 20 Friday June 17

★ I will in no wise fail thee, neither will I in any wise forsake thee. – Heb. 13:5.

# GOD HELPS ME THROUGH MY OWN EFFORTS. I DO MY PART.

God does not fail us, but we often fail ourselves by our lack of confidence or possibly by our lack of effort. As human beings we are vulnerable, but we are not only human, we are also divine, and we have every right to have confidence in our higher selves.

Success or failure is within ourselves. If we have the will to fail – if we say we can't do something then we cannot expect to succeed; but If we have the will to win and tell ourselves that we can achieve and that with God's help we shall do so, then we can expect to be successful.

We are so liable to blame circumstances or other people for our failures instead of examining ourselves to find out whether the fault is in us. Nothing and no one can keep from us those things which are ours by divine right. We succeed if we deserve to succeed, and fail if we deserve to fail. The choice is ours.

#### **Saturday**

June 18

♦ For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. — Matt. 6:14.

# HELP ME TO LOVE, WHETHER I AM LOVED OR NOT, FATHER.

Have you forgiven fully and freely any who may have tried to harm you? Or do you bear them a grudge? If you do, then you are disobeying the most important of the universal laws – the law of love; for when we love we forgive. Love is the law on which all other laws depend, and if we adhere to it faithfully in every detail of our daily lives we shall automatically obey the other rules laid down for us.

Remember that love is not provoked, therefore we must learn to ignore the unkind things which people may say or do. Are we always strictly kind ourselves? Have we never done anything to hurt another?

Love also bears all things, so when something happens which otherwise might upset us, let us learn to say: "None of these things move me." Love endures all things and never fails – which is something most of us are liable to forget at times. We can be sure that if we are unforgiving we are also unloving, and therefore we are not fulfilling the law.

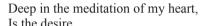
#### **Sunday**

#### June 19

#### **MEDITATION**

#### LOVE BE MY GUIDE

My Father,



To live as You would have me live,

To speak as You would have me speak,

To act as You would have me act . . .

Show me the way that You would have me go

So that I may remove all obstructions

That appear to keep Your Good from manifesting in me . . .

Open my eyes that I may see the

True Beauty of all things.

Open my ears that I may hear Your Divine Harmony

Above the discord of human endeavour.

Teach me to speak words of praise and encouragement to all,

And overlook my failures

So that they become stepping stones to success . . .

Let my meditation be acceptable to YOU

And Love be my guide.



#### Monday

June 20

★ All of you gird yourselves with humility to serve one another. — 1 Peter 5:5.

### I TRY CONSTANTLY TO BE A WORTHY INSTRUMENT IN GOD'S SERVICE.

What we do for man, we do for God, so should we not consider it an honour to be able to serve our fellowmen? Instead of regarding it as a burden, as some of us may do, we should look on it as a privilege.

We should all cultivate humility in the matter of giving of our best to those with whom we come into contact. We should never think that we are honouring them by our service, but that we are honoured in being allowed to serve. Unless we do so in a spirit of humble gratitude to God, of what use is our help? We have so much to be grateful for if we would count our blessings, instead of thinking so much of the things we have not got.

Let us share with our fellowmen whatever we have that is of value, whether it be knowledge, wealth, happiness or what you will.

### May 24 Tuesday June 21

★ All things therefore whatsoever ye would that men should do unto you, even so do ye also unto them. – Matt. 7:12.

### IN MY DAILY LIVING LET ME STRIVE TO EMULATE THE CHRIST.

The above text is the Christ's Golden Rule which we should make part of our philosophy of life. It is no good to attend lectures or go to church on Sundays if we leave God out of all our dealings during the week. There are people who think that in these competitive days we cannot obey the commandments of God. Yet we should bring the Christ's precepts into our business lives as well as into our social contacts.

How can we not succeed if we make God the Head of our every undertaking? We cannot connect Him with failure of any kind. But we must obey His laws and treat others as we would be treated by them.

We should, as far as in us lies, have the mind in us that was in Christ. He loved saint and sinner; He was just in all things; and it is wrong to say that His ideals cannot be followed in a modern world.

#### Wednesday

June 22

**♦** Thou wilt show me the path of life. -Ps. 16:11.

#### IN THE LIGHT, FATHER, SHALL I SEE LIGHT.

God has done more than merely to show man the path of life, for did He not provide him with an Exemplar in the person of the Christ who said, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life; no man cometh unto the Father but by Me"? Meaning that if we would enter the Kingdom of the Father's providing we must act in the *way* in which He acted, know the *truth* which He taught (and demonstrated) and *live* His life of conscious at-one-ment with the Author of His being.

You may think this is more than you can accomplish, and of your own selves it may well be so, but "I am with you always," said the Lord and added, "My Strength is sufficient," sufficient to cast out of your minds and hearts all human doubts and fears, sufficient to overcome all the difficulties and problems, if in the knowledge of your essential UNITY with your Maker, you will step out boldly into the seeming void and then press onward toward the mark, following after Him who shall go before you.

#### **Thursday**

June 23

♦ I press on toward the goal. – Phil. 3:14.

### I DEFINE MY PURPOSE AND WORK TOWARDS IT WITH A STEADFAST WILL.

The happiest people must surely be those who are working with the best that is in them to achieve some high ideal, not for wealth or glory but in order to make the world more beautiful.

Work is necessary to our well-being. Those who spend their time in pleasure-seeking or on trivialities can have no sense of achievement. As someone has said, to be happy a man must know that his life has value. We should all have some purpose – some object in view. We should not just drift through life aimlessly. We are on this plane of consciousness to achieve something, and the greatest attainment would be complete submission to the Spirit within us. Joyous and willing compliance, that is, not a doleful resignation.

It is not enough to think, study, and meditate. We must also be practical. By all means let us dream, but let us also work to make our dreams come true. Work is a remedy for so many of life's ills.

#### **Friday**

June 24

♦ It is your Father's good pleasure to give you the Kingdom. – Luke 12:32.

### I GIVE THANKS THAT GOD, MY FATHER, FULFILS MY HIGHEST GOOD.

Often we repeat the Master's words over to ourselves and when everything is going well we gladly admit that they are true, but when the day of trouble dawns, when we are plunged into sorrow or are very much afraid, the Kingdom fades out of our awareness and we start to clamour for that which is already ours.

If we could keep our eyes ever steadfast to the good, if we would ignore the prompting of our human intellects, the false testimony our five senses insist on offering up to us, and would take our stand on GOD-ONLY, no evil of any kind would be able to overwhelm us. It is because of our past acceptance of and indulgence in negation that *it takes form for us*. We do not need to think of poverty to become poor, or of sickness to fall victims to disease, to entertain a picture of failure for our business ventures to go on the rocks; it is enough for us to *separate ourselves in consciousness from God* for that which is unlike Him to move in upon us and to bring disaster in its train.

#### Saturday

June 25

♦ Let us follow after things which make for peace. – Rom. 14:19.

### I WILL TRY ALWAYS TO EXPRESS THE LOVE SIDE OF MY NATURE TO OTHERS.

To apply the above text would seem to be a very obvious thing to do, yet there are many people who instinctively stir up strife. They feel that they have to "stand up for themselves," to take no "nonsense"; for them offence is the best form of defence, and they are permanently on the defensive. Such folk lead very unhappy lives.

There are two sides to every coin, and by the same token there are two sides to every question. When we feel sure that we are in the right, we would do well to put ourselves in the other fellow's shoes, to look at the problem through his eyes — with good will, tolerance and sympathetic understanding—and then to try to judge righteous judgment, seeing not the mote which may be in his eye, but taking note of the beam in our own which is distorting our vision.

Let us rather forgive than condemn, for only as we do so can we hope, in our turn, to be forgiven, and there is none amongst us who has not committed sins of both omission and commission.

#### **Sunday**

June 26

# MEDITATION THE EVERPRESENCE



My Father,

I need no evidence of Your Presence in me and around about me, because it is implicit in all things animate and inanimate. Were it not so, from what source would the seed derive the perfect pattern that externalises in the exquisite beauty of the protea, or whence the carnation receive its pure perfume?

It is Your wisdom, Father, that guides the bee unerringly to its hive, Your Intelligence that spins the spider's web, Your Love that encourages the mother bird to care for its young, and Your Mighty Power that holds the universe in orbit.

In all these things and in everything, from the microscopic world of the atom to the whirling worlds above, Your Presence is immanent, ever pressing out into greater and fuller manifestations to Your honour and glory. Humbly, I am grateful for this awareness of Your Presence, Father.

#### **Monday**

June 27

♦ When he is quiet, who can condemn? – Job 34:29.

#### I LOOK TO GOD ALONE FOR MY GOOD.

However we behave in life, so do we attune ourselves to such behaviour in others. The frequency in which we broadcast our message is automatically open to receive the reply. Criticism of others, of leaders, of society at large has become a virtue in today's world – read the letters page of any newspaper. It is as though we hope to beat others into shape but are ourselves not eligible for such "improvement".

We forget that our attempt to reshape our world in this way makes a god of the world. Inwardly we are saying "the world must be the source of my good" instead of "the Source of all good is God within me." We cannot have it both ways. So let us withhold unkind criticism, not only in word but in our sentiments, and so keep our channels open to God's infinite inflow of good.

The principle can be tested and proven. It transforms bitter, caged people into optimistic, free ones. It opens doors long rusted closed. It opens up a path before us leading to our highest good.

#### **Tuesday**

June 28

◆ Yea, all of you gird yourselves with humility, to serve one another. — 1 Peter 5:5.

### I DO WHAT I CAN TO BE HELPFUL TO MY FELLOWMEN.

It was Winifred Holtby who asked of life that she might be permitted to love much, to serve to the utmost limit of her capacity, and to keep faith with that high vision which men call God. What a pity it is that more of us have not similar aspirations.

If our lives were ruled by love it would naturally follow that we should serve our fellowmen, for where we love our desire is to help as much as possible. There is little virtue in service which is not given in love. Rather is it an insult to the recipient.

How we will serve is something each one must choose for himself, according to his talents. We are not all gifted in the same way, fortunately. Not all of us are fit to be social workers, or nurses, or preachers, but we can all do something to benefit humanity; and let us not be deterred because we think what we have to give is insignificant. The laughtermaker has his own place in the world, as the statesman has his. Let each give what he has to give.

#### Wednesday

June 29

♦ In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he will direct thy paths. – Pro. 3:6.

### WHEREVER I AM GOD IS, LEADING AND PROTECTING ME.

Do I acknowledge God in all my ways? Do I live according to the teachings of the Master, or do I stray from the path of righteousness at times?

Let me claim God's help in all my undertakings – business and social as well as spiritual. I so often ask Him for this or that whereas it would be much wiser if I trusted Him to point out the path to me, and then followed it. How can I be sure, when I ask Him for something specific, that I am asking for what will be best for me in the long run – or that I am not limiting Him in what He wants to give me?

It is important, if I want to be guided by God, to live in the consciousness of His Presence within me at all times and in all places, so that I can turn to Him in any moment of doubt. I must never feel that I am separated from Him. He is always with me, and only my own wrong thinking can seem to part me from Him.

#### **Thursday**

June 30

♦ The stranger that sojourneth with you shall be unto you as the home-born among you. — Lev. 19:34.

#### I WILL TRY ALWAYS TO ACT IN LOVE, FATHER.

Has it ever occurred to you that in the ideal state we should be as interested in others as we are in ourselves? Your child's success would give me as much pleasure as that of my own offspring. However, very few of us have reached that stage in our spiritual progress as yet. Most of us are inclined to preen ourselves a little if our children do better than those of our neighbours – or if we excel in some way which places us in advance of them in our own esteem.

We do not all treat the stranger amongst us as if he were one of our own family. Many would not want us to do so. Nevertheless we should show cordiality to the newcomer within our midst. We may find ultimately that we have nothing in common with him, in which case we shall naturally drift away from each other, but at least we shall have done our share. We are all members of one great family, with God as our Father, which is something we should remember. We are one with Him and each other.

### From ego to God-consciousness

When do we become satisfactory students of Truth? Or is the path of Truth without turning or any assuring milestone?

While the pursuit of spiritual knowledge certainly never ceases, it is made more difficult by us wanting to be absolutely "right". A student of Truth should always be listening and learning, realising that everyone and all situations, in one way or another, are our teachers. We should always be prepared to accept that "I may be wrong," even "I am happy to be wrong." With this humility, imperceptibly, comes *harmony*, which is prerequisite to spiritual progress. Committed students of Truth soon learn that they must control their emotions, the things they say and the things they do.

The rewards of spiritual seeking do not lie at the end of a path. We find that all aspects of our lives improve as we advance – spiritual, mental, emotional, physical. The limitation is only in our *understanding*. It may be that an earlier spiritual path is so dogmatic that we are forced to abandon it and start afresh.

Truth is not for the half-hearted. "Seek and you will find, knock and it will be opened to you. You shall seek Me, and find Me, when you seek Me with all your heart." Truth certainly demands thinking. Our desire to apply ourselves, to learn, to exercise our mind, to think logically, daily overcomes ignorance. But, by the same measure, we can become trapped

in a consciousness of self-dependence in which we are limited by our own minds, bodies and emotions. We become vulnerable to insecurity, lack of self-control and confidence.

Worldly ego stands firmly between man and God. It is based on exaggerated awareness of the self. It is characterised by self-interest, selfishness and self-importance. Egoism will often oppose worthwhile ideas and possibilities to protect personal opinions and familiar conditions. An egotistical person may deliberately create conflict to divert attention from their own vulnerabilities.

But as we gently allow self-awareness and self-effort to give way to trust in God, we release *intuition* which is the gateway to All-knowledge already within us. Then worry recedes about the right thing to think, the right thing to say, and the right thing to do. We come to realise that we are individual expressions of *Universal Mind*, of Soul, and only through humility can we approach Him. Meditation and contemplation of the Truth of our being awakens dormant Soul-forces. We find inspiration from our innermost depths, not random or anxious thoughts and moods.

Relaxation and poise help us to establish wholesome purpose and constructive action, to establish priorities as students of Truth. When we make time for God, He always makes time for us. We find God-awareness founded deeply within ourselves and we know it to be true. We find ourselves on more harmonious terms with others and with circumstances in our lives. No longer do we depend on mental states and relationships. We have no need to mask emptiness.

We have discovered clear, defined purpose in our lives. We have awakened from rigid, negative states into Soulawareness. We have become open-minded. While the spiritual fulfilment of others can never satisfy our own longing, we find that knowledge of other enlightened souls can inspire us to be more attentive to our own spiritual growth, our own path to God. We feel confident in trying out for ourselves the theories of how to live that have been put forward down the ages.

We begin to see our world anew. Every person we meet becomes an individualised expression of Soul, every aspect and form of Nature an expression of God's energy, for we live truly in a *spiritual* world. Behind the façade of personality there is pure Spirit. We are moved to worthwhile service, a smile, a word of encouragement, a projection of uplifted consciousness, helping others to improve their understanding of themselves and to enjoy more fruitful lives.

Personality and ego are inherent to our expression on this plane of consciousness, but ego can be purified and personality refined. If we are not satisfied with our spiritual progress we can change. We can concentrate more on the sowing of our actions and less on the reaping. We can see ourselves more as channels through which God is doing the service. We become balanced. We have indeed found a turning, a milestone on our path of Truth, where the inner and outer realms of our lives begin to correspond. Soul qualities, in us from the beginning, start to express more easily through our personality. We become increasingly poised, gracious, thoughtful, kind, generous, compassionate. We respond more productively to events in our lives. Our affirmation becomes even more confidently "Love be in my mind and in my thinking, Love be in my heart and in my feeling, Love be in my mouth and in my speaking."

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We must remember that the rationalistic attitude of the West is not the only possible one and is not all-embracing, but is in many ways a prejudice and a bias that ought perhaps to be corrected

Carl Jung



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### The Path of Truth and Practical Philosophy

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Published by School of Truth 31 Streatley Avenue, Auckland Park, 2092