

PRIESTESS OF THE FLAME

BLAVATSKY
AND
THE ORDER OF CHRISTIAN MYSTICS

TEACHINGS OF THE ORDER OF CHRISTIAN MYSTICS

THE “CURTISS BOOKS” FREELY AVAILABLE AT

WWW.ORDEROFCHRISTIANMYSTICS.CO.ZA

1. THE VOICE OF ISIS
 2. THE MESSAGE OF AQUARIA
 3. THE INNER RADIANCE
 4. REALMS OF THE LIVING DEAD
 5. COMING WORLD CHANGES
 6. THE KEY TO THE UNIVERSE
 7. THE KEY OF DESTINY
 8. LETTERS FROM THE TEACHER VOLUME I
 9. LETTERS FROM THE TEACHER VOLUME II
 10. THE TRUTH ABOUT EVOLUTION AND THE BIBLE
 11. THE PHILOSOPHY OF WAR
 12. PERSONAL SURVIVAL
 13. THE PATTERN LIFE
 14. FOUR-FOLD HEALTH
 15. VITAMINS
 16. WHY ARE WE HERE?
 17. REINCARNATION
 18. FOR YOUNG SOULS
 19. GEMS OF MYSTICISM
 20. THE TEMPLE OF SILENCE
 21. THE DIVINE MOTHER
 22. THE SOUNDLESS SOUND
 23. THE MYSTIC LIFE
 24. THE LOVE OF RABIACCA
 25. POTENT PRAYERS
- SUPPORTING VOLUMES**
26. THE SEVENTH SEAL
 27. TOWARDS THE LIGHT



Priestess of the Flame

Harriette Augusta Curtiss

1856-1932

PRIESTESS OF THE FLAME

being a revelation on

BLAVATSKY
AND
THE ORDER OF CHRISTIAN MYSTICS



Ministers of Christ and Stewards of the Mysteries of God.

1 Corinthians 4 vs 1

Written and Compiled by

A LOVER OF TRUTH

2014 EDITION

COPYRIGHT MOUNT LINDEN PUBLISHING

JOHANNESBURG

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

EVOLUTION

They quiver, shift and change like human hope,
These myriad forms in the Kaleidoscope,

Abide their little hour and are gone,
As Life's fast flying wheel whirls ever on.

Each flows out from one evolved before
In equal charm, or may be less – or more.

But naught remains unchanged. All things must shift
Into such forms as next may be the gift

Of Him who turns the wheel. Yet see the Law
With certitude serene, infinite, draw

A golden thread forever through the maze
Uniting present, past and future days.

Though men with tints and colours may essay,
They work inside of lines drawn yesterday.

Tomorrow shows a scene of woe or weal,
A sequence sure of this day's sloth or zeal.

Thus runs the Law, life's atoms bright arranging,
And combinations new reflect the changing.

Each form has intimate, complete relation
To that just past, its source and derivation.

Learn day by day similitude's to scan;
See in this toy, somewhat the way of man,

From out the Spiritual Sun a Ray,
Held by the magic of the Law in clay.

Who knows what fairest form of all
Shall last – and perfect – on our shoulders fall?

Fred Burbank Leyns
Fellow of the Order of Christian Mystics.

HYMN TO THE ELEMENTS

Earth, my Mother, bid me learn,
Truth in darkness to discern.
Like Thy forces, silently,
Work in true humility

Stream of Life unceasing flow,
Wellspring of the Christ bestow.
Fill me till I thirst no more,
Bear me to Thine eternal shore.

Air that blows from heaven's dome,
Waft me to my Father's home.
Whisper softly words of Love,
To all mankind from God above.

Holy Fire from on high,
Enter in and purify.
Burn the dross and cleanse from sin,
Make me pure and true within.

Harriette Augusta Curtiss
Co-Founder of the Order of Christian Mystics

DEDICATION

This Work is lovingly dedicated to
the Memory of the
Founders of the Order of Christian Mystics,
Pyrahmos and Rahmea
and to their Teacher who on Earth was called,
Helena Petrovna Blavatsky.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INSPIRATION		XVII
LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS		XIX
INTRODUCTION		XXXI
PART I:	CONCERNING THE TEACHINGS OF THE ORDER OF CHRISTIAN MYSTICS	
CHAPTER I	THE MYSTIC LIFE	1
CHAPTER II	THE UNIVERSAL SOLAR MYTH	10
CHAPTER III	PRAYERS OF THE ORDER OF CHRISTIAN MYSTICS	44
CHAPTER IV	INNER ALCHEMY AND THE WAR OF TRANSMUTATION	58
CHAPTER V	PROPHECIES OF THE ORDER	81
CHAPTER VI	THE MESSAGE OF THE SPHINX	124
CHAPTER VII	SPIRITUAL HYGIENE AND OCCULT PSYCHOLOGY	130
CHAPTER VIII	GEMS OF MYSTICISM	156
PART II:	CONCERNING THE TEACHER OF THE ORDER OF CHRISTIAN MYSTICS	
CHAPTER IX	THE RUSSIAN SPHINX	181
CHAPTER X	THE TEACHER OF THE ORDER	187
CHAPTER XI	A MESSAGE FROM MADAME BLAVATSKY	207
CHAPTER XII	LESSONS BY THE WAY	229
PART III:	CONCERNING THE ORDER OF CHRISTIAN MYSTICS	
CHAPTER XIII	THE ORDER OF CHRISTIAN MYSTICS	241
CHAPTER XIV	PYRAHMOS AND RAHMEA	255
CHAPTER XV	THE ORDER OF THE 15	271
CHAPTER XVI	A SYMPOSIUM OF THE ORDER OF THE 15	277
CONCLUSION		287
LIST OF PUBLICATIONS		291

INSPIRATION¹

This little book comes to you, dear reader, as a messenger winged with the love of the Master Who would gather His children from the four winds.

To all who are yearning for love and understanding, who are weary of waiting for the eventide when the Master shall walk in His garden in the cool of the day to meet His disciples, this little booklet is sent.

It comes as a cooling breeze at twilight after the heat and toil of the day. It comes as the song of birds piping their goodnight to the toil-worn. It comes as a messenger of Peace, speaking to such hearts as can hear, bringing to them the assurance that in the midst of the toil and disappointments and weariness of life there is a surging undercurrent of Power and Peace sweeping all humanity onward and upward, drawing them closer to the Heart of Love.

This little book is but a tiny rill from the Fountain of Life. If it but fill with cooling drops the cup of one weary wanderer fainting in the Desert of Life, it has fulfilled its mission.

It is cast upon the Waters of Life in Love, Compassion and Trust, knowing that it will accomplish that for which it is sent forth.

¹ Curtiss, *The Soundless Sound*, Opening Page

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Frontispiece

Priestess of the Flame, Harriette Augusta Curtiss

Inserts

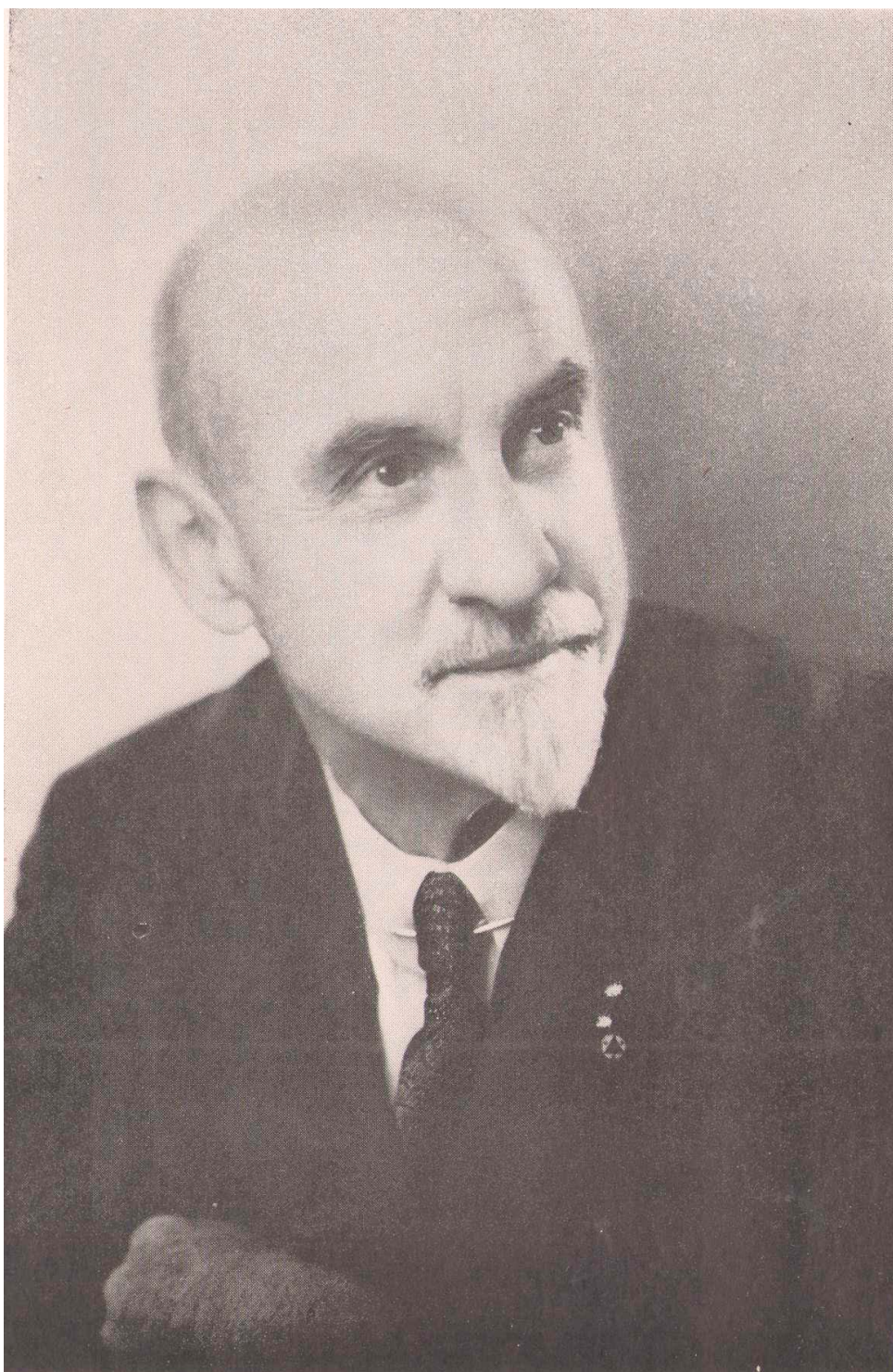
Pyrahmos, Dr. Frank Homer Curtiss

The Teacher of the Order, Helena Petrovna Blavatsky

The Coming Avatar, The Master Jesus

Tarot Depictions of *The Lovers*

Tarot Depictions of *The Sun*



Pyrahmos

Dr Frank Homer Curtiss

1875-1946



The Teacher of the Order

Helena Petrovna Blavatsky

1831-1891



The Master Jesus

Of course there were no pictures of the Master made during His Earthlife. All the pictures now in existence are but the various artists' conceptions. This picture was precipitated for Dr. Curtiss directly from the invisible. The discarnate artist stated that the radiance of the Master was so glorious that it almost blinded him. This sketch was the best he could do under the circumstances. When it was finished he precipitated it into the physical for the Order's use. The face is sensitive and kind without being effeminate; strong, positive and masculine without being stern.

THE 6TH TAROT CARD THE LOVERS



Papus

MEDIEVAL



Papus



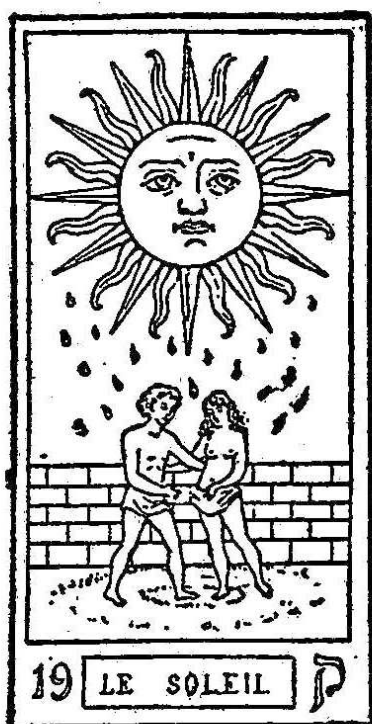
St. Germain
EGYPTIAN



Smith
MODERN

THE 19TH TAROT CARD

THE SUN



Papus

MEDIEVAL TYPES



Papus



St. Germain
EGYPTIAN TYPE



Smith
MODERN TYPE

INTRODUCTION

“There is no Religion Higher than Truth.”

Ancient Aphorism

“Every Age has its Riddle. Helena Petrovna Blavatsky was the Enigma of the Nineteenth Century.”

Manly Palmer Hall

“She was chosen as a Messenger of the Lodge because she had that karmic Right and had sought to prepare herself for that Work.”

The Teacher of the Order on HPB

The life, times, teachings and history of this remarkable woman has been put down on paper, journals, articles, tomes and volumes of work that eclipses without exception, any other writer on or of the occult in our known history. HPB, as she was wont to call herself, authored a vast range of authoritative books in addition to writing thousands of articles, letters and editorials in her lifetime. Pupils across the world, acquaintances, correspondents, translators of her works and publishers had to be dealt with on a daily basis. She was without doubt one of the greatest spiritual reformers and religious awakeners of our age. A veritable John the Baptist, ushering in the new age, in preparation of the coming Avatar.

During her life and extensive travels throughout the religious cradles of mankind in the world she learned some forty languages! Her mediumistic abilities are well documented and her humour, if somewhat dry, appreciated by all and sundry. When she was alive she inspired a revival of the occult across the globe. The Western world was hungry for a spiritual outpouring after the dark ages and persecution brought about by the church and the ignorance that was forced onto the population during the middle ages. Across the globe, on each continent and in every major centre, branches of the new Theosophical Society opened, ready to study and disseminate her works. Of the well-known mystics of her time, in Germany, Austria, Australia, England, America, India and other countries, all drew unending inspiration from the outpouring that her works put forth. For members of the occult orders of her time, to have her books was standard. The inspiration that she brought to seekers everywhere manifested in hundreds if not thousands of books and writings that were published by true occultists through-out the world, all referring to her works. Yet, in contrast, she also made many enemies. People either fawned over her for favours, flattered or derided her work. Where-ever she went she was sought out for pastime and pleasure and this indifference to that which she held as sacred always hurt her deeply, for in her own words, no-one understood her *real mission*.

This current work is aimed at all seekers and students of the esoteric sciences that have an interest in the Western mystical tradition and the workings of the true occult orders that cater for the Western mind set. As the works on the life and times of the Madame are legion in our day, this work is not aimed at her *known work* but to rather open up a window on the *unseen work* of the Madame, especially the work she inspired in her pupils after she passed on. Such a work of necessity will open a window into the works of all advanced workers in spiritual matters, for the Madame was but an Agent on this earth plane, one of many. During her earthly incarnation in that personality that was HPB it was her great mission to bridge the gap between the Eastern and Western Teachings and to bring to the Western world the jewels of great price to be found in all religions. This was achieved most remarkably and her work was mainly a public one, to bring a more general realisation of spiritual truths and verities to a greater audience. After her passing, it was

her mission to make more accessible, the great spiritual Teachings of the Western mystery tradition, especially the occult truths to be found in the Bible.

To students of the esoteric sciences it is generally accepted that at transition, commonly called death, the soul but sheds its outer garment, the physical body, and the spirit or essence of that person continues its journey in the higher realms or spirit world. The same applies naturally to the Saints, Sages, Adepts, Avatars and Teachers that incarnate on earth, teach and pass on. Why would *They* stop their work at the mere shedding of an outer garment? What happens to *Them* when they pass on? And who looks after *Their* pupils, students and disciples that they leave behind? It is to questions such as these that this work gives a resoundingly clear answer.

Just before her passing, HPB instructed her closest confidantes and disciples to continue with her work, to fulfil her mission and not to fail her in this important task. As is stated elsewhere those who were closest to her in her final days were indeed not up to the task to fulfil her most chosen ideals and work. The Society she founded with its myriad branches all over the world fell into a chaotic squabble over who would succeed the Madame, who would rule the roost and who would be appointed as her chosen successor. The years after her passing saw thousands of members resign yearly as the bitter internal power struggles started to disintegrate the Society of which she was the supreme Founder. Members became disillusioned and realigned themselves with leaders who proclaimed their special powers the loudest and the Society fragmented into a number of splinter groups, each with its own royal figure head. These bitter internal struggles are well documented in the literature extant today.

To the tens of thousands of members worldwide and the millions of people who read, studied and drew inspiration from the work of the Madame it must have seemed that the Work of HPB slowly died with the passing in 1891 of that great Teacher.

In this current work it is our endeavour to show the continuation and reveal the sphinxlike rebirth of the outpouring that manifested through that great world Teacher that was HPB and to make plain the workings of the Hierarchy or True Government back of such physical incarnations.

Just as the Master Jesus was born to simple folk and humble beginnings some two thousand years ago with little public fanfare or so the story is told, so the Work of HPB arose from the ashes on the New Continent to a simple woman, humble and unknown, Ms. Harriet Brown. Whilst the Theosophical Society was imploding over a period spanning ten to twenty years due to ceaseless infighting over leadership battles, Ms. Brown, through her dedication, long suffering, love, perseverance, sincerity and effort broke through in clear consciousness and established a direct contact with that *Teacher* that was HPB. So was founded *The Order of Christian Mystics* in Philadelphia, USA, in the year 1908. A set of sublime public Teachings were put forth by this Order in the Western mystical tradition, spanning 27 volumes, over a 40 year period. The Order, and its Teachings, has at its heart a sublime philosophy of spiritual transmutation and upliftment of the base creative force, or Kundalini, which in its lowest creative expression manifests as the sex force. These divinely inspired Teachings and this outpouring form the basis and inspiration for the current work.

To the best understanding of the author, the current work is accurate in the general sense of its history and timelines. This has been pieced together from various sources. The author has had to rely on his own esoteric training and researches of many years to put forth the current work as a cohesive whole and to fit the work of *The Teacher* and *The Founders of the Order* into 'the great scheme of things.' The

current work has therefore been put together with many a self-interpolated dictum and with many a hammer and tongs and for any inaccuracies and contradictions to be found in the work we ask for understanding.

The published works of the Order comprise 25 bound volumes and two supporting volumes making 27. Yet, it is known that the Founders gave public lectures twice a week for many years in various centres in the USA. Many religious services were given with many tours across the American continent, coupled with the writing and answering of thousands and thousands of letters to students all over the world. This would mean that most of the work of the Order is in unpublished form. It is a sincere hope from the author that the publishing of this work will open up a renewed interest in *The Teachings of the Order of Christian Mystics* and that more material on their work will become available to the public at large.

The current work, a true labour of love spanning many years of research and intensive occult study, does not seek to rewrite that which has already been committed to paper, especially as to the life and times of the Madame. Its aim is to give the reader and sincere seeker after true occult knowledge a glimpse behind the veil, so to speak, of the workings of the true occult fraternities of this world. For in the Western occult tradition these, almost without exception, operate in more or less secrecy, for various reasons. This current work is an expose on a modern Order, and shows in plain, simple and clear language, without secrecy or guile, how the Higher Ones impart their ancient Teachings to this world. To the mass of thinking people who seek after some satisfying answer to the problems of life, there comes from out of the ages the Teachings of those Great Souls who reached their Godlike state before this world was born. These Great Souls have always been and still are, the Guides and Teachers of mankind, hence those whose reason postulates, or whose intuition recognizes such Godlike Beings, can safely accept their Teachings, for they are in a position to know the Truth.

It is also a most fascinating expose on the doctrine of Avatara and to the continued guidance and inspiration that is sent to this world through suitable agents and disciples during all times by the true, spiritual and invisible government, that governs the destiny of all mankind.

Any work on the esoteric or occult is but a rendering of a piece or part of the spiritual path that each aspirant must eventually walk. This work is put forth with the hope and aspiration that many will find thereby a clear expose as to the ultimate spiritual goal that each of us is but trying to unfold from within, using all that is available from the without. This work, which is put forth in love and understanding, is dedicated in assisting the seeker to find the truth for, by, and within himself and to help the weary and footsore wanderer ever onward, forward and upward on his spiritual journey.

We may broadly classify spiritual Teachings as satisfying two classes of seekers, the sheep and the goats. The sheep are those gentle and docile Souls who follow unthinkingly in flocks wherever they are led; who must have a Shepherd and a sheep-fold wherein they are carefully protected from the wolves; who follow their Shepherd lovingly, yet who will follow just as blindly one who would lead them to the verge of a precipice, or one who would fly and leave the sheep to their fate when the wolves appear. The other class, represented by the goats, think for themselves. They wander forth from the sheep-fold of church, creed, dogma and organization, courageously and independently seeking sustenance from the sparse herbage which they find on the rocky mountain side as they climb. They are always ready to face whatever comes, for they are well armed with two strong horns, symbol of power, upon their heads and are quite able to keep the wolves at bay.

When we are ready, if it is enlightenment and instruction that is needed, in some and often remarkable way we will be brought into touch with that avenue of teaching which is best adapted to our stage of unfoldment. Those who find in the Truth expounded by these Teachings the most spiritual and inspiring ideals, as well as the most comforting, satisfying and practical solutions of life's problems, should give them such serious study that they become a part of their mental and spiritual life, a firm foundation of ideals upon which they can stand secure and firm. Then they cannot be turned aside by the popular, but often misleading, fads of the day.

The author, a dedicated student in all matters spiritual and esoteric, found himself severely disillusioned with the spiritual teachings and organisations that he was exposed to during his early years. It was during such a phase of disillusionment that a sincere soul cry and prayer to the Heavenly Fathers for light and understanding brought to the author, over a period spanning 15 years, the most beautiful and sublime Teachings and writings of an Order which at that time was almost forgotten and unmentioned in the popular esoteric literature of the day. Much hard work, research and an unending search for the rare public works of that Order bore its fruit in due season and today all 27 published volumes of that Order have been collected and made available to the public at large.

Some of the more popular works of the Order are available as rare reprints from various sources. Most of the works remain out of reach to the public. Yet, when all the works are combined, the Teachings as espoused by this Order, form an all inclusive and soul satisfying *Cosmic Philosophy*, that when pieced together, become grand and inspiring. The Teachings, when properly studied and understood, open up to the seeker a sophisticated system of mysticism, occult healing and psychology, coupled with Divine invocation, devotion and prayer. The Teachings are transmutational, showing the seeker in a clear and understandable way how to initiate the inner alchemical or transmutational process within himself, and so to start the long and weary path to god-hood that each one of us must eventually tread.

In the experience of the author the works are very much *alive*. *Alive* in the sense that one can transcend in consciousness to the very Source from which the Teachings were derived, by reading, studying and internalising the Teachings and applying the philosophy of the Order into ones life. Such study of necessity makes the student more or less sensitive to the finer vibrations of the Higher Realms and will do much to awaken *The Inner Life*. And once the inner spiritual life of the aspirant has awakened, his first true initiation has come about, for the seeker will not stop his search for spiritual truth until he becomes once more one with his personal Father-in-heaven. And once we have established in our minds the fundamental concept that we are *essentially Spiritual Beings*, here and now on the physical plane, as much as we will ever be, there can be no turning back from this glorious quest to which we have aspired.

In this work it will be shown that HPB, or *The Teacher of the Order of Christian Mystics*, made a promise that she has not left her Society comfortless, and that she will continue to guide and inspire any and all that seek her instruction. The Teachings therefore constitute a definite system of mysticism that will help and assist the seeker and student to come into contact with his own Divine Higher Self. For the object of any system of mysticism is the worship of the Divine, and the fundamental object of all worship is to achieve *a personal contact with, and a realisation of the Divine*.

The higher spiritual attainment requires more than a clean good moral life and good citizenship. It requires an active and persistent seeking for the Christ-consciousness as a personal, psychological and spiritual experience, putting aside all ideas of limitation as to the manner or religion through which that realization

may come. For in the heart of every true religion the Path of Attainment can be found if searched for diligently. And many an Aspirant finds and enters upon the mystical "Way of the Cross" without his knowing, on which he must meet and overcome all kinds of discouragements, obstacles and temptations. Here his sincerity is tested, as to which shall rule his life, the lusts of the flesh and the ambitions of the mind, or the *Inner Guidance of the Spirit*.

For many years it has been the dream and ideal of the author to publish an expose on *The Teachings of the Order* but never did he feel worthy of such a task and undertaking. By whose authority would such an expose be manifested? Yet, it may be said, that the author has been able to touch the Source from which the writings have emanated and has been transferred in more or less ecstatic consciousness to that Source many times. It is by such authority, if authority it be, that the present work is undertaken.

The public work of the Order came to an end for all intents and purposes with the passing on of the second *Founder of the Order* in 1946. All attempts to contact whatever or whoever remained behind of this Order past 1946 were in vain. Of its thousands of students little is known today. The Order and its public work simply ceased. Yet we know that the Order, from the strength and evidence of its own Teachings continues to this day, but in secret.

And it is well to understand what is meant by this secrecy, for the Order has left behind a glorious set of Teachings that will aid the student in living the Higher Life. Yet, for the majority of true occultists world-wide, who belong to no group or society, it is the Divine aspiration, the Temple of the Lord that is your Heart, where you worship in secret, that makes you a member of the *Cosmic Order of Melchisedec*, and none stand outside of it. This is the secret Order mentioned so often in the old occult works and literature, mystical and secret as the ordinary world cannot understand its mystical experiences, workings and Teachings. We should note here that these Teachings are secret in the same sense that the repeatedly proved problems of higher mathematics and much other scientific knowledge are secret to a schoolboy, namely, not because they are hidden from the child, but because he is incapable either of grasping or wisely using the information they convey. It would not only be useless to explain them, but were he confronted with and compelled to solve such problems ere he could lisp his multiplication table his brain would be stultified.

There is always, however, a good and wise reason for thus guarding certain truths from one generation and revealing them to a subsequent. It is the policy of the Great Teachers to stimulate such lines of investigation by revealing certain ancient truths long hidden from the general public. The Great Law today is just as inexorable as in former ages, and no firebrand of esoteric knowledge will be given directly to man. The way to the higher knowledge may be pointed out. The Great Teachers may say, "Search here," but only the diligent and the pure in heart, the true and the faithful will be given knowledge which, in the hands of the ignorant, the ambitious or the impure, might be turned to the injury and degradation of the Race.

The real secrets are secrets because nobody understands personal mystical experiences, and one often cannot even talk about such things on pain of the greatest misunderstanding and misinterpretation of the world at large. The truly Wise Men teach that it is only to those who know how to retain a secret that the secrets of Nature are given, not to the babbler who is constantly calling attention to his spiritual, mental and psychic powers. Through a *definite and conscious spiritual effort*, we may in time come to understand our real Mystic Self with all its strange longings and promptings, its flashes of spiritual illumination and its glimpses of glory. But first we must outgrow all former limitations and understandings.

Through-out the work, much effort and care is taken to include some part of each and every of the published works, to convey to the reader the essence of the Teachings as a whole. For it is the sincere hope and aspiration of the author, that such a publication will generate an interest to the reader to study and delve deeper into the original works of the Order. The Teachings are so all-inclusive, and written in such simple and loving language, that both the beginner as well as the advanced seeker and occultist will find much profit in these Works. Such is the hallmark of all Divinely Inspired Teachings. In our day, when so many arcana, spiritual truths, Teachings and systems are available for those who care to look, it must seem like a spiritual wilderness for the seeker. For truth is very much a *life philosophy*, and the more sublime the *life philosophy* we follow, the more the unending truths can sink into our being and find suitable soil for its growth. *The Teachings of the Order* encompasses such a Divine philosophy, suitable to our day and age, and can do much to help the seeker onward to his goal. The Teachings are eminently modern, and encompass an interpretation of all previous Western Teachings given under the banners of Rosicrucianism, Gnosticism and other Western forms and systems of mysticism. For the Western Mystic is taught to unfold and manifest his spiritual development *right in the environment* where the Great Law leads him in the various epochs of his life. And *The Teachings of the Order* show man how to unfold his true spiritual nature in the midst of his everyday affairs, and thus help on the evolution of all the world by radiating to everything he contacts, in all worlds, and kingdoms, the degree of spiritual radiation he has been able to manifest. Contrasted to systems of asceticism, of retiring into monastery, mountain, convent or jungle, the highest aim in life is not to get away from life; else why come down to Earth and incarnate at all? We should not seek to get away from life, but to live life; to live life fully and harmoniously and joyously right in the environment where we find ourselves incarnated; in fact, where we have chosen to incarnate. And we should live our life happily and joyously because of our higher conception of the object of life, and thereby advance to a higher expression of our Real Self.

These Teachings have been given to the world through suitable agents on the physical plane, by that Teacher who was HPB from out the Higher Planes, *directed by the Hierarchy back of the Order*. No Teaching that is under the active present day inspiration of the Great Ones will attempt to present the great truths of life in the obscure jargon which may have been necessary in the Dark Ages of physical persecution and possible physical death. For *Their* object now is not to obscure truth, but to reveal it in such a way as to help present-day humanity.

We have no doubt that a work such as this will be met with a certain amount of controversy and scepticism. Divine Love gives out its message from a height so great that it is always misunderstood and the giver crucified. Be that as it may, let the message fall on the hearts of those who are ready for it. We make no definitive claims, but trust that this work will be accepted for its addition to occult and esoteric knowledge in general and for the scientific relevance and research that has made such a work possible.

As to spiritual teachings from any Source we should ask the following questions. Is the spiritual food I am receiving worth having? Does it help me in the daily living of my life in the world? Does it satisfy my reason as well as my heart hunger? If so, then it is spiritual food worth having and will help others in a similar way.

It is with a sense of profound awe and humility that the author takes on this work in the sincere hope that it will bring light, comfort and understanding to a world steeped in materialism and godlessness.

As we wait for the Mighty Angel or Avatar as He draws closer to the Earth, the Light of Truth penetrates more and more clearly through the clouds of misconception

and misunderstanding, and many, many minds awaken and determine to see and understand the Truth for themselves, for they can no longer accept as Truth that which another says they must believe. In other words, the little mind-seeds of advanced Cosmic Truth which have lain so long hidden in the darkness of ignorance and spiritual blindness and covered up with the demands of trade, the seductions of the senses and the allurements of selfish ease, all over the world are beginning to feel the stir of spiritual life at this new springtime of humanity. Soon the hard shells of the seeds will burst asunder and the tiny sprouts of cosmic Truths for humanity's guidance and salvation will force themselves up into the Light. And these shoots are destined to grow, multiply and produce a mighty crop of advanced ideals which will demand new world conditions. For as the Light of Truth shines into the minds of men they begin to think for themselves, to see more clearly, to reason, compare and draw conclusions. Already they refuse any longer to be led like children or driven like cattle by those who lay claim to Divine authority. Especially is this true after all the suffering that humanity has experienced during these war soaked centuries and times that we find ourselves in.

Let the Light of the Source of the Teachings shine forth in this new Age of Enlightenment, the Age of the Outpouring. So Mote It Be.

“Every teaching will come back renewed, with its heart in it. There is nothing that is hid that shall not be revealed, nothing buried that shall not be resurrected.”

The Teacher of the Order

CHAPTER I

THE MYSTIC LIFE¹

“The Path is the Path of Renunciation. . . . The Renunciation must be the renunciation of the domination of the lower self and the disciplining and training of its desires and appetites.”

Curtiss, *The Voice of Isis*, 296

“There is a Path which leads into the deep mysteries of God. There is a Path which leads into the world of Life Eternal. And its door is not of necessity the one called the death of the physical body. Yet it is in one sense death, but a death only of those things which we no longer need. It is on this Path that our life attains its ultimate end. It is here that we see the doors of the mighty Temple of Divine Life swing open. It is here that we hear the Voice of the Silence say to us: ‘Put off thy shoes (the outer material coverings or material conceptions) from off thy feet (our understanding), for the ground on which thou standest, is holy ground.’”

Harriette Augusta Curtiss

HOW CHRISTIAN MYSTICISM SOLVES THE WORLDS PROBLEMS

THE LIFE OF CAUSES

The Mystic Life is the life of causes, the life of realization, the life of the Soul, the manifestation of the inner through the outer. It is called mystical because it is a manifestation of a mystery; for all life is a mystery. All manifestation comes from the unseen. All the myriad forms we see around us in Nature appear from out the unseen, apparently self-generated. For there is no life, consciousness, nor creative and formative power in matter itself. Matter is only the substance with which unseen forces and intelligences clothe themselves to manifest for a short cycle here on Earth. Therefore nothing that we see in the outer world around us is the thing itself. It is only a shell or instrument through which the mystic Life of Causation finds expression.

A MYSTIC NOT A DREAMER

A mystic is one who is not satisfied with the study of the mere outer forms of manifestation, the mere physical vehicles and the various phenomena connected with their manifestation. A mystic is one who wants to get behind the seen into the unseen. He wants to go back of the outer phenomena of life and study their causes; for only so can he really understand their manifestation.

A true mystic, therefore, is not a mere dreamer. He is not one who spends his time in idle speculation. Still less is he one who thinks so vaguely that his mind is in a mental mist, a fog of impractical intellectual or metaphysical speculations. A true mystic is one who seeks the Real back of the seeming; the Reality back of all outer manifestations. He is one who seeks to penetrate the mists of radiant glory that forever surround the throne of the Creator, the true cause and source of all manifestation. And he tries to apply the realization of these basic truths to his daily life. For the mystic, therefore, the highest ideal of each phase of life is the only goal worthy of striving for.

¹ Edited address delivered by F. Homer Curtiss, before the Second Parliament of World Religions of the World Fellowship of Faiths at the Morrison Hotel in Chicago at 8 p.m. on September 13th, 1933.

OUR MANY LIVES

The mystic sees that we live many aspects of life within our one life. We have our outer life that we live before the world and whose achievements may be worthy for history to record as constituting our life. That is our outer, public or physical life. Then we have a life that is known only to our family and close friends. That is our personal life. Then we have our mental life which is shared only by those of like mind and ideas.

We also have our psychic life in which we commune with our loved ones who have finished their work here on Earth and have withdrawn from the outer physical body to continue their life manifestation in a finer body, "One flight up with their overcoats off" as we express it.²

We also have our own life in those higher realms when we withdraw from the physical during sleep and mingle with our loved ones up there in that higher school of life. For, remember, *there is no death*. Only a withdrawal from a temporary and lower manifestation of life to function in a higher.

THE REAL LIFE

But back of all, we have that Inner Life of the Soul, that Real Self which is the Real Life and which animates all the forms in which we may manifest on all planes in all the worlds of manifestation. That is the mysterious Inner Self whose inner urge keeps us ever seeking, ever striving. Striving for what? For satisfaction. And why? That we may attain that happiness whose ultimate is heavenly bliss; that "peace which passeth understanding"; the realization of the consciousness of the Divine within us.

THE SOURCE OF HAPPINESS

Unfortunately the unfoldment of the vast majority of mankind enables them to live for the most part only in the consciousness of the outer world and to respond as a rule only to the vibrations which reach their consciousness through the five physical senses. Therefore they naturally seek satisfaction and happiness through these senses. They naturally seek it in things, in possessions, in outer attainments, in the gratification of the animal desires, appetites and passions.

But no true satisfaction can be attained when the inner is made to vibrate only to the outer. There may be a certain degree of pleasurable sensations from without, but they culminate only in satiety, not true satisfaction or happiness. True satisfaction and happiness are attained only from within outward; only when the outer is made to vibrate to the inner; when manifestation responds to causation, the personality to the Inner Self or Soul.

Therefore the mystic solves the great basic problem of human happiness by *seeking it within* instead of without; by seeking that inner guidance from within which shall so order and direct the thoughts, the words and the deeds of the outer life that it shall give ever greater expression to that Divine Self within which is striving for expression, and thus attain that happiness which comes only when the Divine within has found at least some degree of manifestation in the world without.

EXPRESS LOVE NOW

Happiness is, therefore, not merely a transient and ephemeral vibration of the outer senses. It is a manifestation of an essential Soul quality. Hence, when we say or do something that makes others happy, we are awakening and bringing into expression a Soul vibration in them. And this vibration is expansive, creative

² For details see *Realms of the Living Dead*, Curtiss.

and constructive. For no vibration of inharmony, antagonism, evil or sin can find expression when the whole being is expressing happiness.

And it takes so little to make people happy! A kind word or act; a nod and a pleasant smile; an unselfish deed. A flower or a postcard or other remembrance. A word of sympathy or of appreciation may brighten and make happy a whole day of depression or discouragement or of otherwise routine work. And the happiness returns every time one thinks of it. So do not wait to “say it with flowers” after a loved one is gone. Express your love, your appreciation or your approval here and now. Do not do it in such a way as to flatter or make them vain, but to express your appreciation of the good, the beautiful, and the true in others and encourage them in its expression.

THE MYSTIC LIVES LIFE

The true mystic is, therefore, the happiest person in the world, and he naturally radiates that vibration of peace, harmony and the joy of living to all he contacts. For he has realized within himself the joy of living in harmony with the Divine within. And having found the source of true happiness within he naturally wants everyone else to be happy likewise.

Since he finds his happiness here and now, he does not have to wait until he goes to heaven to experience it. He is, therefore, not one who seeks to get away from life, but one who seeks to *live life* to its *fullest and highest*; to let the highest spiritual vibrations dominate and thrill the human personality and thus give it its greatest satisfaction and happiness. He seeks to perfect the animal body and develop the mind, not for their own sake, but only that they may become more perfect instruments for the expression of the indwelling Soul.

THE LAW OF MANIFESTATION

But since the mystic has studied the Laws of Causation he has learned that the Law of Sacrifice underlies the Law of Manifestation. Therefore, he understands that to bring happiness to others he must give something of himself and thus become an integral part of an open channel for the fulfilment of at least a tiny expression of that great Cosmic Law of Sacrifice.

THE LAW OF SACRIFICE

Through an understanding of this Law he realizes that on the downward arc of manifesting the Unmanifested—called the Cycle of Necessity—the Greater must sacrifice Itself that the lesser may manifest and have an individualized expression of the One Divine Life which animates all forms of life. For just as the physical Sun sacrifices its light, life, warmth and radiant energy that all the seeds and germs and countless forms of life may sprout and grow and have their tiny individual expressions of life, so does God—the Creator and Manifestor of all—sacrifice His oneness that the multitudes may manifest.

THE SEVEN ARCHANGELS

Through this Law He sacrifices His Unity that Duality may spring forth. And Duality sacrifices itself that the Trinity may find expression. And from the Trinity there is generated that sevenfold expression of the God-head which underlies the structure of all manifested life.³ First we have “The seven Spirits which are before His throne . . . the seven angels which stood before God . . . the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth,” as the book of *Revelation* tells us. These are the seven mighty Archangels who are the Planetary Deities who rule the seven sacred

³ The seven Creative Spirits, the Dhyan Chohans, who correspond to the Hebrew Elohim. For details see the chapters on numbers in *The Key of the Universe*, Curtiss.

planets of our solar system. From these great Angels there radiate the seven great Hierarchies of lesser Celestial Beings which bring into expression every ideal in the mind of God that is to make up the manifested universe.

EVOLUTION BEGINS

And when the cycle of outgoing has been completed and the higher forms of manifestation have each sacrificed something of themselves that lesser forms may manifest, and so on down until the mineral kingdom is reached, then the reverse process begins and the upward arc or the cycle of evolution starts.

THE CYCLE OF NECESSITY

The mineral sacrifices its form of life, or, we may say, is killed and eaten, that a higher form of the One Life, the vegetable, may find expression. The vegetable, in turn, sacrifices its form of life, is killed and eaten, that a higher form, the animal, may manifest. The animal, in turn, sacrifices its form of life that a still higher form of life, man, may live. And man, the animal self and the human personality, must sacrifice its life; that is, give up its selfishness, its self-will, its vanities, ambitions, and desires, in such a complete surrender that it corresponds to being killed and eaten or swallowed up, and all its powers absorbed and utilized that the highest form of life, the Real or Spiritual Self, may find expression through it and thus complete the Cycle of Necessity by the union of the Individualized Spirit with its Source.

In this way the sacrifice of each form to a higher form receives its compensation by being built into that form and experiencing and being uplifted by the vibrations of a higher form of life which is expressing vibrations of life which are many octaves above those of the lower form. It therefore follows that no form of life has a right to take the life of another form unless it can furnish it some corresponding compensation.

HOW GOD EXPRESSES IN HUMANITY

Thus we see that just as God submitted Himself to this cosmic and universal Law of Sacrifice that we might have individualized expression, so must we submit to this same Law of Sacrifice by giving up our wills, our hearts, our lives that we may be swallowed up and absorbed in Him that He may find expression through us. For, remember, that *we mortals are the only avenues or means through which God can find expression in humanity!* We all know how necessary God is to us. But did you ever stop to think *how necessary we are to God?* It is a tremendous concept to realize that without our making ourselves holy channels for the expression of His Life, His love, His compassion, His blissful happiness, we are hampering His manifestation. Once we have realized this great concept, how glad and willing and how joyous should be our complete surrender to Him!

WE MUST VOLUNTARILY CHOOSE

This may seem very mystical and impractical at first sight, but it has a very practical application. For just as the light and life of the Sun is poured out to be embodied in the plants and all growing things, so is the Light and Life of the Spiritual Sun poured out to be embodied in us as spiritual enlightenment, which we call the Christ-consciousness or our spiritual guidance in all our affairs.

But just as the sunlight does the plant no good unless the plant absorbs it, so the light, life and love of God does us no good *unless we correlate with and absorb it.* The Sun cannot compel the plant to absorb its rays, neither can God compel us to absorb the down-pouring of His forces that we may grow spiritually. And still less can He make us sacrifice ourselves to and become absorbed in Him. Those are things that *we must voluntarily choose to do* because we desire to. This we do

through meditation on Him, through prayer, aspiration, and constant devotion to Him.

This is not a matter of the brain, but of the heart. Therefore great education, great learning and a highly developed intellect are not necessary. Only a tender, loving heart; only a steadfast desire to know and be one with Him; only an open, receptive, child-like mind that is willing to be taught of God and is willing to obey Him. That is all that is necessary.

THE ONE SOURCE

This law is of universal application. For since it requires no creed, no dogma, no ritual, it is applicable to all mankind, no matter what their stage of intellectual unfoldment, their religion, their creed, their colour, or their race may be. For all mankind are emanations from one of the seven great Archangels, and it makes no difference what the colour of the Ray of which they are a part. The Source of all the Rays is the same, the One Eternal Being who is above and beyond all human, finite conception, call Him by what name or term you will.

The Sun is the one central orb of light and life to our solar system, no matter by what name it is called in various languages. So the Spiritual Sun, the Sun of Righteousness, is the one central source of spiritual light, life, and love in the universe, no matter what name He is called or how He is worshipped in the various religions. The only thing that counts is, *is He recognised in some way, sought for and correlated with* through some form of worship, and *embodied and expressed* in our lives?

It therefore matters little what the form of the worship or ritual may be. All who worship God are necessarily worshipping the same God; for He is one God, not many, although He manifests under and through all the Divine Beings who compose His Hierarchies of Manifestation, just as the Sun manifests through the seven colour rays of the rainbow.

EACH RELIGION A PATH TO GOD

Once one's mind is trained from childhood to seek for and correlate with Him through one religion or one Path of Light, one should be devoted to that religion and walk up that Path to Him. One should follow the race-thought in which he was brought up. He should, therefore, not change his religion except under unusual circumstances, and then only as a result of his own Divine Guidance from within and not from argument or the emotional storm of a revival service. For each religion is a Path of Light leading to God if its highest ideals are grasped and followed and embodied in the life.

It is only the childish conceit of a very limited outlook on life that makes the followers of any one religion claim that it is the best and only true religion. All religions and forms of worship which lead their devotees to a *personal realisation* and *ultimate union* with their ideal of God are true religions. On a moonlit lake the silver path to the Moon is seen a little differently from every boat on the lake. And it is only by following the path that shines down to our boat that we can row toward the Moon. And it is exceedingly dangerous to change boats after we have left the shore.

THE ONE GOAL OF REALIZATION

Rama Krishna, the great Hindu God-realized Saint of the nineteenth century, said that he had followed and mastered all the different forms of *yoga* and that they had all brought him to the one goal of *realisation* (Sadhana), although along different paths. He also said that he had studied all the great religions, including two whole years spent in concentration on Jesus' teachings and in meditation on the Christos,

“living all alone like a Christian anchorite in the famous woods of Panchabati,”⁴ and he found that *they all led him to the same goal* of Advaita or identity with God. And the testimony of that great Saint who had experimentally followed each religion to its goal of realization should be conclusive.

THE ONLY HEATHEN

The practical application of this is that we need no missionaries to convert the “heathen.” For certainly those who are following the Path of Realization and are worshipping the one God are not “heathen.” The only heathen there are are *those who refuse or neglect* to walk their path and worship their highest concept of God. And we do not have to go outside of any city to find them. But *we do need missionaries* to teach mankind the beauties of their own religion, and above all, to recognize the One in the many. Unity in diversity, the Eternal in the ephemeral.

CREEDS AND DOGMAS

Jesus did indeed say that His gospel should be preached unto all nations and peoples. But He also said: “Other sheep have I, which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice (through their own religion); and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.”⁵

But did He enunciate a creed or formulate a dogma or establish a church? Certainly not. Those are all the offspring of man’s speculations, often hundreds of years after the Master taught. His gospel was a realization of the Cosmic Christ-consciousness; the *identity of all men in the Father*, hence the universal Brotherhood of Man. That Christ-consciousness within was what St. Paul referred to when he said: “Until Christ be born in you.” Jesus’ only doctrine was Divine Love.

LOVE A COSMIC POWER

Now love is centripetal not centrifugal; is cohesive and constructive, not disruptive and destructive; is unifying, not separative. In fact love is the cohesive power of the universe. In the solar system it is that cohesive power, known as gravitation, which holds the planets in their orbits around the Sun. In the world of matter it is the cohesive power—called chemical affinity—that holds the molecules together to form objective material things. In the atom it is the cohesive power that holds the electrons and neutrons around the central proton.

In the family it is the affection that binds the children to the parents and to each other to form the family. If it is absent, the family naturally disintegrates because there is no cohesive force of love to hold it together. And if there is not, then it is the fault of the parents for not invoking it through prayer and meditation and allowing it to manifest in the family.

Like the electricity, love is always available but we must take the time, thought and attention to turn it on, just as we must push the electric light button, if we would have spiritual light and love illumine our homes and our hearts. So do not blame the so-called “modern” children. It is the “modern” and God-less parents who are to blame. In the community love manifests as the civic spirit that binds the community or city together as an entity. Among nations it is patriotism and nationalism that makes the country one people. In races it is the blood tie that welds the various nations into a race. In humanity as a whole it is that spiritual quality of the species; that incarnated Ray of Divinity which distinguishes man from all other animals.

⁴ See *The Face of the Silence*, Mukerji, Chapter V.

⁵ St. John, X, 16.

MYSTICISM SOLVES THE WORLD'S PROBLEMS

To be practical mystics and see how mysticism solves the world's problems, we must apply these few basic principles to our daily lives and contacts. From the one divine origin of mankind we deduce the basic Law of Brotherhood: that all men are brothers, no matter what their race, their colour or their creed. Indeed, as we identify ourselves with the One Cause we see our brothers as ourselves. With this first basic law understood and realized *and applied*, there could be no more war among nations, any more than there could be among members of a family who were manifesting that second great Law of Divine Love and living in and being ruled by love and affection. There would naturally be differences of opinion, but they are adjusted without fighting.

So should it be among nations. Each nation, like each organ of the body, has its own boundaries, its own life to live, and its own functions to perform. But none can live to themselves alone. *All are needed for the good of the whole*. If one organ functions excessively or is feverish or ill, through the constructive application of the Law of Harmony, its activities are curbed and harmonized by constructive methods until it is brought into harmonious relationship with its fellows, and without injuring it or the others or destroying it or them. Therefore, if the principles of Christian Mysticism were applied there could be no war among the nations of mankind.

ALL CLASSES NECESSARY

Just as each nation and race is necessary for the expression of humanity as a whole, so is each class within the nation necessary for the good of the whole. Just as the head or the heart or the lungs or the hands and feet cannot be considered superior the one to the other, except relatively, for all are necessary for the manifestation of the complete man, so are all classes necessary for the complete manifestation of God in humanity. And since the health of the body is an important factor in the manifestation of the Soul through it, even the man who digs a ditch for a sewer to contribute to the health of a city is a factor which assists the manifestation of God on Earth. Hence his seemingly lowly labour is vitally important to the whole community and may even be regarded as service to God.⁶

SERVICE AND CO-OPERATION THE LAW OF LIFE

Therefore if the principles of Christian Mysticism are understood *and practised* there can be no class antagonism; for each class will recognize the necessity of performing its own tasks in the best possible manner and co-operating with all other classes in the most harmonious and constructive way. For we have seen that according to the cosmic laws of Sacrifice and of Love, *unselfish service* and *harmonious co-operation*, instead of selfish and *antagonistic competition* is the true Law of Life and happiness.

SIMPLIFIED CIVILIZATION

In the light of this *law of unselfish cooperation* our whole system of living must be reorganized so as to make the demands of the outer life subservient to the manifestation of the inner life. For the material mechanics of living have become so complicated that we have become enslaved to our instruments of living. Our time and attention is so taken up with manipulating the so-called instruments of civilization that we have little time to live life itself. We are so diverted by the trivial details of the outer personality that we have no time nor attention left for communion with God, our Source of Life, or for the recognition and cultivation and expression of our Real Self or Soul.

⁶ See lesson *Work as Worship*, Curtiss.

From this standpoint “mass production” has proved a curse, in that it has developed new so-called needs which are really aids to self-indulgence, and have added to our enslavement to the complexities of living, instead of freeing us to enjoy the simplicities of life. We boast of labour-saving devices. But *why save labour?* Labour should be an avenue of creative self-expression and not blind toil. And we have “saved” so much of it that we do not know what to do with it, hence millions are unemployed.

ENLIGHTENMENT, REALIZATION, SERVICE

The solution which Christian Mysticism presents for the ills of our present civilization is *enlightenment, realisation and manifestation or service*. For before we can properly organize our lives along cosmically constructive lines, we must be enlightened as to those lines or forces of causation. Then we must realize what life is all about, namely, where we came from, why we are here, and whither we are bound. We must realize that we incarnate here on Earth not to make money or to be hampered in the expression of our Divine Self by many complicated outer details and things to do. We come here to manifest as much of the inner Divine Self as our degree of unfoldment permits, and to learn to take the next step in that spiritual unfoldment. And we should make all our outer activities contribute to and yet be subordinate to that main object of life. If this be called putting our religion first, then so be it. For that is the most *practical* thing we can do; that is, put the accomplishment of our mission on Earth first in our lives.

FOLLOW OUR GUIDANCE

Like the bee, we also have a plan for our lives to manifest and toward which we should direct all our activities, that our lives may become perfect cells in the honeycomb of life in which the nectar of God’s light, life and love may be stored up for our spiritual nourishment. That plan is impressed upon the Soul-consciousness and will be revealed step by step by God Himself through intuition to all who will listen and obey. We should therefore cultivate and follow the guidance of our intuition until our response to that guidance becomes just as habitual and instinctive as does the response of the bee to its guiding instinct.

HIGHER HELP NEEDED

But the Christian Mystic is one who also realizes that we do not have to work out our plan of life alone and unaided. In fact, we cannot fully accomplish our life’s mission, learn its lessons, and redeem its mistakes in our own human strength; for that requires higher octaves of force than the mortal and human.

And we know that *if we will only seek for it* we can have the help of *higher beings than the human*, just as the seeds can have the higher help of man to cultivate them. We can have the help, not only of our own Soul, our Spiritual Self, but also many classes of Invisible Helpers. But this help is not imposed upon us. *We must voluntarily seek for and invoke and then correlate with it.*

HEAVENLY HIERARCHIES

Not only do our loved ones who have gone on ahead of us into the higher realms of life bring to us all the help, comfort, and guidance that their expanded consciousness and power and our receptivity permits, but both we and they also have still higher and greater helpers. For we have all the heavenly Hierarchies of Angelic Beings to aid and inspire, comfort and protect and sustain us to the extent that we call upon and tune in to their plane of consciousness and power.

And above and beyond all others we have the embodied aspect of God in the person of His Son—whether He be called the Christ, the Buddha, Krishna or

Horus in various religions. And He is so omnipresent and His consciousness is so omniscient and His love so all-inclusive and all-pervading that He is ever ready to respond to the call of every heart which sends up the wireless call of its aspiration, devotion or need.

CONTACTING THE ANGELS

The reality of these angelic helpers and the mystery of our being able to contact them and receive their aid is testified to in all great religions in all ages.⁷ In fact this mystic source of all life is the basis which underlies all religions and all worship. And the method of contacting these Angelic Beings we repeat is meditation, prayer, aspiration and devotion. We do not need elaborate places of worship or other outer conditions, helpful as many such are, for as we said before, such contact is not a matter of outer things or even of mind, but of heart; not a matter of intellect but of worship. We cannot do better than recall to your minds two stanzas of that well known hymn:

Down from their home on high
Down through the starry sky.
Angels, descending fly,
While the Earth shaketh.
Roll they the stone away
From where the Saviour lay.
Out into glorious day
His way He taketh.

OUR TRUE RESURRECTION

And so may the angels of inspiration and Divine Guidance, spiritual understanding and illumination descend upon us here and now and roll away the stone of ignorance, of misunderstanding, and misconception, the stone of materialism, from our hearts and minds wherein we have kept the divine Christ-consciousness entombed these many years, that He may come forth and take His way with us in our lives. Thus shall we be resurrected from the old life of entombing personality and ascend into the consciousness of that larger life of the Spirit which is our heritage and our real home.

Thus does Christian Mysticism solve the world's problems through *enlightenment*, *realization* and *manifestation* or *service* to Him and to our fellow men as to ourselves.

⁷ For details see *Realms of the Living Dead*, Curtiss

CHAPTER II

THE UNIVERSAL SOLAR MYTH

“... we see the universal, cosmic Law of Manifestation thus expressed in the story of Jesus’ life, we claim that His life is *The Pattern Life* which the Spiritual Selves of all humanity must ultimately follow until they too can manifest the Divine through the human. They will thus prove that they are truly Sons and Daughters of God, the universal Father of all. . . . the events in the life-story of Jesus. . . . a manifestation of the Spiritual Sun. . . . follow the same steps or stages of unfoldment . . . as are followed by the physical Sun manifesting in Nature. . . .”

Curtiss, *The Pattern Life*, xii

“The sequence of solar events set forth here-in is called *the Universal Solar Myth* because these events take place continually in a regular cyclic manner among the stars in heaven. . . . the record of these cyclic events has been preserved and handed down age after age. . . .”

Curtiss, *The Pattern Life*, xiii

Once we have internalised, even only intellectually at first, the necessity of following the mystic or inner life, we have taken the first step on the path that will ultimately lead to enlightenment and liberation from the wheel of birth and death. Yet in order to achieve such lofty spiritual goals, a philosophy or set of teachings is required that will assist us on this path and that will give us a solid grounding and understanding of the experiences that we may necessarily come to expect. *The Teachings of the Order of Christian Mystics* were put forth to give to the western world a new interpretation of the mystical life but based on Christian mysticism and to show the profound and true mystical teachings as are to be found in the Christian Bible. The Bible, when properly interpreted and understood in its mystical aspect, is one of the most occult of books available to the Western mystic, and it is pregnant, more so than other scriptures, in occult lore, teachings and knowledge.

THE UNIVERSAL SOLAR MYTH

Throughout the works of the Order, much reference is made to biblical teachings and to the one universal story of the Initiate, be he a neophyte starting out on the path or a Lightbringer such as Jesus, Buddha, Krishna and others. If one studies the life of one Lightbringer in its profound symbolical meaning, then the life of other Lightbringers are brought into the same perspective, and this is indeed the same for every seeker, Initiate or neophyte on the path, for all walk the same path. The story of the Initiate and the phases there-of must of necessity be much the same.

Such is termed *The Universal Solar Myth* and as the works of the Order are based on Christian mysticism in the Western mystic tradition, the symbolical life story of that Initiate called Jesus is of necessity the central and main theme in much of their teachings. The most profound prophecy of our time, given in *The Teachings of the Order* is the next coming of the Avatar and the new religion that will be inaugurated for the next age of this world by this Avatar. Such are described more fully in a further chapter, *Prophecies of the Order and the Coming Avatar*.

The main work on *The Universal Solar Myth* is put forth in one of the Order’s later published works entitled *The Pattern Life*. For in this work it is shown that we all as seekers on the path but try within ourselves to unfold this perfect spiritual *Pattern* in ourselves that is the natural unfoldment of the rose of spiritual development that awaits all of us. In a most profound way, and in highly symbolical form

and content this unfoldment of *The Pattern* is put forth based on the life of that Avatar or Lightbringer that was Jesus. For he was, as is stated in the Bible, the Son of God, but it will become clear that it would be more accurate to state that he was a Sun (Son) of God. For as a Lightbringer, one of many, they literally are Spiritual Suns, Priests and Priestesses of the Flame, forever after *The Order of Melchizedek*, Lightbringers on every plane and in every aspect.

The physical sun can be regarded as the Sun of God to the physical manifestation, for no shred of life, from the mineral, lowest microbe to the highest expression of physical life would be possible without the radiant heat, light and life-force of the physical sun. *It is a fundamental postulate in the philosophy of Cosmic Soul Science that the Spiritual Sun, the radiant source of the Cosmic Christ-force, stands in a similar relation to mankind as the physical Sun does to the physical universe, namely, the source of all light, life and spiritual power to all humanity.* And as per the occult axiom, as above so below, as below so above, if we study the radiations as light, life and power of the Spiritual Sun as it manifests in us, such will also be exemplified in the physical sun and its movement through the heavens. And so if we study the life, *in proper sequence and events*, of a Lightbringer such as Jesus, each and every such experience is a reflection of an inner spiritual experience in the life of every Soul who has positively entered the path. Another way to describe the above is the axiomatic teaching that all things are connected to (or are reflected in) all other things.

In this chapter we will but put forth a very brief description of some of these events and experiences. The whole sequence of events is also beautifully paralleled with the movement of the physical sun through the Zodiac. In the experience of the author, and to the best of his knowledge, nowhere has such an attempt been made to correlate the life of a Lightbringer or Initiate for that matter, with the step by step movement of the sun through the Zodiac. For students of esoteric astrology *The Pattern Life* will prove to be a profound and exiting new source of occult knowledge regarding the interpretation of life events and we hope that such may offer new insights into this field of science.

Through-out *The Teachings of the Order* the term ‘the Christ’ or ‘the Christ-force’ “refer not to any personality, but to the Cosmic Christ-principle. This is the universal Life-aspect, the Creative-aspect, the Spiritual Sun-aspect or the Son-aspect of the Trinity. The Father-force manifests as Divine Will, the Mother-force as Divine Love, while the Son-force or Christ-force manifests as the warm, loving Spiritual Life-force of all mankind, just as the physical Sun is the source of the warm, loving physical life-force of all the Kingdoms of Nature, no matter what name may be given to this Cosmic Life-principle in other religions. It was this Cosmic Christ-principle which the Master Jesus embodied to a superlative degree. The Anti-Christ is naturally made up of all the forces that oppose and work against the reign of the Christ in the hearts and minds of men.”

The life story of Jesus contains much deep and profound meaning and significance, not apparent from the superficiality of the Gospel stories, for Jesus also plainly states to his disciples: “Unto you it is given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God: but unto them that are without (i.e. uninitiated), all these things are done in parables. . . . But without a parable spoke He not unto them.” (*St. Mark, iv, 11, 34*). The life story of Jesus is deeply symbolical, for through symbolism can the ancient truths be preserved and guarded the most easily. For if one is Initiated and the language of symbolism is learnt, then all symbolism of all the mystery schools become clear as light to those who have eyes to see, whilst remaining veiled to the profane. And we find the self-same story and events playing themselves out in the life of all Lightbringers, over and over again. “This identity of events results

not because each teacher adopts or plagiarizes the legends of previous teachers or because he copies the events of the Sun-cycle, but because *both are expressions of the same Divine Life-force*, the Cosmic Christ Force, of the spiritual sun, the one in the physical universe in terms of physical life, light and warmth, and the other to humanity in terms of spiritual life, light and love.”¹

When we look at an interpretation of the Gospels or any other sacred scripture these are put forth with a three-fold aim of (a) giving a description of the *relation* of God to man and the universe, (b) the *process* by which the individual may become aware of the Ray of God within himself and (c) the *changes* which must necessarily take place in the personality as a result of that realization.² And we can interpret a scripture or life of a Lightbringer and see in it its Universal Truth when symbolically and spiritually (esoterically) interpreted by recognizing three important lines of internal evidence. “Firstly, the events of the entire story are out pictured in the signs of the Zodiac. Secondly, the same order of events is followed in the life-stories of all previous Saviours and Lightbringers, such as Agni, Krishna, Horus, Herakles, Dionysus, Apollo, Mithras, Osiris, etc. And thirdly, this same order of events is experienced in the spiritual unfoldment of every Soul who has been spiritually awakened and has begun the long climb up the Mount of Attainment to Christhood.”³

We but hope to put forth a few of the interesting and profound parallels that are to be found in *The Universal Life* of all Lightbringers in order to interest the reader to study more closely the main work as put forth in *The Pattern Life*.

THE ANNUNCIATIONS

In the life story of Jesus we start with the Annunciations made to various people foretelling the coming of the Avatar Jesus, the great Spiritual Birth that as an event has a parallel in the life of each seeker.

The beautiful story of the Annunciation assumes the existence of hierarchies of spiritual Beings known as angels, the meaning of the word being “messengers,” who bring to mankind various directions from still higher Beings varying from the planetary and zodiacal Rulers to the many grades of Masters and other super-physical spiritual Teachers of mankind. . . . these various types of Beings *can and do appear to* and are heard by those mortals who have unfolded their faculties so as to respond to super-physical rates of vibration and who have been specially trained to receive, understand and record such messages.⁴

Implicit in the above quotation is the fact that such Beings, messages and the like are more than likely to impress their message on a sensitive person, i.e. an adept, Initiate or mystic that has been trained to receive such messages. For one has to be clairvoyant to some degree in order to see a vision and clairaudient in order to hear a message. To convey such to the average man in the street will but mean that the message goes unheard. In the life story of Jesus many such visions, visitations, manifestations and messages are given to a number of people but these all belonged to the then mystery school of the Essenes of that time and place and were therefore Initiates in some degree or other and not simple shepherds and carpenters as would seem the case. The Annunciation is a singular fact that it happens over and over again in the life of all Lightbringers as can be attested to from various scriptural stories.

The Annunciation that the Hindu Savior, *Krishna*, was to be an incarnation of Vishnu was made to his mother, Devaki, by Vishnu himself. The coming birth of *Hercules* was announced by Zeus to his mother, Alkmene, Queen of Thebes. The birth of the Egyptian King, *Amenhotep*

¹ Curtiss, *The Pattern Life*, xx

² Curtiss, *The Pattern Life*, p1

³ Curtiss, *The Pattern Life*, pp4-5

⁴ Curtiss, *The Pattern Life*, p7

III, was announced to the maiden Queen, Mautmes, by the messenger-god, Thoth. The birth of *Kung-foo-tzse* (Confucius) was announced by a giant dragon called Ke-lin. An angel from Orion announced to Sochiquetze, the mother of *Quetzalcoatl*, that she would bear a child who would be the Savior of his people. Even *Plato's* birth is said to have been announced by Apollo, to his father, Aris, to whom his mother was only espoused.

In the life of the individual or Initiate we also have this Annunciation of the coming birth of the Christ-Consciousness that is to dawn within us as “we are all more or less impressed, warned and guided by our own divine Spiritual Self from within, even though we so often disregard it. For each step in our spiritual advance is announced by the angel of our Spiritual Self or by our Initiator, in a way in which the world, the materially minded, cannot see, hear or understand, but which afterwards works out in our lives.” And for those many sincere seekers in the world who do not have the privilege or comfort of a physical teacher in the flesh to guide and inspire them, the development of this Inner Intuition is of vital importance to usher in the Annunciation in their own lives. And this still, small voice which continuously speaks to us must be listened to and acted upon until we have developed our intuition into a psychic power that can be trusted and relied on. The way to develop such guidance is to always take the more difficult route that presents itself to us from various options, for ease of life is not the way of the Initiate, and through difficulty and pressure do we learn and grow. In time each Soul, and not only the seers, sages, holy men and woman, will start to recognize this Inner Guidance of some kind, even if not an actual voice or vision, and can then safely trust and rely there-upon. As per the motto of *The Order of Christian Mystics*, “Do, Dare and Keep Silent,” it is best to remain silent about our inner experiences. For the world will misunderstand and heap but dead criticism on us if we reveal that which is sacred and mystical to us. Keep it to yourself, especially if such inner guidance is not properly understood, for in time the message will become clear. In this way we can also guard against self-deception by the ego and its myriad illusions, for if we do not speak of it, no harm is done, but if we utter that which we do not know to be true, it is manifested and has to be dealt with, possibly karmically. It is a common experience with many mystics that there are certain experiences of which they just cannot speak about to others, for in some way they are prevented from discussing these intuitive messages which they as yet do not fully understand. Keep it so and trust that all is well, for the personal Annunciation of your Spiritual Birth is yours and yours only.⁵

Together with the Annunciation comes the Universal event where the mother symbolically takes a journey or has to flee, riding on an ass or similar creature, in order for the Christ-Consciousness to be born somewhere safe, away from home and possible danger.

Isis had to flee to the swamps of the Delta to bear *Horus*. *Devaki* was on a journey to Kansa when *Krishna* was born. *Maha-Maya* was on a similar journey when *Buddha* was born. *Myrrha* had to flee afar to bear *Adonis*. *Heré* went “far away” to bear *Typhon* or *Dionysus*. *Rhea* went to Crete to bear *Zeus*. *Latona* wandered far to bring forth Apollo. *Auga*, after her amour with *Herakles*, fled from home to bear *Telephos*. *Cyrene* was carried to Libya to give birth to *Aristaeus*. The virgin mother of *Lao-tsze* was away from home when he was born. *Mandane* went from Persia to Media to give birth to *Cyrus*. *Evadne* goes away secretly to bear Apollo's child, *Iamos*. *Rhoea* was cast on the island of Delos to bear Apollo's son, *Anios*. Apollonius of Tyana was born after his mother had been warned in a dream to flee to a meadow. The mother of *Confucius*, warned by a vision, went to a cave on Mount Ne to give him birth. Zeus conveys the daughter of Opus to Locrus to bear *Iapetos*. And so we find the

⁵ Curtiss, *The Pattern Life*, p16

⁶ Curtiss, *The Pattern Life*, p13

same incident through the whole list of virgin mothers. In all cases it is the Sun-child or Son of God who is to be born.

“This birth can take place only after the great decision to follow the Divine Guidance has been made and our sincerity tested by great trials, only too often deciding between what seems to be expedient in the outer life and what the Inner Voice has announced.” It is here that we must take the route that involves difficulty, for it is the long and hard route that makes us grow and unfold and that teaches us the most enduring lessons. Finally, when Wisdom dawns, we may learn from the mistakes that others make.

THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Following the Annunciation, *The Pattern Life* next deals with the Immaculate Conception. There is no part in the Bible and the life story of Jesus that has been the object of so much confusion, speculation and misinterpretation as this subject. To start of we must state that without exception, in the higher vertebrates to which class of animal man belongs, the need of a male parent for reproduction is an absolute necessity. In the annals of science no exception to this rule is on record. And we may safely state that in the case of Jesus, Krishna and all other Saviors, their *physical birth* was engendered with normal conception and physical birth as commonly understood. Where the misunderstanding arises is that this does not apply to the *spiritual conception and birth*, as we shall explain more fully. For the word immaculate comes from the root word ‘*maculatus*’ meaning without spot or stain, hence pure and unblemished. Therefore an unblemished and pure birth and not a conception without the need of a male or father. There is a Doctrine of what is known as twin Souls or the perfect marriage in the eyes of heaven and is discussed in more detail in *The Pattern Life* as well as in the book entitled *The Seventh Seal*⁸. Briefly, this doctrine states that when a high being or Avatar is to be born, his birth by definition is *Immaculate* or without stain or sin. This means that the incarnating being is *Karma free*, as He or She descends from the divine realms to take physical incarnation. Therefore, such a being is born in purity without stain, blemish or sin, truly without Karma. Yet such a being cannot be born to ordinary parents for their vibratory state would be too low. Therefore the parents, and especially the mother, by definition would have to be without stain or sin, Karma free or *immaculate*. For such parents would of necessity be Initiates of one of the mystery schools and would have reached that stage or be close to it whereby they have paid of their Karma and through Inner Alchemy would have regenerated their physical bodies. To such parents can be born a child without sin or a sinless child. And if we had more such parents, we would have more such high incarnations and the world would thus be made a different place.

The fatherless conception of Jesus is mere theological dogma that was added to the scriptures to enhance the mystery of His life. Such is well documented. References remain in the Bible that Jesus was conceived in the normal way. “Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David *according to the flesh*.” (*Romans, i, 3*). “God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, *made under the law*.” (*Galations, iv, 4*). Much other evidence to this effect is extant today. Yet this *Immaculate Conception*, without stain or blemish, is found in the same order in the lives of more than twenty other Saviors that shows the truth of some *universal spiritual truth or law*. And if so, it must necessarily also be true in the lives of all spiritual seekers who have consciously entered the path and are concerned with their own, individual spiritual development. “Astronomically, at the time of the birth of

⁷ Curtiss, *The Pattern Life*, p18

⁸ Jeanette Agnes, *The Seventh Seal*

the Sun the sign *Virgo*, the Virgin is rising on the eastern angle of the planisphere. Hence all Sun Gods or Lightbringers are represented as being born of a Virgin.”

Our researches show that the Egyptian God, *Ra*, was conceived by his virgin mother, but was not engendered by a father. Also the Egyptian Savior *Horus*, was conceived by the virgin *Isis*. The Persian Savior, *Zoroaster*, is said to have been conceived immaculately by a Ray of Divine Reason. The Hindu Savior, *Krishna*, was conceived by the virgin *Devaki*, and *Buddha* is said to have been conceived by a white elephant, symbol of divine Power, Wisdom and Love, entering the side of the chaste virgin *Maya*. The Greek god *Perseus* was born immaculately from the virgin *Danae*. *Romulus*, the founder of Rome, was born from the virgin *Rhea-Sylvia*. The Greek *Apollo* was immaculately conceived by the virgin *Larota*, while *Mercury* was born of the virgin *Maia*. The virgin mother of the Siamese Savior *Codom* was inspired from heaven to go apart into the forest where she was impregnated by the sunbeams.

Among the Chinese, *Fo-hi* was conceived by the coral seed of a lotus staining the garment of his virgin mother. The Chinese hero, *Hau-ki*, was born immaculately from a childless mother after she had become pregnant phenomenally by stepping on a toe-print made by a God. *Lao-tzse* is said to have been a Divine Emanation which incarnated in human form during the third year of the reign of Emperor Ting-Wang (604 B.C.). Two dragons are said to have hovered over the head of the virgin *Yen-she*, the mother of *Kung-foo-tzse* or Confucius, and impregnated her. And so we might go on through the whole list, Hercules, Bacchus, Bel, etc.,⁹ and find the same incident, differing only in superficial details, according to race and language.

The Immaculate Conception therefore takes place “in all woman who bear children in love and purity of mind, as well as all others who bring forth the Divine within them.” For when a mother gives birth, as per *The Seventh Seal*, she will draw towards her just such a spirit as she can rightfully conceive in her mind with her state of vibration. The higher her aspiration at the time of birth, the higher the incarnating spirit of the child to be born.

Only as the expectant mother of a physical child aspires to the spiritual realms and makes possible such an overshadowing of these two aspects of God, love and purity, can she attract the more spiritually evolved Souls who are waiting for just such conditions to be provided before they can incarnate. For if any thought of wrongdoing, sin or impurity is held, such a thought short-circuits the higher forces and prevents the incarnation of any Soul except those undeveloped Souls who are willing to incarnate under such lower mental and vibratory conditions. Therefore, if the thoughts of the parents are immaculate or “without spot” or stain of impurity. . . . the incarnating Soul is born immaculate. . . . For this reason the salvation of the Race depends upon the pure in heart conceiving children in love and purity, for if the perpetuation of the Race is left to the impure and ignorant, conditions must of necessity grow worse.¹⁰

But when, through normal spiritual development, we allow the Christ-Consciousness to descend into our minds then there is this Immaculate Conception in our flesh and the Spiritual Body or Light Body begins to grow within us. And as it grows it drives out from within us all inharmonious vibrations and impurities. It is this process that comes with a certain amount of suffering and growing pains and is termed *The War of Transmutation* as given elsewhere in *The Teachings of the Order* and discussed in more depth in a further chapter. And as this new and Immaculate Conception expands our consciousness and purifies our mind, so the very flesh of our bodies must be raised in vibration or eliminated through illness or dis-ease. “This is a phase of the transmutation process which must be passed through, even though it is often as distressing as the physical symptoms attendant upon human gestation. Indeed it may cause many obscure symptoms which physicians may class as “merely nervous” because they can find little physical cause.” We simply term such processes the mystical illness, for we know well its causes

⁹ Curtiss, *The Pattern Life*, p28

¹⁰ Curtiss, *The Pattern Life*, p37

and its ultimate result, a regenerated body, so much written about in Western alchemical literature and Eastern teachings.

THE BIRTH OF THE CHRIST

As to the birth date of Jesus more than 36 such dates have been proposed. It was only more than 200 years after the birth of Jesus that Theodore of Antioch first celebrated this day. Having chosen the date of 25 December, this is clearly in line with the ancient Sun worship of the past. It is at the winter solstice, on December the 21st that the Sun reaches its lowest point of its descent into the southern hemisphere before it starts its ascent for the new year, and the whole world celebrates the birth of the new year after this day, and in Christian countries the birthday of Jesus is celebrated, the birth and ascent of the Sun God. In the western world this period is the most important and celebrated event we have. In the Bible we have to deal with so many flat contradictions that we have to interpret the events symbolically to find their true inner meaning. For example, as far as the Virgin birth is concerned, no such message was ever preached by either Jesus or the Apostles. Why not? Because these were but interpretations added to the life story of Jesus by the Church Fathers who knew no better. The Virgin birth is part of the cosmic allegory to conform to *The Universal Solar Myth* indicating Jesus to be a true Son of God, or Sun-god. “*It is also a great spiritual reality that is enacted again and again perpetually, both annually in Nature and in the spiritual experience of every awakened Soul.*” All physical birth is a mystery as to how an individual with mind and personality can seemingly appear and grow out of nothing, but the Spiritual Birth is an even greater mystery, and it follows the same laws and in the same order as the birth of the Sun in the Zodiac.

As to the birth of Jesus in Nazareth, no record of such town can be found in any of the old annals until past the middle of the fourth century. The spot where he was born is also open to conflicting testimony, for some claim he was born in a stable, others in a house, even in a cave.

As to the exact spot where Jesus’ birth took place there is also a similar conflict of testimony. *St. Luke* (ii, 7) implies that He was born in a stable, while *St. Matthew* (ii, 11) tells us that the Wise Men found Him in a house. As one writer summarizes it: “According to early Christian writers, such as Justin and Origen, Jesus came into the world in a cave, and Jerome complains (*Epist. viii*) that in his time the heathens celebrated the feast of the birth of *Tammuz* at Bethlehem in the same cave in which Jesus was born.” Tertullian also says He was born in a cave, while Eusebius, the earliest Christian historian, says He was born in the same cave over which Constantine built a basilica in 330 A.D. which is now called the Grotto of the Nativity. This is said to be the same cave over which the learned and travelled Emperor Hadrian earlier built a temple to Adonis when he rebuilt Jerusalem in 130 A.D. . . .

The *Protevangelon* by James, the brother of Jesus, says that Jesus was born in a cave. The Egyptian, *Horus*, was born in the stable of the “holy cow” or Temple of Isis. The Cretan sun-god *Zeus* was born in a cavern, *Mithras*, *Dionysus* and *Hermes* were all born in gloomy grottos or caves. *Krishna*, *Adonis*, *Apollo*, *Attis*, *Bacchus* and many others were born in caves.

Such flat contradictions but show that we have to look at a deeper meaning to these events. “All Saviors are said to be born of a Virgin because as the birth takes place in the sign *Capricorn*, called “the stable,” *Virgo* is the zodiacal sign which is rising on the eastern ascendant at the time the Sun is born in the southern hemisphere, which is so frequently called the “pit,” “cave” or “stable.” That this incident is *Universal* and not exclusively connected with the story of Jesus is shown by the fact that more than twenty previous Saviors of mankind, in other races and ages, are all represented as being born of a virgin in a stable, crypt or cave, and in the presence of the domestic animals, the bull, goat, sheep, ass, etc. This has been

¹¹ Curtiss, *The Pattern Life*, p44-45

handed down from those ancient days (about 3000 B.C.) when the winter solstice began between the zodiacal signs of the Ox (*Taurus*) and the Great Bear, formerly called the Ass. For this reason we see those animals, especially the bull and the goat, both symbols of the procreative force in Nature, represented in nearly all pictures of the Nativity. Domestic animals in general symbolize both the material world and the animal world and their temptations. This lowly place of birth indicates the universal Law of Birth into the physical world, for the generation and gestation of all forms of life take place in darkness and in lowly surroundings. . . .”

Horus was born of the virgin *Isis*; *Krishna* of the virgin *Devaki*; *Buddha* of the virgin *Maya*; *Romulus* of *Rhea-Sylvia*; *Bacchus* of *Myrrha*; *Hermes* of *Mair*; *Adonis* of *Myrrha*; *Agni* of *Maya*; *Mithras* of *Marid*; *Tammus* of *Mylitta*; *Attis* of *Nara*; *Apollo* of *Leto*; *Perseus* of *Danae*; *Dionysus* of *Demeter*; and the Persian *Mani* of the virgin *Meis*. Among the Chinese *Fo-hi*, *Lao-tzse*, *Confucius* and others are said to have been of virgin birth. *Cyrus the Great*, who was called “Chrestos, the Anointed One” and also “God’s Messenger,” was said to have been of virgin birth. Even the Greek philosopher, *Plato*, was believed to have been a Son of God by the virgin, *Perictione*, who had an immaculate conception by the god *Apollo*. Also *Rameses*, *Zoroaster* and *Quetzalcoatl* were said to have been born of virgins. The life-stories of all these “sun gods” testify to the universality of the story and its-symbology.¹²

“The story of the life of Jesus we regard not only as the spiritual history of one Great Teacher, but as an allegory of the life of perfected Man; *The Pattern Life* which all humanity must ultimately follow; the universal experience which each Soul passes through as the Christ-consciousness is born within and unfolds into perfect satisfaction and at-one-ment with the Father-in-heaven.” And so in all these great life stories, that of Jesus being but one of them, can be found the eternal truth as to the inner experience we all must follow to achieve conscious Union with our own Divine Source. This Spiritual Birth is not a mental concept or infusion but the result of a living *inner experience*, the inflow of new currents of life, light and love, a true beginning of a new life process. St. Paul recognized this mystical birth of the Christ-consciousness within man when he stated: “My little children, of whom I travail in birth again *until Christ be formed in you*.” (Galatians, iv, 19). Many other similar references are to be found in the main work. This new life process brings with it a new found sense of ethics, morality and spirituality, that will find itself at odds with the materialistic conceptions of society in general. As the Tarot card of the Hanged Man shows the enlightened seeker or Initiate, or one in which the Christ-consciousness has dawned, hanging upside down or at odds with society, yet he has the halo of enlightenment around his head and he smiles, for his inner being is happy and content. It can be stated axiomatically that when enlightenment or a clear understanding dawns, that which the outer materialistic world believes in, is at odds with our beliefs, and that which we believe in, is at odds with that of society in general. Yet, within, we are happy in light and understanding and can never go back, but pursue the path to its very end, however long this may take us, and what-ever seeming price we have to pay.

But this realization of the Christ within us must be put to use, to bring forth spiritual fruits in our life, and must not only be a mental conception, meditated on from the comforts of our worldly life. For this is a *living philosophy*, and must be internalized and instituted into our lives to become consciously a part of us. And as we manifest this Christ-consciousness within ourselves, the Divine within us comes to life, our Higher Self starts, imperceptibly at first, to make Himself known to us. This is stated beautifully in St. Luke, i, 35: “The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son (Sun) of God.” As will be

¹² Curtiss, *The Pattern Life*, p45

shown later, this is the true crucifixion, the descent of the pure, spiritual Christ-light into matter and physical embodiment.

THE WISE MEN AND THE STAR

We know look at the Wise Men and the Star. The astronomical impossibility of a star moving, stopping, and “stood over where the young child was” must be looked at from a symbolical perspective, as the literal interpretation is simply impossible. As for the wise men, they were “extremely learned philosophers who were followers of the Persian prophet Zoroaster, and had long anticipated the birth of another Messiah. In fact, they were such learned astronomers that, without the use of telescopes or other instruments, they were quite familiar with the Zodiac. . . .” and were able to find the young Jesus even though they travelled afar from Persia, at the right time to be there for his birth, over a vast distance! It was predicted that they would hand over their teachings to the new Messiah so that he could found a new Ray and so supersede the ancient school of the Magi.

The celebrated Persian Magus, Gjamasp, called Hakim or “the Wise One”, was the confidant and chief Minister to King Darius Hystapis, about 1000 B.C. He wrote a book, *Judicia Gjamaspis*, in which he is said to have predicted the birth of both Jesus and Mahommed, and that the Magian religion would be superseded by their teachings. Pliny mentions three schools of the Magi; one that he shows was founded at an unknown antiquity: the other established by Osthenes and Zoroaster: the third by Moses and Jambres. (*Isis Unveiled*, Blavatsky, ii, 261.) The ancient Magian astrologer, Aven Ezra, made the following prediction: “In the sphere of Persia there ariseth upon the face of the sign Virgo, a beautiful maiden. . . . She bringeth up a child in Abrie (the Hebrew land), and the child’s name is called Eisi (or Jesus!)” American Journal of Astrology, Winter Number, 1937, 59.¹³

For the individual the Star that the Magi followed, this “Light is the mystical Star in the East, the Star of Initiation, which, if faithfully followed, will lead our consciousness to the cradle of the Christ and then will become the Star of Bethlehem or the realization of the Christ within.” The physical sun arises in the east and therefore also symbolizes the mystical East from whence came the three Wise Men, or Magian Adepts, and shows the source whence the mystical sun will arise to illumine and vivify our spiritual lives. We must now follow this star of our own Divine Inner Intuition, and so find that the spiritual birth has already taken place inside of us. And if we follow this Star it will illumine our Path through life. As per *The Universal Solar Myth* we find that this star is mentioned in the lives of a number of Lightbringers and the Magi, learned astronomers, ever kept a careful watch on the Heavens as the birth of a Great Teacher was foretold to them.

On the other hand, the Cosmic Soul Science of the Magi taught that certain planetary conjunctions, especially of Jupiter and Saturn, presages great events on earth, such as catastrophes, the birth of great men, great religions and the like. . . .

The birth of *Rama* was foretold when Jupiter was in *Cancer*. Buddha’s birth was predicted by the appearance of a “Messianic Star” when the constellation *Kwei* was in conjunction with the Sun. According to Jewish legends a brilliant star was seen by the Magi over the birthplace of *Moses*. Also *Abraham*’s birth is said to have been heralded by the appearance of a brilliant star in the East which devoured the four stars which were with it. When *Krishna* was born his star, *Rohini* or *Aldebaran*, was seen by the prophet *Nared*. The Chinese say that a brilliant star heralded the birth of *Yu*, the founder of the First Dynasty, and also at the birth of *Lao-tsze*.¹⁴

“The Christ Star is latent in every heart. It is not limited to the Wise Men, for even the humblest shepherd can see it. . . . And it still is a reality to all who are spiritually awakened sufficiently to become Wise Men enough to follow the Christ Star that shines within the heart until it leads them to the birth of the Christ within.”

¹³ Curtiss, *The Pattern Life*, p58

¹⁴ Curtiss, *The Pattern Life*, p61-62

THE SHEPHERDS AND THE SHEEP

The Shepherds, who were the first to find and watch over the Divine Babe, is another well nigh universal incident in the life-story of all Lightbringers, and we will henceforth look at its symbolical and spiritual interpretation.

Krishna was first recognized as the promised Savior by the shepherd Nanda. The virgin-born *Aesculapius* was discovered and protected by shepherds. *Romulus* was found on the banks of the Tiber by shepherds. *Bacchus* was found and educated by shepherds, as was also *Paris*, son of Priam. Many other Greek and Roman heroes,¹⁵ demi-gods and Saviors were either attended or fostered by or first worshipped by shepherds.

Why shepherds and why not the high priests of the temples of the day? Well may we ask this question. If we look at a spiritual interpretation "the shepherds symbolize the simplicity, devotion, courage and steadfastness of our heart-qualities or love-nature" and therefore the messengers of spiritual realization come to the heart first, and not the intellect, for it is the nature of the heart that is the seat of our spiritual realization and unfoldment, and not the mind or intellectual faculties, the Wise Men, no matter how highly developed. Yet the two must worship together, for without love the Christ within cannot be found. We too must be shepherds, carefully guarding the flocks of our appetites, passions and desires of the animal body, and the thoughts, ambitions and emotions of the human personality. Like a good shepherd we must learn all our sheep or traits by name, and must be willing to call by name every hidden quality within us without deceiving ourselves. We must also select suitable pastures for our sheep which are "free from poisonous weeds of atheism, bitter criticism of others and from the wolves of subversive doctrines. We must guide them into pastures of intellectual and spiritual interest where they can profitably feed in peace and harmony on the ideals which as good shepherds our foresight and discrimination select for them. And we must guard them from wild beasts and robbers and learn to guard our thoughts against the ravenous beasts of lust and greed, which so often devour the tender lambs of our highest aspirations" As good shepherds we must take responsibility for the deeds of our flock of sheep, our actions, ideals, thoughts, deeds and emotions and ensure that they bring forth fruit and not weeds. The shepherds also represent that necessary quality for the birth of spiritual consciousness, namely humility, for the humble and meek shall inherit the earth, and not the worldly and highly intellectual. And what can represent such quality better than the smallness and humility of the shepherds, guarding their flocks whilst the world goes by without heed? Indeed will such a Cosmic Event rather come to the meek and humble, and not to priest-craft as has been shown throughout the ages.

THE MANGER AND THE SWADDLING CLOTHES

We find another *universal* symbology in the life story of Jesus attached to the manger and the swaddling clothes where the Savior babe is placed in a basket or manger, and connecting him with shepherds.

Krishna was placed in a basket and entrusted to the Gopis or shepherds. The infant *Dionysus* was wrapped in swaddling clothes and placed in a golden *likon*, a basket or manger, on what is now called Christmas day. At the birth of *Ion* he was carried by *Hermes* with "cradle, swaddling clothes and all," to the temple of his father, Apollo. *Sargon* was placed in a golden basket at birth. At the birth of *Mithra* at the winter solstice, he was enveloped in a golden nimbus, and surrounded by shepherds. The infant *Horus* was cradled in a lotus leaf at the winter solstice. That Egyptian Savior-babe was also worshipped in a manger or crib. *Hercules*, *Jupiter*, and a number of other Savior-babes, were similarly wrapped in swaddling clothes and placed in

¹⁵ Curtiss, *The Pattern Life*, p71

a manger, crib or basket, usually with the domestic animals looking on. All these testify to the universality of the symbol.¹⁶

This birth in a lowly manger or basket represents the animal part of our existence, and that we are born into this world, as a higher animal but anomalous body none-the-less, through the nether or lower regions of reproduction, in common with our animalistic nature. Yet we must not despise this part of our heritage, for it is a part of the Creators plan that we should have fallen so low into degeneration that we have to express our Spiritual Self on the physical plane. For we once were in paradise, or heaven, and it was not intended for us to come into physical manifestation. This happened as a result of the fall of man or original sin, the discussion of which lies outside the present ambit of this work. Through-out *The Teachings of the Order*, a central concept is the redemption of our three bodies, physical, astral and mental, including the spiritualization of every physical atom that has ever been a part of us. This is discussed more thoroughly in the chapter on *Inner Alchemy and the War of Transmutation*. For having fallen as low as the physical plane, and there is no lower state than this, we must redeem this physical existence and so climb the ladder back to Divine consciousness. For as we are born into a spiritual realization of our Divine heritage, we must transmute our animal nature by the internalization of the Divine Flame of Love. And this is a process of transmutation, that may take place over a number of incarnations, and happens through rough and hard experiences that grind the grain as in the ancient poetic aphorism, so that through the fires of love we may come to our spiritual realization.

Though the mills of God grind slowly,
yet they grind exceeding small;
Though with patience He stands waiting,
with exactness grinds He all.

The symbology of the swaddling clothes is that we must not broadcast to our incredulous and scoffing friends or outer world, our Spiritual Birth or our holy and sacred experiences unless they too have come to such a realization and can rightly be termed your spiritual brothers and sisters on the Path. "It must be wrapped in swaddling clothes of silence, meditation and cherishing love, both to protect it and support it until it has grown strong enough to stand alone. The swaddling clothes also symbolize the mystical language of parable and allegory which surround the sacred mysteries of the inner life, and hide them from the curious gaze of the worldly-minded casual observer until he is willing to follow the light of the Star of Intuition (tuition or teaching from within) and is willing to ask of the humble shepherds where to find the inner truth about the Christ within. As we have explained previously. . . . the birth of the Christ-consciousness in us is a great spiritual event, and to ensure this birth we must prepare the manger of our hearts."

THE GIFTS OF THE WISE MEN

Coming back to the three Wise Men and their gifts: "In the ancient days the Wise Men were those who had spent their lives in the study of higher thought, of deep philosophy, prophecy, esoteric truth, symbolism and the like, and had been Initiated into some one of the several Mystery Schools. (Schools such as those of Zoroaster, Dionysus, Cybele, Attis, Eleusis, Orpheus, Isis, etc.) They all sought to follow the Light as revealed to them until they found the Christ *within*." Symbolically the Wise Men represent the mind and intellect where-as the shepherds represent the heart qualities. As such the Wise Men represent three classes of thinkers or seekers.

¹⁶ Curtiss, *The Pattern Life*, p82

The first class is the *philosophical type*, who studies all systems of mysticism as well as comparative religion and thereby finds the collective truth common to all systems, and so are led to the Christ *within*. The second class is the *scientific type*. They study nature, the cosmos and man and recognize by its design and orderliness a great Plan, Source and Intelligence and thereby are guided to the Light and Truth of this mighty Cosmic-consciousness. The third class is the *sincere skeptics* who realize by their astounding investigations that just about anything is possible and through honest and sincere investigation are led to the manger of the Christ *within*. The first Wise Man, *Melchior*, aged 60, symbolizes the intellect and his gift is gold, the most noble metals and ideas, intellect uplifted, fit for a King. The second Wise Man, *Balthazar*, aged 40, symbolizes *thought*, and he brings the gift of frankincense, so that thought, uplifted, may rise like incense before His throne. The third Wise man, *Gaspar* or Caspar, a youth of 20, symbolizes *awakened will* which provides all the youthful energy and determination necessary to follow the Star until it finds the Christ. His gift is *myrrh*, whose acridity symbolizes the bitter experiences and suffering we often have to undergo before we give up to the Divine Will and say: "Father, let thy will be done. . . ." The three ages of the Wise Men broadly represent the different periods in life of all seekers willing to find the Light *within*. We may start our search at any age, but the sooner and earlier the better, and the most difficult part of youth is to give up and surrender the will.

In the legend there is also a fourth Wise Man, completing the number four of the earth-plane. His gift was *service*, and he was so intent on being of service that he told an untruth to the men of Herod regarding the where-about of the Christ-child and His mother, and so saved them. This class of person represents those great givers of self, who promote education, eradication of disease, fine arts and the moral uplift of society. They may not actively seek spirituality and are often seen as being irreligious.

"Remember that these Wise Men are not certain personalities or even groups or centers, but certain classes of seekers. And the gold that one class has gathered is greatly needed in publishing the Announcement of the Shepherds and in advertising and spreading broadcast the 'glad tidings' unto all people. The ancient wisdom gathered by another class is also needed, but clarified and made so simple that the multitude may see it rising like frankincense before the throne. Even Myrrh, symbol of misunderstanding, bitter persecution, sorrow and suffering, has been needed that the Shepherds might more fully understand the suffering of others. . . . And above all, there is needed among all advanced seekers and followers of the Star, consecrated service and co-operation which shall be so practical, yet so sincere, unselfish and pure, that the world will gladly accept it and be led to the feet of the Christ."

HEROD AND THE WISE MEN

If we next look at the role that Herod plays in the story, here also we must look at the deeper meaning of the symbology as portrayed by Herod, for Jesus was never meant to be the literal King of the Jews, sitting on a physical throne and ruling like any common King. His throne was the Crown of Adeptship, Mastery over the Manifestation, a true Priest and Spiritual King forever after *The Order of Melchizedek*. Herod represents King Desire, our lower self who rules our life with an iron fist. And it is this Herod-power (our ego or lower self) which comes into striking life at the birth of the Christ-consciousness within, for it then knows that another has come, Greater than he, and that his days (the ego) are numbered. It is then that this Herod-power sets out to snuff the life of the Christ-child, the birth of our own Divine Inner God, by slaying it, as happens all too often in the life of the Aspirant. It seeks to "belittle and ridicule and kill out the higher, advanced spiritual

teachings. . . . it seeks to control and limit all independent expressions of Truth; which seeks to deceive even those who should be the modern Wise Men, and lead them astray. . . . it brings to the followers of the Christ within only misunderstanding, antagonism, persecution, martyrdom and the sword.” Yet if we remain true and sincere, and listen in the Silence to our own Divine Intuition then “being warned of God in a dream” as Wise Men we may refuse to betray the Christ within and go another way, safeguarding this precious Holy Child, and allowing it to develop into maturity.

THE FLIGHT AND THE MASSACRE

The Flight and the Massacre of the innocents is another flat contradiction as set out in the Gospels, and with the best historic evidence we have to date, such an event most probably never occurred, the facts leading to this conclusion set out splendidly in *The Pattern Life*. Yet here too we have *The Universal Solar Myth* coming into play with the birth and advent of many Lightbringers, considered as dangerous children and threatening the reigning monarch.

A heavenly voice whispered to the foster father of *Krishna* and told him to fly with the young child across the river Jumna, which was immediately done. This was owing to the fact that the reigning monarch, King Kansa, sought the life of the infant Savior and sent messengers ‘to kill all the infants in the neighboring places.’ *Life and Religion of the Hindus*, Gangooly, 134. The Egyptian Lightbringer, *Horus*, was obliged to flee to the Isle of Buto from his uncle Seth, or Typhon. Frescoes on the walls of ancient Pompeii represent this incident, feature for feature, with the biblical story. *Hadad*, another name for the Syrian Sun-god *Adonis*, escaped into Egypt when David’s general, Joab, is said to have slaughtered every male in Edom. Astyages, king of Media, warned in a dream that his daughter, Mondane, would give birth to a son who would reign in his stead, sought to have the babe, *Cyrus*, destroyed, but never succeeded. Soothsayers informed *Nimrod*, king of Babylon, that a child, *Abraham*, soon to be born would become a great prince. Nimrod then issued orders that all women with child should be guarded, and all children born of them should be put to death. Also *Zoroaster* was considered a “dangerous child.” He was obliged to flee into Persia, pursued by the King, who sought to destroy him. *Buddha* as a babe was persecuted by King Bambasara. He was placed in a copper chest and set afloat in the river Ganges. The same incident is found carved on the rock walls of the cave-temple in the island of Elephanta in India. *Hadad*, the child King of Edom, fled to Egypt to escape the terrible massacre when Solomon ordered Joab to slay every male in Edom. (I Kings, xi, 16, 17). And the same incident is found in the life-stories of Perseus, Aedipus, Paris, Jason, Bacchus, Han-ki, Salivahana, Aesculapius, etc.¹⁷

In *The Pattern Life*, each event, in orderly sequence of the life of Jesus, is explained astronomically, as the Path of the sun through the Zodiac. We have not enough space to add the astrological interpretations given in *The Pattern Life*, but we give the following one, which describes most beautifully the Flight and the Massacre. These astrological interpretations, as far as the author is aware, are unique in our modern literature, and may well bring a revival of sorts to an otherwise static art and science, for much can be revealed in the life of the seeker if interpretations such as these are followed.

As the constellation *Draco* or *Ophincus*, the Dragon, Hydra or Herodes, armed with a cudgel, naturally rises up over Libra in the East, the constellation Aries, the Ram or Lamb, flees before it in the West and disappears below the horizon towards Egypt or the Land of Darkness, so that the Dragon of Night (Herodes) seems to devour all the stars in his Path. All infant Lightbringers are therefore represented as being pursued by some vindictive ruler and fleeing to some far-off place of safety. But in none of the stories is the child ever caught, so the pursuer orders a slaughter of the innocents as the stars pale and disappear at dawn.”¹⁸

¹⁷ Curtiss, *The Pattern Life*, p109-110

¹⁸ Curtiss, *The Pattern Life*, p105

The place of safety in this incident represents Egypt which is commonly used as a symbol of spiritual darkness, sorrow and lack of understanding. And all Lightbringers and seekers journey to such a place in their Quest to escape the persecution and the forces of the outside world in order to safeguard the child and its mother (Divine Love). And here we must have a voluntary veiling of the inner illumination or Christ-experience, or like the babblers we kill out our inner experiences by displaying such before the world to be admired for our spiritual development. The darkness of Egypt into which we flee also represents the uncertainty which follows our inner birth, where we doubt this realization and inner birth, and so we are tested as to our sincerity to move forward on the path. Once mastered, we slowly go forth to build a spiritual bridge of understanding (*Sattva*), called the *Antaskarana*, between our lower or mortal mind and the Higher Spiritual Self.

TWELVE YEARS OF AGE

The next significant episode in the life of Jesus and that of other Lightbringers is the mystical age of 12. The significance of numbers, the Hebrew or Enochian Alphabet, the Major Tarot Cards or Major Arcana as they are known as well as the Sepher Yetzirah or Book of Formation, are dealt with extensively in two volumes dedicated to these topics. These are *The Key to the Universe* and *The Key of Destiny* and give a most profound exposition on the subject, including an interpretation of a number of legends and myths such as the twelve labors of Hercules, not to be found elsewhere. That number, color and sound are most significant and important in a proper understanding of the occult is made very clear throughout the *Teachings of the Order* and in *The Pattern Life*, a significant teaching is given as to the number 12, in its mystical interpretation in the life of the Initiate, as well as the physical age of 12 in the life of the child. If only our modern psychologists, parents and educators understood the principles and significance of the age of 12, much greater progress would be made as a race especially to the upbringing and education of our children. We touch upon this subject in more detail under the chapter on *Healing and Occult Psychology*.

Not much is known of the life of Jesus between the so-called flight and massacre and his re-appearance at the age of 12. There is much speculation as to how these years were spent and the following account may give us some idea. For a number of sources claim that Jesus was Initiated in Egypt and was taught the mysteries by the Egyptians.

The Coptic Christian Church of Egypt claims to have actual physical documents, rescued from the great library at Alexandria when it was pillaged and burned by Bishop Theopholis in 389 A.D., which give details of *three* sojourns of Jesus in Egypt. During our visit to Egypt in 1938 we were present at an elaborate baptismal ceremony in the very cave or grotto in which it is claimed the Holy Family lived when they fled from Herod with the infant Jesus. The Copts claim that Jesus was trained in the school of the Essenes by whom he was called "St. Issa."¹⁹

In the numerological system of *The Order of Christian Mystics*, the number 12 is termed "The Manifested Universe" as the universe requires 12 zodiacal signs to complete the circle of manifestation. Similarly, man must be born, again and again, in each sign of the Zodiac, until such time as all its opportunities are taken and its lessons learnt and ingrained in the life experience of the Soul and wholeness (holiness) achieved. It is an occult fact that most seers and prophets start to manifest their gifts at the age of 12 such as is documented in the Bible for Samuel, Daniel as well as Solomons "wise judgements" starting at the age of 12. Jesus started to become aware of his Divine Mission at the age of 12 and it is this age of 12 that is such an important milestone in the life of every individual.

¹⁹ Curtiss, *The Pattern Life*, p117

At this age, the Soul has taken complete possession of all the psychic centers of the body and can now physically procreate. "The power to create, which appears at that time *and not before*, is evidence that the Soul *is only then* in full possession of the body." It is the average age in Oriental countries for the onset of puberty, where the boy has reached his majority and is Initiated into his caste, religion or tribe.

"At this period the child usually has dreams, visions or memories of the last incarnation, and sometimes there is a morbid depression as though from a Soul-memory of some great mistake or failure in the past. Usually, however, there is a great confidence and a realization of an inexhaustible power to accomplish, as though from a memory of what the Soul has already accomplished and the great lessons learned, together with a more or less conscious impression of its mission in this incarnation. This might be called a Soul-memory of its "manifested universe," or that which the Soul has manifested in the past and a prophetic vision of that which it hopes to manifest in this life. At this time children frequently make decided changes in their disposition and character, and often make a definite choice of their life work. They realize, even if but vaguely, that they must be about their Father's (the Souls) business. This is a period of inspiring idealism. The child is full of zeal and takes pleasure in studying the highest ideals he hears or reads about. If this idealism is encouraged and wisely guided at this time, a strong character, based upon spiritual principles and realization, can be formed which will withstand the shock of disillusion which comes later in life as the selfishness and sordid materialism of the average unenlightened person becomes evident."

If our parents and teachers were wise, close attention would be paid to this period in life, and the seeds carefully watered and nurtured instead of ridiculing the child and forcing them into mind-sets and careers for which they are unfit and so retard their spiritual unfoldment.

Before the age of 12 the child's life is acquisitive, he lives for himself but after the age of 12 he must be about his Father's business and so get on with his life's mission. This is again but part of *The Universal Solar Myth*, Jesus starting to teach at the age of 12, Moses playing the part of an inspired teacher at the age of 12, Samuel and David prophesying at that age, in Strabo's account of Judea, the parents went to Delphi and the child had gone to the temple of Apollo, and similarly Isis wailing for the loss of her child who was afterwards found in the Temple of the Sun teaching the priests, etc.

At this age we are still but 'children in spiritual things' and must make a concerted start to the spiritual Path, and if we listen the Still Small Voice will say, like the soft sighing of a summer breeze: "I am the herald of the dawn of a new day, a new spiritual springtime in your life. I bring you the Christ's message of love, light and peace, and call upon you to awaken to your spiritual opportunities and to the reality of your spiritual life."

THE BAPTISM

In the Christ story the baptism plays such an important role and it would be well to have a look at some of its meaning and mystical interpretation. "When the Sun enters the Milky Way, the river Jordan, that celestial river spreads apart or the 'heavens opened' and the constellation Cygnus, the Swan, or the heavenly dove, 'descends' or becomes visible directly overhead. At the same time the Water Bearer of *Aquarius* pours out the water from his urn in baptism into the mouth of the Southern Fish in the third decanate of *Capricorn*, and thus causes the baptism. *Pisces* occupies 30° of the Zodiac, all Sun Gods receive their baptism of water at the mystical age of 30."

The sacred sacraments of all religions both symbolize and embody certain cosmic forces which produce corresponding effects in the spiritual lives of those who participate in them. These effects have been known and their meaning recorded in many myths and fables, while their forces have been invoked and correlated with, through suitable ceremonies, by the Initiates of all ages, races and religions. For it should be remembered that the Christian religion has added no new sacraments to the list. All are found in more or less the same form in the so-called pagan religions ages before the Christian era.²⁰

In spiritual matters water has ever been a cleansing agent and is a true universal solvent for both gross and subtle matter. In baptisms it is used to wash away the magnetism and influences of old mistakes, habits and former conditions of life. It is without doubt, together with heat or fire, an absolutely essential ingredient for life in all its myriad forms and its symbolical meaning is closely allied to spiritual illumination, especially its cleansing properties of the candidate as he or she climbs the ladder of worthiness for spiritual illumination. The act of baptism is again but part of *The Universal Solar Myth* and is to be found, almost without exception, in some form or another, in all systems of mysticism.

The Hebrews were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea. In Mongolia and Thibet the child is dipped three times into the water. Among the followers of Zoroaster the children were brought to the temple to be baptized. The rite was also celebrated by the ancient Egyptians, Etruscans, Mexicans, Greeks, Romans and others. Among the Brahmins several forms of baptism are used. . . . Initiation into the Mithraic and Bacchic Mysteries was marked by baptism of the candidate. . . . Among the Egyptians candidates for initiation into the Mysteries of Isis were also baptized.²¹ . . . it is only natural that it should mark the first step of initiation into the Mysteries of Jesus.

The act of baptism stems from the fact that through the ages the Mystics have known that in order to achieve Illumination a purification or transmutation of oneself is required in order to ascend to Divine Consciousness. In such the act of baptism, typically the sprinkling of or dipping in water, is symbolically performed to refer to this lifelong process, for the physical act of baptism, especially of young children as performed by the Orthodoxy to remove 'original sin,' is occultly unnecessary and has little mystical value. The word 'baptism' is derived from the Greek word "photisma" which means illumination, especially that inner illumination which comes only through the descent of the Spirit. It is a process that requires many, many years of one's life and can be divided into three stages, the first being a purification of the body and the desires from the lusts of the flesh. Secondly, the purification of the mind from self-indulgence, misunderstandings and false conceptions and the resulting illumination of which is revealed the Path and all it involves and finally, the birth of the Christ-consciousness within which makes us truly Sons (Suns) of God. Physically, when a True Priest performs a blessing over water, a magical act, the actual property of the water changes. This is a subtle odic influence and can be powerful as a protective and cleansing force such as the banishment of evil spirits from the candidate. But the Mystical Baptism is a far more profound event, which takes place over time, and eclipses completely the act of physical baptism where definite effort and preparation is made to enter the Higher Life. This process is *consciously recognized* and *voluntarily sought* before he is 'born again.' This process often entails cataclysms of illness, sorrow and misfortune, or the acceleration of the aspirants Karma in order to remove certain obstructions to entering the Higher Life. We can but refer the reader to the chapter on *Inner Alchemy and the War of Transmutation* for further reading on this process as well as the full work in *The Pattern Life* and *The Philosophy of War*. This is a lifelong process, and at transition, the candidate will have achieved Illumination

²⁰ Curtiss, *The Pattern Life*, p127

²¹ Curtiss, *The Pattern Life*, pp128-129

and release from the Wheel of Birth and Death, and if not, will have made definite progress in his quest for this Attainment. Mystically, the baptism manifests as three aspects, each taking a definite period in life to achieve. The baptism of water being the initial stages as the seeker consciously strives to enter the path.

In all ancient Mysteries, as well as in the early Christian Church, there were three definite baptisms which marked the three major stages of bodily and spiritual regeneration and symbolized the manifestations of the three aspects of the Trinity, i.e., the baptisms by *water*, the baptism by *fire*, and the baptism of the *Spirit* or the Holy Ghost. The baptism by fire is the invocation of the Light of the Shekinah upon the candidate; that spiritual fire which enters into the finer bodies of the candidate through the seven sacred centers (chakras) when the proper preparation and purification has been completed and which results in spiritual illumination. The baptism by the Spirit or the Holy Ghost refers to the descent of the Divine Self into the human personality or that at-one-ment with the Divine which is the object of all religious endeavors and for which all previous steps and ceremonies are but preparatory.²²

The purification by water takes the candidate a short way, the purification by fire takes the candidate much further, and is significantly more rewarding but difficult to endure. For when we invoke this 'Holy Fire from on high,' we consciously invoke that Spiritual Sun, which will then 'enter in and purify, burn the dross and cleanse from sin, make me pure and true within.' As this process purifies our entire Being, our Higher Self starts to make itself known and heard in the third stage of the baptism. To invoke this Holy Fire, we can but refer the reader to the processes of Inner Alchemy in general as put forth by all systems of mysticism and to the Invocative Prayers of *The Order of Christian Mystics*, as found through-out their work and condensed in the little manual *Potent Prayers*. For it is through a life of constant devotion, prayer, aspiration and meditation that the Higher Life starts to manifest through us.

In the life of Jesus we find the three stages of the baptism, mystically and not physically represented in the Gospels. First he is baptized in the *waters* of the Jordan. Then the heavens opened and the Light or the Spiritual *Fire* of the Shekina descended upon Him with cloven tongues of flame resembling the wings of a dove. Then the Voice spake and gave recognition to the fact of His *Spiritual* Sonship. "These three phenomena, the opening of the heavens, the descent not of an actual dove, but of a blazing ray of Spiritual Light "like a dove," and the Voice, are recognized only by an illumined consciousness. They represent the three aspects of the Trinity which must descend upon and manifest in man ere he can attain the full status of Christhood."

THE TEMPTATION

Another inevitable inner experience in the mystical unfoldment of the Soul and in the life of all Lightbringers is the Temptation. This too has been so overgrown with false conceptions through-out the ages as applied to the life of Jesus that today, hardly an inkling is to be found as to its true meaning within the Christian based faiths. When the baptism was conferred on Jesus certain transcendental powers were conferred on Him, and He had to be tested as to whether He would use such occult powers to fulfill His Divine Mission or whether He would use them for self-gain. This temptation by the Devil cannot be taken literally and an inner or mystical explanation is the only way to reconcile the events as reported in the Gospels. For the story assumes that the world belonged to the Devil to give to whomsoever he pleased. This is preposterous and assumes Jesus to be some simple-minded person who can be swayed by such obvious false promises. How could so foul a fiend as the Devil enter the Holy City or ascend the Temple. How did he transport Jesus

²² Curtiss, *The Pattern Life*, pp130-131

from one place to another, forty and one hundred miles respectively? By spiritualistic means such as apportionment? Why would Jesus, a Master of Masters, go here and there on foolish errands at the bidding of so foul a fiend? Why would he keep company with such a being, or even be willing to listen to such? The Temptation is again one of the events that take place, in its orderly place and succession, within the life of each seeker and Lightbringer, as part of the *Universal Solar Myth*, and the Bible story is but the Christian version there-of.

Buddha was tempted by Mara, the Prince of Evil, not to adopt a religious life, promising that if he would return to his kingdom he would be given dominion over all the earth. "In seven days shalt thou become the Emperor of the World, riding over the four great continents." In the Hindu version the young "*Krishna* plays in the wilderness and is assaulted by various fiends, and overcame them all. . . . In the so-called Temptation of *Zarathustra*, the only tempting done is an offer of Ahriman to the prophet that if he will renounce the good religion of Mazda he shall have a thousand years' dominion; and Zarathustra refuses; predicting the coming of his as yet unborn son, the Savior *Saoshyant*, who at the end of time is to destroy Ahriman and raise the dead." The virgin-born Mexican Savior, *Quetzalcoatl*, was also tempted by the devil and experienced a 40 day fast. In the Greek version *Pan*, pictured with the horns, hoofs and tail of the devil, leads the young Sun-god, *Jove* (Jupiter) to the mountain called the "pillar of heaven,"²³ from which he is shown the lands afar off. In each case the hero passes through a long fast.

The whole story of the temptation of Jesus is but an allegory of an inner spiritual experience which all experience at a certain stage on their quest for truth. For as one climbs the Mountain of Attainment or the rungs of Initiation the candidate has to undergo certain trials, tests and temptations to prove that he is fit to take on additional responsibilities in his Souls unfoldment. For he has now experienced, through his ardent and fervent desire for spiritual attainment, even just momentarily, his Oneness with the Divine, through one or more mystical experiences or the descent of the 'heavenly dove.' He has now entered, even unknowingly upon the mystical 'Way of the Cross' and must now overcome all sorts of tests and hardships to prove his sincerity. He must now show what shall rule his life, the lusts of the flesh and the ambitions of the mind or instead the guidance of the Inner Spirit. And we are '*led up by the Spirit into the wilderness.*' This is our Inner Spirit that leads us up and not the Devil that can but lead us down. This wilderness, is the wilderness of the outer life, for once we experience the Divine, in whatever way this comes to us, the outer life seems then dreary, uninviting, pathless and purposeless, a mental wilderness of dust. And we must face this wilderness and master it, for we have been placed in the physical manifestation to conquer, and must now apply our new-found realizations to further our spiritual development, *in the flesh*. "For he shall reward every man according to his works."

Before the temptation comes we have the mystical fast of forty days or four day periods or phases. This is a phase in which the Soul is left utterly alone, without comfort of a teacher or spiritual help, for here he must prove that his spiritual awareness and teaching can sustain him during this period, to prove that his Spiritual Birth was indeed real and not an emotional or mental event. In this period of loneliness and hopelessness, when everything goes wrong St Paul says: "I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present within me." (Romans, vii, 21). This is a difficult time of spiritual weaning, where the Soul must now learn to imbibe its own spiritual food while it is seemingly left alone. Yet it is not so, for we are always looked after and watched, and being left alone is but to help us come to our Divine Spiritual Realization. We have a promise that when the temptation comes we shall be strong enough to bear it, for "There hath no temptation taken you but

²³ Curtiss, *The Pattern Life*, p154

such is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able to bear." (I Corinthians, x, 13).

"Every Neophyte is led by the Spirit, the Higher Self, into a mental wilderness where, alone in the dreary wastes of physical experience, he is tempted by the devil of his own creation. The fasting for forty days is that period during which he must abstain from his old thoughts and habits, must cease to seek for outward help and learn to seek within; must turn to his Father-in-heaven, listen to the voice of his Higher Self and refuse longer to be guided by physical vibrations. . . . When it sees that no help can reach him. . . . It is always here that the devil (his own) meets each Soul and tempts. . . ."

The three temptations that the aspirant has to face come in many ways, each difficult for the candidate to overcome as they focus on his innate weaknesses, and not his strengths. The first temptation usually has to do with Power, with material things, gratification, possession of things, honor and attainments. And if we but remain firm and realize that we are first and foremost Spiritual Beings, then like Jesus we may say "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." Once this has been fundamentally realized, and its power and hold over us overcome, then material things and attainments can be seen in its proper place, for in itself the acquisition there-of is not evil, but quite necessary for the spiritual unfoldment and Divine Realization of the Soul, but ever they must be subservient to the Spiritual Will, and not the master there-of.

The second temptation comes in the form of self-righteousness. For here we are shown that by our spiritual attainment we are grown holier than thou, that we have become guides and teachers to others, and that we have become better than others who sin more. Here the utmost in humility is called for. And it is here that we must have unswerving faith in the love, guidance and protection of the Higher Ones. When Jesus here declares "Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God" its meaning is that even though we may have climbed up the Mountain of Attainment, our self-righteousness will not save us from reaping the consequences of our actions when we violate the law. We must be ever so vigilant.

The third temptation is one of Ambition. "The Neophyte has painfully climbed the mountain, has entered the Silence, has heard the Voice and has seen with his spiritual eyes. He has gained certain psychic powers and lo! All the kingdoms of the world and the glory there-of are spread before his sight. . . . he can charge large sums for interviews, psychic readings, courses. . . . he can be heralded from place to place and receive much public acclaim. All this is a very real and terrible temptation. . . ." While at certain stages we need a certain amount of ambition to spur us on and to make us achieve, this should not be for self-gain but for use by our Spiritual Self to help us unfold. The complete protection against all such ambition is given by Jesus when he states: "Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve."

THE MARRIAGE FEAST IN CANA

The first miracle performed by Jesus was when he turned the water into wine at the marriage feast in Cana. This marks the start of His ministry and this episode, in turn, is but filled with mystical symbolism in the life of the Initiate. For interest, *Dionysus*, called the "Lord of the Vine," performed the same miracle as did Jesus. In *The Teachings of the Order*, the marriage refers to two events, the one is the marriage between the lower and Higher selves, or the Union of the human aspect with the Divine within us, and the other the marriage between true spiritual mates, as constructively put forth in *The Seventh Seal*.

It is a Law that spiritual growth does not happen by itself, neither is it fostered on us by a God, teacher or fellow human being. We ourselves must play an essential part and consciously strive to manifest this Christ-child within us so that we may transmute all that is low and common in our nature to that which is high and spiritual. And the means and process by which this is achieved, follows much the same story as outlined in *The Universal Solar Myth* or *The Pattern Life*, yet at the same time is individually unique, for no two people are alike in disposition, temperament, character and spiritual needs. It is this unfoldment that changes the common Water of Purification into the Wine of Divine Life, a truth that merely cleanses and clarifies is changed into one that truly inspires. Water which before but satisfied the physical thirst now satisfies the spiritual thirst. The Mother of Jesus, attending the marriage feast represents the mother aspect of Divine Love and the disciples acknowledge all our higher faculties which are but striving to unfold. These are also represented by the six stone pots, filled with cold water which represent our six lower psychic centers or chakras, which in the lower man, are cold, lifeless and dormant, and used only to administer to our animal nature. It is the nature of our inner spiritual development, together with the mother-love and disciples to open up these centers in His service and to allow the Christ-child to be born. This is true spiritual Alchemy.

The marriage also represents our duty to create in our home life and marriage conditions that will be so advanced and harmonious, that the advanced members of our race can find a suitable vibration to incarnate amongst us, such as those who excel in the arts, music and the sciences. So, as individuals working on our own spiritual development, may we help the advancement of the Race, for there are many, many advanced Souls who but wait for the right conditions to incarnate amongst us, who wait for an immaculate incarnation "without spot" to suitable parents of true Soul mates. It is our duty therefore to enlighten ourselves and to make use of every spiritual opportunity that presents itself to us to do so, and secondly, to enter into a true Soul marriage so that we can give advanced Souls the opportunity to incarnate amongst us. For if we leave the procreation to the less advanced members of our society, only such lesser Souls who are willing to come will be the product. It is our duty then, as spiritually awakened Souls to bring forth children into this world. It is the scourge of our century that in our 'advanced' western nations upwards of two thirds of all marriages end up defunct. "As marriage today is so often looked upon as a mere physical union for the unlimited gratification of animal passion, it is no wonder that the Lord of the Feast cries out that they have no wine; that the six water pots are filled only with water, but made turbid and stagnant by the impurities of mind and body with which man has defiled it." It is one of the great spiritual rewards that one day, more than likely in our final incarnation, we will meet up with our true Spiritual Mate, the one with whom we have been one in the Divine before we descended into manifestation. "The instinctive memory of the oneness in the higher realms of real spiritual mates is inherent in every Soul. And it is this memory, even though vague and unrecognized, that is the basis of the instinct, often expressed as jealousy, for the exclusive possession, each of the other, between mates, even amongst the most primitive of people. Man and woman can learn many lessons and make great progress in spiritual unfoldment while striving alone, but for the supreme accomplishment and final test of the humanity of this globe each must learn the supreme lesson of Unity in Duality, hand in hand with his or her true spiritual mate in some incarnation." Thus will the true Marriage in Cana be consummated. This happens in three steps, the first step is whereby we are called to the marriage feast on the first day, as are all day to day marriages 'not consummated by the Most High in heaven.' Those who are called to the marriage

feast on the second day have a clear mental and inner understanding of the realization as to their true mates. And those called on the third day are the advanced Souls whose Third Eye has opened and have awakened to a true spiritual illumination. These can then bring forth 'children without spot,' and do this world the greatest service by being vehicles for the birth of the Saints and Avatars, the Gods who walk amongst us incarnate, and so help to usher in the New or Golden Age.

THE BETRAYAL

The betrayal by Judas, as is told in the Gospels, is yet again one of those events in the Bible filled with historical inaccuracies, discrepancies and contradictions that the only plausible explanation of such lies in its mystical or symbolical interpretation. Jesus was a public figure at the time, well known and had just made His triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Why would anyone need to be paid to identify and so betray Jesus? Also, to what was He betrayed? Why, if He knew of it long ago, would He choose Judas as a disciple, only to be betrayed by Him, even though He had advanced knowledge of the fact? The list goes on. Either way, the name Judas and the story or event portrays to us in this day and age everything that has to do with base ingratitude, willful deceit, avariciousness and treachery.

Symbolically, Judas represents the all but human trait to turn every advantage it can to personal use and self gain, at the expense of others. And once the deed is done and the results there-of become clear to the perpetrator, the wrong done is clearly seen and indentified, and usually sincere remorse and repentance ensue. That Jesus knew what was coming to Him is clear, and He shows us by His actions a fine example of spiritual courage and fidelity to principle. For when confronted with an absolute and unavoidable crisis, He shows us how to overcome fear by absolute faith, trust and reliance on the Christ-power within. For as we can read in the Scripture, even though He openly showed the signs of fear, He but said: "Father, Thy Will be Done." When it came to the crunch, His disciples also fled and left Him alone, not wanting to be associated with Him and with failure. "Thus do our intellect and pride often repudiate our connection with prayer and the spiritual side of life lest we be pointed out as a religious fanatic. And we are tempted to deny our spiritual experiences as Peter denied three times any connection with Jesus. Until we have passed the test of fear our lower personality is afraid of public opinion, is sensitive to criticism and greatly desirous of public approval. But once we let the Christ-consciousness rule, we are immune to criticism, humiliation and suffering, even the fear of death itself." Let this be a lesson to us, for when we take advantage of a situation at the expense of others, our conscience must suffer and pay the price as we have betrayed our Inner Guidance. It is then too late to make amends, and we must bear the bitter Karmic results of our actions. Happy is he who can prevent the Betrayal.

THE CRUCIFIXION

The greatest tragedy of the ages for the western world has been the crucifixion, death and burial of the Lord Christ. The story that has shocked the minds and torn the hearts of all who read of it is the tragic spectacle of the innocent prophet of Galilee being led away to the agony of the crucifixion. Yet through the study of comparative religions we find that the Saviors of many other ages and religions have met the same fate.

In the south of India at Tanjore, and in the north at Oude, the crucified god, *Bal-li*, is worshipped as an incarnation of *Vishnu*. *Krishna* was crucified to a tree by the arrows of a hunter. Pictures of *Krishna* as *Wittoba* show the nail-holes in both feet and hands from his crucifixion. *Indra* was crucified in Nepaul. Lactanius says that *Apollo* of Miletus was nailed to a tree or was crucified. *Tamnuz*, the Syrian *Adonis*, was called "the crucified Savior of

mankind.” *Prometheus*, the Sun Savior, was crucified by being nailed to the rocks of Mt. Caucasus near the Caspian Straits. *Sarapis* was called the Savior and his cross was found in his temple in Alexandria. The Phrygian *Attis* was tied to his cross. *Iao* was called the crucified Savior. *Adonis* was crucified as a dove. The Egyptian Savior, *Osiris*, was crucified in the heavens, as was also *Horus*. *Samiramis* was crucified by King Staurobates. The Mexicans and Peruvians worshipped the Savior, *Quetzalcoatl*, crucified for the sins of mankind. The Indians of Cozumal represent their Son of God, *Bacob*, as dying on a cross. Pindar says that *Ixion* was the Sun at noonday crucified in the heavens on his four-spoked wheel.²⁴

The crucifixion of Jesus is one of those events that make little sense to advanced thinkers and especially to those who understand some of the esoteric Laws such as Karma. How could the Son of God, a Divine and Celestial Being, have such a miserable and terrible Karma to bear? Why did He not do something to save Himself? He showed on a number of occasions that he could “disappear from amongst their midst, going His way.” Why did he have to bring upon Himself such ignominy and suffering whilst trying to enlighten humanity? Why was He executed like a common criminal and that only after a short career spanning three years? If we understand the great Law of Karma, we will know that it is impossible for any one man, however Divine, to pay for the sins of others. For we have to suffer the Karmic consequences of our actions or “sins” ourselves, and no one can do this for us. There is also much evidence that Jesus did not die on the cross and may have lived out his days elsewhere to a ripe old age. Yet the physical events as depicted in the Gospels did take place more or less as stated.

The figure of the cross, a symbol used up to ten centuries before the birth of Christ, is also not a Christian symbol, and was only used by the Church in the sixth century A.D. Before that Jesus was depicted by a lamb. Ezekiel (*ix*, 4) stamped the foreheads of the men who feared the Lord with the *Signum Thau*. The man hanging on the cross is a pagan symbol, as is very well documented and was only brought in use in the sixth century. These, and many other flat contradictions and inaccuracies, as well as the fact that this event is almost universal in the life of the Savior or Lightbringer means we have to look at it from a deeply symbolical and spiritual interpretation.

“As the vertical line (of the cross) represents the descent of the Spirit, so the horizontal line represents matter, thus forming the cross upon which the Divine is crucified in its efforts to express in the physical world. The cross is, therefore, a cosmic symbol and should not be identified exclusively with any one manifestation of the Divine in human form. It symbolizes “the effort of the Spirit to penetrate matter; the Light to illumine the darkness. . . . the cross upon which the Spiritual Self is crucified in matter until the lower self has been lifted up and indrawn and the cross has been balanced.” The mystical crucifixion therefore represents our descent into matter, as Divine Sparks, having come down from the Divine Realms to express our Divinity in matter and so thereby to seek redemption through learning the highest meaning of Love. For the world cannot be redeemed by a single man, as is the belief of Christianity, no matter how Divine such a being may be.

In the Mysteries the crucifixion of the Christos represents the self-sacrifice of the higher manas, the Father, who sends his only begotten Son into the world to take upon him our sins. . . . the regenerated man, who by crucifying the man²⁵ of flesh and his passions on the Procrustean bed of torture, became reborn as an Immortal.

“Every earnest Soul who recognizes this principle and takes upon himself the redemption of his own creations, through the Christ within, thus becomes a redeemer to that extent, and releases the Christ from the cross through the crucifixion

²⁴ Curtiss, *The Pattern Life*, pp191-192

²⁵ Blavatsky, *The Secret Doctrine*, iii, p 593, ii p592

of his own personality instead. Therefore, if we sacrifice knowingly and willingly, the redemption is accomplished without the suffering which the crucifixion brings about for those who resist and refuse to work with the Law. By thus working with the Law (the Law of Jesus, the Law of Redemption through Sacrifice), the cross is rolled up into the cube, and the *Stone of Sacrifice* becomes the pure *White Stone* given 'to him that overcometh'; the *Foundation Stone* to a newer and higher manifestation; that upon which all must be founded. To symbolize this great Mystery of Sacrifice anew, Jesus took bread and wine instead of the body and blood of animals, and with these symbols summed up His whole life and teaching. . . . the sacrificing of the life of the lower man to the Higher. The whole Gospel story is focused in this idea."

We are therefore crucified on a daily basis, even between the two lowly thieves, one representing our past and the self-created suffering and sorrow there-of, the other, our future, towards which we persistently strive to fulfill our dreams of personal success and accomplishment or maybe even our fear of what the future may bring. Yet we live here, in the ever-present now, where, if we but listen to the Voice Within, we may strive to better ourselves on a daily basis, and so crucify our baseness into spiritual Life, Light and Love. And we must consciously take possession of this pilgrimage through matter, and be willing to be crucified, must take joy there-in, recognizing that only as the lower man is crucified may the glory of the Christ within shine forth.

"He must remain in the obscurity of Egypt for a season while Herod, who rules the personality, seeks to slay Him who is ultimately to become the ruler of the life. He must heal the sick, cleanse the lepers and feed the multitudes within his own body with spiritual food. He must strive. He must suffer. He must be misunderstood and condemned, yet never must he forget his real mission. He must hang upon the cross of material conditions until, in the very depths of his being, in the agony of the higher consciousness that has been born within him, that consciousness which strives to uncover and reveal the Christ Child to a world that cannot understand, he cries out 'I thirst'. . . . It is the cry of the awakened man who thirsts for more wisdom, how best to do the works of his Father; how best to lift up the Christ-light that all men shall be drawn into the radiance of that Light. Only when the awakened personality realizes that it cannot achieve, through its own intellectual powers, the destiny that has been glimpsed, and places all the ardor and enthusiasm of his desire to accomplish, into the hands, symbol of the power to accomplish, of the Father, the Real Self, and *ceases* to struggle, is the *crucifixion* over."

"The crucifixion continues until the animal nature is completely controlled by the Christ within, and the willful personality has also submitted and declared: "It is finished. . . . Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit." Christhood is a state of consciousness which is attained through a process of crucifixion of many things we formerly thought necessary. Hence, anyone who tries to live the Christ-life is likely to know what it means to be "*despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.*"

"We as individuals can do much to end the crucifixion and the cruel suffering by teaching humanity, by the examples of our own lives, the necessity of listening to and following the Voice of the Christ within, by taking our stand firmly on the side of righteousness and high ideals, by helping to bring about a greater understanding of the spiritual truths hidden beneath the mysteries of parable and symbol. For verily unto us who have grasped even a little of the hidden leaven that must in time leaven the whole world, it is given to be active agents in hastening the day when there shall be given to the world a fuller and more comprehensive understanding of the everlasting Truth." The truth of the crucifixion is not only applied to the life

of Jesus, but to every individual seeker after Truth, who will be able to testify as to the events as depicted in this work, and who will be able to testify the unfoldment of the perfect inner pattern, as represented so beautifully in *The Pattern Life*.

THREE DAYS IN THE TOMB

After the crucifixion we have once again *The Universal Solar Myth* whereby the Lightbringer is entombed for three days exactly, descends to Hell, and such event is followed by the glorious Resurrection and Ascension.

The incident of Jesus remaining three days in the tomb is another of those well nigh universal incidents which give us pause, and furnish a subject for deeper meditation. The fact that nearly all the Savior-gods of ancient times, long before the Christian era, remained in tombs for exactly three days, during which they “descended into hell,” takes the incident out of the realm of coincidence and suggests some common, underlying significance, aside from its obvious connection with the Sun apparently standing still or being “entombed” for three days.

The best known example of many other Lightbringers who were “entombed” in one way or another is the story of Jonah remaining for three days and nights in the “nether regions” or the belly of the “great fish.” Obviously this incident was not meant to be taken literally, for Jonah would have been smothered in a few minutes if he was not strangled by the acid juices of the fish’s stomach. That story is an allegory. . . . as is now all but universally admitted by scholars.

In the Hindu *Soma-deva Bhatta* we are told that *Saktideva* was on a ship when a great storm arose. The ship went to pieces and a great fish swallowed *Saktideva* whole. The fish was caught and when opened *Saktideva* came out alive and unhurt. *Hercules* was swallowed by a whale (Dag) near the same place (Joppa) where Jonah was swallowed, remained in its belly three days and came forth alive. According to the Persians *Jamshid* was devoured by a great monster in the sea, but after three days he arose from the sea unharmed. The Hindu *Krishna* descended into Hades to recover certain persons from the dead. *Mercury* descended into Hell to cause a cessation of suffering there. The Roman *Dionysus* descended into Hades to rescue his mother, Semele, and carry her to Heaven. The Persian *Zoroaster*, the Egyptian *Osiris* and *Horus*, the Greek *Adonis*, the Roman *Bacchus*, the Scandinavian *Baldur*, the Mexican *Quetzacoatl*, etc., all descended into Hell for various unselfish reasons and rose again on the third day.²⁶ All these heroes represented the Sun during the three days and nights of the winter solstice.

Astronomically, if we follow the Path of the Sun, the entombment represents the winter months of January through to March, where “the Sun descends into the ‘lower regions’ of the southern hemisphere or the zodiacal ‘hell,’ the ‘bowels of the earth’ or the ‘belly of the fish,’ and is then resurrected to renew its career in the northern hemisphere. This universal symbology is to be found in all the initiation ceremonies of the Mysteries, characterized whereby the candidate undergoes a symbolical death, rebirth and resurrection. This was but to show the spiritual changes undergoing in the candidate, the death and burial of the lower personality and all that was old to make way for the Christ man within to henceforth rule his life. “In the *Eleusinian Mysteries* Apeuleius says he underwent a “voluntary death” and approached the realm of death in order thereby to attain his spiritual birthday. Among the Egyptians this symbology was enacted by placing the Candidate in a sarcophagus or coffin which was then placed in a dark crypt symbolizing a tomb. His entranced body was either stretched upon a cross or a cross was bound upon his heart. It was so arranged that on the third day the rays of the rising Sun would fall upon the mystic center (*Ajna*) in his forehead and thereby awaken him from his trance.” There he was left, apparently alone in the darkness, in a deep magnetic sleep, as dead to any earthly happenings as though in very truth he were dead and placed within a tomb. While his body was thus entranced, his consciousness was released from its confinement to the body and descended into that sub-conscious region where the elemental forces are confined like spirits in prison. Thus was the

²⁶ Curtiss, *The Pattern Life*, pp208-209

Candidate brought face to face with all normal instinctive forces of his animal nature, together with his astral creations and all that went to make up his lower personality.

In this way the Candidate was brought to a realization of himself and what he must do about it. For there passed before him in panoramic view, firstly, all his faults and failings, all his unsuspected tendencies, together with all the previous lusts and unworthy desires which he had created and expressed, as well as those he had suppressed; all those things that must be “preached to” and released from their “prison.” Secondly, his consciousness was then expanded to recognize and respond to the glory of his Real or Spiritual Self, the Christ within. Thus were his godlike powers and glorious possibilities and the goal to be reached so indelibly impressed upon his consciousness that when he was released or resurrected on the third day, he would be determined to conquer, and thus would apply the unceasing effort necessary to attain the final victory as a “Son of God.” For the Initiate in the Mysteries, this process takes place once all previous Karma has been worked through, the War of Transmutation has ended, and he sets off on his new life and is truly reborn as a Son (Sun) of God.” To them he gave power (the right) to become the sons of God.” (*St. John, i, 12*).

The Three Days in the Tomb, also represent three distinct phases in the life of the candidate. As stated in *The Pattern Life* this process does not necessarily represent the physical internment in a coffin for three days, but that such process happens to all candidates who have passed the ‘crucifixion’ and are plunged into the darkness of the ‘tomb’ by life itself. In such a period the candidate will experience tremendous lows as well as highs and may experience periods of lofty inspiration and visions, the most glorious heights of Christ-consciousness that can be attained. Such periods may be likened to a spiritual darkness and deadness comparable to that of a tomb, where the light and warmth of the Sun of righteousness is eclipsed and is but a preparation for the Resurrection.

During these three days you must conquer all the lower elemental powers on the three planes. “The first awakening will come after a period of darkness during which you may find springing up within you desires, traits of character and thoughts of an undesirable nature which you never dreamed were yours or which you thought were long since conquered.” This first day the tests pertain largely to the physical body and on the second day a long period of mental darkness ensues, during which you must gain control over your thoughts and re-order your entire mental world. It is here that you will be tested by doubts, fears and misunderstandings as to the teachings you are following as well as to the reality of any inner experiences you may be passing through. This is a most difficult period whereby your whole mental world, must bow to the Christ-consciousness within.

“This mental house-cleaning and readjustment will occupy a full long “day”, from sunrise down through the blackness of the second night-period until the Sun of Righteousness rises on the “third day.” Then you will realize that there is a divine power consciously ruling and guiding your mental world, even as you now rule and guide the physical. . . . Only when the Sun of Righteousness shines clearly in your mental world and you awaken to the realization that your chief aim must be to fix your attention upon the Christ within and live so close to Him that His radiance will bring forth in you the “fruits of the spirit,” only then have you awakened on the “third day.” On the third morning you must awaken to the divine possibilities which must be resurrected within yourself, and within your fellow men.”

“Every Soul who is passing through the experiences of the three days in the tomb is watched over by a Guardian Angel, the same Great Teacher who in former ages sat by the entrance to the initiation crypt and followed the Soul down into

the darkness to guide, help and protect it. If, through your sincere efforts to help humanity, you have proven that you have donned the livery of the Christ, you have been recognized by the Elder Brothers of the race. Henceforth your Path will lead ever closer to them until full realization is the reward of your steady conquering and attainment.

But it must be you who draws closer to Them. The clouds which hide Them from you are all of your own creating. They will dissolve and disappear in the bright beams of the Sun of Righteousness as it arises and floods your life with its radiance and the resurrection is an accomplished fact in your heart and your life.

These three periods can be three moments, three years or three incarnations according to your own spiritualization and advancement, as you enter into your divine birthright. So let the stone of personality and materialism be rolled away. Let the grave clothes of old, restricting ideas and misconceptions fall away. Awake! Watch for the dawning of the third day! Arise from the tomb and come forth into the light of a new day!"

THE RESURRECTION

The physical resurrection of Jesus remains a mystery to exoteric scholars as no witnesses were present at his awakening from His "death." As the crucifixion of Jesus was a tragedy of major proportions to the believers of Christianity, just so is His Resurrection one of the most inspiring miracles of the ages. Yet this miracle as well as the others, as has been shown so frequently in this chapter, is but the record of all Lightbringers and Sun-gods who descend from the Higher Realms to help and to teach mankind. All these events are similarly to be found in the life of each and every seeker, Initiate and candidate who makes it his business²⁷ in life to enter the Path and who lives, to the fullness of his consciousness, the Inner Christ-life.

The Hindu Savior, *Krishna*, rose from the dead as "a great light enveloped the Earth and illumined the whole expanse of heaven, amidst great rejoicing." *Rama* rose from the dead and ascended into heaven to renew his divine essence. The death of *Comodeo* was mourned with such lamentations that Mahadeo was moved to pity and resurrected him into heaven, "to hell's great dread and heaven's eternal admiration." *Adonis* or *Tammuz*, rose from the dead during the ceremony of Adonai. His image was carried with great solemnity to the tomb, with great lamentations. After a funeral oration a great shout was raised: "Adonis has risen from the dead!" The followers of *Zoroaster* claim that he rose from the dead and ascended into heaven. *Aesculapius* was called a "Son of God." After his death he arose into heaven. Of him Ovid prophesied: "Then shalt thou die, but from the dark abode shalt arise victorious, and be twice a God." The virgin born *Lao-Kium* also rose from the dead and bore the title of "The Resurrected One." The Persian Savior, *Mithras*, whose sufferings were believed to have caused the salvation of his followers, arose from the dead amidst a great burst of light. The Phrygian Savior, *Attys*, also rose from the dead. The resurrection of the Greek Savior, *Bacchus*, was celebrated with great rejoicings. The Savior, *Hercules*, arose from a funeral pyre and ascended into paradise. The Scandinavian Savior, *Baldur*, rose from his grave to testify to his immortality. Many other Savior Gods, such as *Memnon*, *Amphiaras*, *Frey*, *Tien*, *Quetzalcoatl*, *Dionysus*, etc., all rose from the dead on the same Sun's day at the vernal equinox, now called Easter.²⁸

There is much exoteric speculation as to the Resurrection. Was it the physical body that died and was brought to life again? Was it the astral body that materialized according to spiritualistic phenomena? The whole event has been so misinterpreted that upwards of 22 flat contradictions are to be found in the four Gospels. Yet we are told in the Bible very clearly that 'a body' is to be Resurrected, and what this body actually is will be clarified in the next chapter, *The Ascension*. This chapter

²⁷ Curtiss, *The Voice of Isis*, Chapter VI, The Eleventh Commandment

²⁸ Curtiss, *The Pattern Life*, pp220-221

is reproduced verbatim as published by *The Order of Christian Mystics* to bring forth its significance most clearly.

Due to the many contradictions to be found we will interpret this event also from its symbolical and mystical view, as it manifests in the life of each Initiate. The mighty miracle of the Resurrection can be seen most clearly in the yearly cycles of Nature, for Man is intimately bound and akin to Nature according to the axiom, as above, so below. Yet in the application of this axiom, ineffably true as all axioms are, there will always be some reversal or inversion of function. In this instance such inversion is that man can *consciously* follow the Divine Law and unfold thereby at his own *predetermined* pace, whereby in Nature this unfoldment is followed blindly, without volition. Therefore this privilege is denied Nature.

“This great event most beautifully illustrates for us the great Law of Cyclic Manifestation. This basic Law teaches us the inspiring lesson that out of death cometh the Resurrection of life; out of the dark tomb of Winter cometh the glorious resurrection of Spring; out of the bondage of snow and ice cometh the Resurrection of light and warmth; out of the darkness of night cometh the Resurrection of dawn; out of the prison house of limitation cometh the Resurrection of freedom; out of the darkness of ignorance cometh the Resurrection of enlightenment and understanding; out of the darkness and inertia of materialism cometh the Resurrection of spiritual realization.”

The fundamental lesson to be learned from the Resurrection is an “*absolute reliance upon Divine Law ultimately to resurrect us in due season from whatever entombing condition of darkness, discouragement and limitation we may be experiencing*. . . . For just as the farmer relies absolutely upon the Law of Resurrection to bring forth his seeds from the tomb of the earth and thereby bring forth his crops, so must we rely upon that same universal, immutable, Cosmic Law to resurrect the seeds of spiritual realization and ideals we have planted in the tomb of our material conditions, and bring them forth as crops of righteousness in our lives.

We have to go down first before we can go up. When we were in the Divine Realms, before we came down into manifestation, we occupied a certain station there. But now, after our difficult Pilgrimage through Matter, the darkness of going down into such limitations as can only be experienced in and on the physical plane, will have taught us to manifest the Christ within us under severely limiting and hampering conditions. Yet we have the promise all around us, that we will be Resurrected from this darkness into the glorious realms of light, and when, through the Ascension, we once more join up with our Father-in-heaven, our Higher Self in the Divine Realms, we will occupy a station so much higher than before that we can scarce conceive of such glory.

“And so may the angels of inspiration and divine guidance, spiritual understanding and illumination descend upon us here and now and roll away the stone of ignorance, of misunderstanding and misconception, the stone of materialism, from our hearts and minds wherein we have kept the divine Christ-consciousness entombed these many years, that He may come forth and take His way with us in our lives. Thus shall we be resurrected from the old life of entombing personality and ascend into consciousness of that larger life of the Spirit which is our heritage and real home.

(To be continued)

CHAPTER II

(CONTINUED)

THE ASCENSION¹

“And it came to pass, while he blessed them, he was parted from them, and carried up into heaven.”

St. Luke, xxiv, 51

“And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.”

Acts, i, 9

“The Sun continues to climb until it reaches its highest point in the heavens, in the last decanate of Gemini. This is called the ascension or the highest point above the earth.”

Curtiss, *The Pattern Life*, Appendix A.

The doctrine of the Ascension is so closely related to that of the Resurrection that it has caused almost as much controversy as the Resurrection itself. Also the Ascension is found in the life-stories of almost as many Sun-gods as the Resurrection, hence it is a universal feature of *The Universal Solar Myth*.

In spite of St. Paul's statement that: “Flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God,” (I Corinthians, xv, 50), the orthodox teaching is that it was the actual physical body of Jesus that was “carried up into heaven.” What, then, happened to that physical body to change it so that it could disappear into thin air in the full sight of the watching disciples as “a cloud received him out of their sight”? (Acts, i, 9). But no explanation is given.

Those who have given serious attention to the results of scientific psychic research know that there are ample physical proofs of the biblical teaching that the human personality survives the loss of its physical body in the change called death. In its new and higher state the surviving personality lives in a world of finer, etheric matter which is several octaves of vibration higher than that of the physical plane. In that higher world the person is clothed in an astral or etheric body which is withdrawn from the meshes of the physical body at death. The etheric body is therefore the exact duplicate of the physical body, but of a finer and more nearly perfect appearance. Because of this fact the departed ones are easily recognized when photographed or when seen materialized under test conditions.² Thus Moses and Elias were easily recognized by the disciples when the two appeared and talked with Jesus at the time of His transfiguration. (St. Matthew, xvii, 3).

It has been demonstrated countless times that the etheric body can be so densely materialized that it can be clearly seen and recognized by ordinary physical sight under scientific test conditions in light sufficient for easy recognition. Such materializations have been repeatedly photographed³ and the picture readily identified as that of the deceased person named. This is one of several *scientific physical proofs* of the teaching of nearly all religions that so-called death applies to the physical body only and not to the astral or etheric body or to the mind and consciousness of the personality.

¹ Curtiss, *The Pattern Life*, Chapter XXII, The Ascension

² For details see Curtiss, *Realms of the Living Dead*

³ See *Photographing the Invisible*, Coats, and *The Phenomena of Materialization*, Schrenck-Notzing.

Naturally those familiar with such materializations conclude that it was Jesus' materialized etheric body in which He arose from the tomb, appeared objectively for forty days, displaying His wounds to Thomas and others, and finally ascending into the higher realms. Scientifically that could have been possible. But that theory fails to account for the disposal of Jesus' physical body. And Jesus disproved that explanation when He said: "Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have. . . . And they gave him a piece of broiled fish, and of an honeycomb. And he took it, and did eat before them." (St. Luke, xxiv, 39, 42-3). This incident settles the materialized etheric body theory completely, for materialized forms have never been known to eat material food.

Likewise the claim of the mythologists previously quoted that: "Such narratives as those of the rock-burial and resurrection of the Savior-God in the Gospels are beyond all reasonable doubt simple developments of those mourning rituals which we have seen to be in use in so many ancient systems," must also be abandoned in view of the wealth of testimony presented and the reasonable explanation presented herein.

St. Paul definitely promises that some day death will be overcome. "The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death" (1 Corinthians, xv, 26), but he gives no explanation as to how that miracle shall be accomplished. He does give a hint, however, when he says that: "All flesh is not the same flesh. . . . There are celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial. . . . It is sown in a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body," that is, when the transmutation is completed. "And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly. . . . The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit. . . . Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural: and afterward that which is spiritual. The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord of heaven," when the process of spiritualization is finished. "So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this *mortal* shall have put on *immortality*, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory." (1 Corinthians, xv, 39-54).

Here St. Paul definitely tells us that in some way this mortal body shall be so changed that: "In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye. . . . the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed." Yet there must be a definite process by which this instantaneous change can be made possible. And necessarily this process of the spiritualization of the flesh must take considerable time to complete. Yet the Gospels do not tell us how to accomplish this miracle, only the hints quoted above, for all such advanced, esoteric technical teachings were given secretly under the vows of Initiation to the initiated disciples only. As Jesus told them: "Unto you it is given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God: but to them that are without (that is, not initiated), all these things are done in parables." (St. Mark, iv, 11). "All these things spake Jesus *unto the multitude* in parables; and without a parable spake he not unto them." (St. Matthew, xiii, 34).

As we have pointed out elsewhere: "It is certainly not this imperfect and fallible human personality that is to be raised up at the last day. Still less is it this incompletely evolved and incompletely perfected animal body, but the perfected manifestation of our Spiritual Self, that is to be raised up at the last day. . . . And yet *there is a body* that is to be raised up at the last day. That is the *Light Body* which we finally build up by the purification, transmutation and spiritualization of the atoms of our various bodies through 'believing on the Son,' or following

and manifesting the Christ within, until at our final incarnation we have built up a spiritualized vehicle or body through which we can manifest on any plane we wish.⁴

But since “flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God,” how can the startling and miraculous phenomenon of the Resurrection and Ascension be brought about? Evidently some radical change must take place in the body of flesh to prepare it to enter the higher spiritual realms “in the twinkling of an eye” without passing through the portal of death. The explanation is both physical and metaphysical. The Path of Attainment may be followed in a general way almost unconsciously by trying to live the Christ-life without technical training, or it may be followed consciously by employing a definite, scientific technique in the use of super-physical and spiritual forces. In either case the process involves the mysteries of transmutation and translation. These are profound mysteries which can be dealt with only briefly herein.

It is well known in psychology that every thought and emotion generates a definite current of force in the mental world.⁵

These currents are either constructive, destructive or neutral according to the character of the thought held. Thoughts of discouragement and failure react on the body to depress all its vital functions, while fear can absolutely paralyze them. Thoughts and emotions of anger, lust, jealousy and revenge are actually degenerative and destructive to the bodily tissues. On the other hand, thoughts and emotions of joy, peace, love and goodwill are stimulating, purifying and constructive. If the destructive thoughts predominate the body becomes inharmonious, irritable, toxic, acid and even diseased. But if the constructive thoughts and emotions predominate, the body will be harmonious, pure and full of vitality and radiant health, because it is constantly subjected to currents of high and constructive mental and emotional forces.

In addition to constructive mental and emotional forces, when meditation, aspiration and prayer are consciously used to contact the forces of the higher mental and spiritual realms, then still higher octaves of force are involved, namely, spiritual forces. These forces have been measured with a scientific radionic instrument and proved to nearly double the body’s vitality. These spiritual forces not only increase the body’s vitality, but they hasten its purification and thus gradually transmute and spiritualize it atom by atom. As we have explained elsewhere: “The true or Spiritual Self, a spark from the Infinite, incarnates again and again in the human-animal body for the purpose of gaining experience in matter, and, through its informing the physical atoms of an earthly body, helps to redeem and spiritualize matter. . . . It gains more experience and needs a better body from time to time until, finally, it masters the matter which makes up its physical garments and immortalizes it so that the personality is swallowed up in the Individuality: the mortal puts on immortality and becomes one with the Father-in-heaven⁶ or makes the Ascension.

“This process of transmutation begins from within and works outward from the heart center. From there it sends out radiations or lines of force which gradually set up new sub-centers of radiation in various parts. . . . Just as a cancer sends out slender radiating filaments which insinuate themselves into the surrounding tissues and organs to destroy them, so the fiery lives of the Christ-force, when directed by the consciousness of an enlightened mind, manifest in an analogous way, but in a diametrically opposite and constructive manner. . . . This process of transmutation and purifying goes on through every incarnation. In each life some cells are

⁴ Curtiss, *Why Are We Here?* pp 20-21, 126

⁵ Dr. Hoagland Howard, of Clark University, has discovered alpha, beta and delta brain-waves. Dr. Hallowell Davis, of Harvard University, has recorded them on an electro-encephalogram.

⁶ Curtiss, *Letters from the Teacher Volume I*, p27.

spiritualized, and these are never lost, but are added to life after life. Every cell which the Christ-force has spiritualized becomes immortal, and at the next earth life is built into the new body around the sacred centers, so that little by little we inhabit a more and more nearly perfect body, until *in some life* we find it possible to complete the purification and spiritualization of all our interblending bodies, mental, etheric and physical.⁷

“Thus we can renew our life-forces, revivify and *recreate our bodies* periodically little by little and not be obliged to re-create an entire new body at a later incarnation. This is the great truth back of the doctrine of Regeneration and Immortality in the flesh.”⁸

“To obtain the regenerating, redeeming and illuminating effects of our Christ within, we must have certain definite periods daily when we *deliberately expose ourselves to or bathe in* the inner mystical Christ-light. . . . We should visualize our Spiritual Self not as a finite mortal, but as a great and glorious immortal *spiritual Being*, overshadowing us and endeavoring to find ever greater and greater expression through us, according to our recognition of and response to His divine guidance. . . . We often lose the memory of our heavenly home and *who we really are* so that we manifest so little of our Spiritual Self that we seem to be but mortals instead of immortals.”⁹

“Immortality in the flesh is therefore a physical possibility, but its attainment does not mean that the one who has attained it will have to live on earth forever. But it does mean that such an one can live on earth in such a body as long as his work requires a vehicle on the earth plane. When this is no longer necessary, the vibratory key-note of such a body can be raised at will until it disappears from physical sight and manifests on any higher plane desired. . . . This spiritual or *Nirmanakaya* body is not a ready-made body which we will someday inhabit after we leave our poor worn out physical body, but is a spiritual or ‘fire-body’ that is builded slowly and gradually, cell by cell, within the physical throughout all our incarnations.”¹⁰ It is evidently this spiritualized substance of which the “fire-body” is built to which St. Paul refers when he tells us that: “Ye have in heaven a better and more enduring substance.” (Hebrews, x, 34). “For we know that if our earthly house (body) of this tabernacle were dissolved (transmuted), we have a building (or body) of God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.” (II Corinthians, v, 1).

“A true *Nirmanakaya* body, however, although manifesting in the etheric world, is not an etheric or even a psychic body (*Mayavi Rupa*), but is a *spiritual body* which is born in the heart of the Adept while in the flesh, and which takes the form of the personality by first growing out from the heart through the marrow of the bones, and later extending out beyond them until it permeates the entire body of flesh and ultimately spiritualizes all its atoms. This process requires *many, many incarnations*. But ultimately the body thus spiritualized becomes no longer a mere physical body. . . . but is a redeemed and spiritualized body in which its master can appear and disappear in any realm or any world at will.”

Since this process of spiritual transmutation is so slow that it extends over many incarnations, there is little hope of the average student’s making his Ascension in this life *unless* this is his last and culminating incarnation. If it is, then he will have lived such a saintly life from childhood that he can complete the process now. But even if this is not his last incarnation, every effort he makes to respond

⁷ Curtiss, *The Key of Destiny*, pp21-22, 20

⁸ Curtiss, *The Key to the Universe*, pp168-9.

⁹ Curtiss, *The Inner Radiance*, pp8, 9

¹⁰ Curtiss, *Realms of the Living Dead*, p239.

to and radiate the forces of the Christ within will help him step by step toward his ultimate sainthood and finally to his Ascension.

Since this spiritual transmutation of the flesh is such an age-long process, it is very misleading to tell the general public¹¹ that anyone and everyone who will repeat certain affirmations and make certain so-called “decrees,” can make the Ascension in this life. It is also most disillusioning and discouraging to find that in spite of all one’s faith and sincere and faithful efforts, only one in millions is ready or can be prepared to make the Ascension now. Hence, while all are urged to strive toward their ultimate spiritualization and Ascension, none should be discouraged at his seemingly slow progress.

Just as the Sun’s slow climb from the lowest to the highest point in the physical heavens constitutes its Ascension, in like manner the slow climb of the Soul from the lowest point of animalism to the highest point in its heaven constitutes its spiritual Ascension.

Such a phenomenal transmutation of the physical body is clearly the teaching of Jesus, for He promised that: “If any man keep my saying (His teachings), he shall never see death.” (St. John, viii, 51). And St. Paul tells us that: “the law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death,” (Romans, viii, 2), even though Paul did not live to complete the transmutation and make his Ascension. Paul did, however, know a man who did make his Ascension, for he tells us: “I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago. . . . such an one caught up to the third heaven. . . . into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful to utter.” (II Corinthians, xi, 2-4). It was not only unlawful to utter or repeat such instructions, according to the vows of Initiation, but it is impossible to describe in the language of our three-dimensional world the glories of the higher dimensional worlds.

Jesus plainly indicated that this spiritualized or *Nirmanakaya* body, over which He naturally had perfect control, was the kind of body He possessed when He said: “I lay down my life, that I might take it up again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have the power to lay it down, and I have the power to take it up again.” (St. John, x, 17, 18).

The fact that Jesus had this absolute power over His body long before the Crucifixion and Ascension is evidenced by His exercising it publicly on two occasions. Once when a crowd was about to stone Him He “went out through the midst of them.” (St. John, viii, 59). He used it again when a mob had led Him to the brow of a hill, “that they might cast him down headlong. But He, passing through the midst of them, went his way.” (St. Luke, iv, 29).

That Jesus was using such a *Nirmanakaya* body is also evidenced by His suddenly materializing it and walking with two of His disciples on the way to Emmaus. After their arrival, and while He was eating with them at the inn: “He vanished out of their sight.” (St. Luke, xxiv, 31). Later that same evening after the two disciples had returned to Jerusalem, He astonished them and the others gathered with them by suddenly materializing before them so quickly and unexpectedly that: “They were terrified and affrighted, and supposed they had seen a (materialized) spirit.” (St. Luke, xxiv, 37).

After proving to Thomas and the others that He was no discarnate spirit nor even a materialized etheric body, as we have already pointed out earlier in this Chapter, and that He was still using the same body that was crucified, while He was on the way to Bethany with His disciples He suddenly dematerialized His body and “was parted from them, and carried up into heaven.” (St. Luke, xxiv, 51).

¹¹ As certain teachers have taught in recent years, but without the slightest proof or example, the leader himself dying of “arteriosclerotic heart disease, and cardiac cirrhosis of the liver.” *Psychic Dictatorship in America*, Bryan, 247.

From the above incidents, which can be satisfactorily explained in no other way, it is clear that no other body than a *Nirmanakaya* body could possibly have fulfilled all the varied requirements and permitted the Translation and Ascension to take place.

This brief and necessarily incomplete explanation of the profound mystery of the transmutation and Ascension may sound improbable at first reading, but on further study it will be found to be the only rational and scientific explanation which solves all the problems of how “the last great enemy”, the death of the physical body, can be overcome. (I Corinthians, xv, 26). “Behold, I shew you a mystery.”

If proofs of this explanation of the doctrine of the Ascension are desired, we have only to remind you of several well-known instances of such translation of the spiritualized physical body into the higher invisible realms without leaving it behind through death. In addition to the Ascension of Jesus through this process, you will recall that: “Elijah went up by a whirlwind (of force) into heaven.” (II Kings, ii, 11). Also “Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had *translated* him.” (Hebrews, xi, 5. Genesis, v, 24).

Then there is the heretofore unexplained strange case of Melchisedec, to whom even Abraham paid tithes, and who was called “the priest of the Most high God. . . . being by interpretation King of Righteousness, and after that also King of Salem, which is King of Peace; without father, without mother, without descent (genealogy), having neither beginning of days, nor end of life; but made like unto the Son of God; abideth a priest continually.” (Hebrews, vii, 1-3). From the above it is evident that Melchisedec must have manifested in a *Nirmanakaya* body; for that is the only body that could have been “without father, without mother, without descent.” It is no wonder then that when Jesus manifested in His *Nirmanakaya* body He was “made a high priest forever *after the order* of Melchisedec.” Naturally also Jesus was called the “Prince of Peace,” since Melchisedec was called the “King of Peace.”

There was also the case of the great Kabalist, Simeon Ben Joachai. “Many are the marvels recorded as having taken place at his death, or we should rather say his translation; for he did not die as others do, but having suddenly disappeared, while a dazzling light filled the cavern with glory.”¹²

And this same law holds good in modern times as well. In India, where so much attention is given to the mysterious workings of spiritual forces, there are records of numerous cases of translation and Ascension of the bodies of Hindu saints. For instance, some years ago the Mahatma Sri Rama Linga made the Ascension from his bungalow while his chelas and followers completely surrounded it all night chanting prayers. When they entered it in the morning they found only his loin cloth in the spot where he had been sitting on the floor. As is usual in such cases, he had been a well-known poet, prophet and God-conscious saint of Southern India almost from childhood. Thus he proved his right to the Ascension by his saintly life and teachings, and the many miracles which he wrought. In other words, he was ready for the translation and Ascension. And there are records of many others who have thus made the Ascension. “Great saints of yore have attained at-one-ment with the Divine and made the Ascension by worship of Nataraja with their knowledge. It was before His presence that the Saint *Maniccavacha*, and also Saint *Nanda*, the Pariah Saint, *disappeared bodily* into the Brahmic splendor.”¹³ These facts are too well attested to permit argument as to their reality. Hence they must be accepted as veridical whether fully understood or not.

Once you have gained this cosmic concept of the Ascension, death has no more dominion over you, for you have died to the mental limitations of materialism and

¹² Blavatsky, *The Secret Doctrine*, III, p93

¹³ *The Kalyana-Kalpitaru Magazine*, November, 1935, page 709

the sordid things of life, and have ascended into the freedom, light and joy of the Christ-consciousness. Then the husks of any old material conditions, thoughts or habits which may still cling around your roots for a while will gradually disintegrate, and their forces of good will be absorbed or act as fertilizer, as you consciously extract their misdirected good and use it toward your ultimate Ascension.

If you are sincere in your desire to live *The Pattern Life*, and wish to apply its teachings to the mastery of your life and the conditions of your environment, and also to your daily steps toward your unfoldment and Ascension, so that you may be “transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even by the spirit of the Lord,” there is something you must do toward that great end. The more you strive to fill out the pattern set for your life, the more joy is manifested through you for the greater uplift and happiness of those within the sphere of your influence, the more you advance toward Christhood.

A life based on prayer: a life of faith and worship: of compassionate understanding: of guided usefulness (i.e., encouraging and helping others to help themselves spirit ward), will help to manifest the pattern which your Spiritual Self incarnated to express. Contemplate your digressions daily from this standpoint in order that you may correct any deviation from your pattern and fill it out wherever it may be lacking. “Be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. . . . But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.” (St. James, i, 22).

Thus will your understanding of *The Pattern Life* of Jesus reveal to you the Way, the Truth and the Life, whereby you also can understand and achieve the Resurrection and make the Ascension, and thus enter into the glory and the satisfying joy of Christhood here and now.

“If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affections (heart) on things above, not on things on earth. For ye are dead, (to sin) and your life is hid with Christ in God.” (Colossians, iii,1-3).

Happy, indeed, is he who makes the Ascension.

CHAPTER III

PRAYERS OF THE ORDER OF CHRISTIAN MYSTICS

“O hidden mystery of the Flame! Thou art the very eye of the Eternal One. Thou reignest in the heights of Heaven; thou dwellest deep in the heart of Earth. Thy warmth and light and mystic powers make of the orb of day an open door into the eternal bosom of the Father who, through the purifying Flame of Divine Love, hath brought forth all flames; for all are parts of the Eternal Life, Love and Perfection.”

“Thou, O Flame, art one with Divine Love, which floweth like a River of Life into the depths of the heart of Nature and bringeth forth after the fashion of the Divine Imagining! Thou piercest deep into the mystic depths of each human heart and bringest forth as bubbles upon the surface, every hidden thing. O purifier of our inmost hearts! O searcher of our thoughts! We, Thy servants and disciples bow before Thee, O Divine Power sent forth from the Ever-living One!”

Invocation to the Flame by *The Teacher of the Order*.¹

Hundreds of other references to fire and the Flame make it very plain that the inspired writers of both the Old and New Testaments were fully aware that the Mystery of the Flame is the Mystery of God and of all creation. Just as the Light and heat of the Sun bring to Nature God’s divine power as a manifestation of Cosmic Light and Life, so hidden in the symbol of the Flame is the secret of man’s spiritual quickening; his spiritual growth and unfoldment; his testing’s and purifying burnings, which are so necessary until his heart has become like a diamond, pure and limpid, yet firm and unswerving, a Sun in miniature.

Curtiss, *The Message of Aquaria*, pp294-296

The above captions hold the key to the system of Mysticism as put forth by *The Order of Christian Mystics*. For to call down and invoke this Mystery of the Flame is what will bring forth the Divine fructifying power to assist in the spiritual unfoldment of man. And whilst such Teachings do not develop the individual spiritually, for spiritual growth happens by the effort and aspiration of the individual, and not by the system per se, such devotional exercises as put forth by the Order are the catalyst as it were, to unfold the seeker through selfless devotion to his or her chosen ideal. If the efforts of the seeker are sincere, then by calling down this ‘Holy Fire from on High,’ his spiritual aspirations will have found fertile soil, and the soul’s unfoldment will commence in a quickened way. So will his heart develop until like the Tarot card of The Sun, his Divine Spark will become as a true spiritual Sun in miniature, reflecting forth faintly ‘the great Creator’s own magnificence’ and so will he grow and become a burning ‘Flame which through eternity will not be quenched.’

And if through persistent effort the seeker accomplishes and attains to his Divine birth-right, verily will he become a Priest or Priestess of the Flame, the ultimate aim and goal and inevitable end to the glorious spiritual Path or Quest.

It is well to understand what is meant by invocation and evocation as pertaining to the Invocations or Prayers of *The Order of Christian Mystics*. For invocation can be stated as Prayer in its highest form. It is also a part of magic, and high magic at that. In simple terms, when we make use of the power of invocation we implore and ask humbly of higher Beings and Powers for their help and assistance. Such help and assistance is therefore granted or not as such higher Being or Power sees

¹ Curtiss, *The Message of Aquaria*, p294

fit. Mainly the granting of such help depends on the sincerity, devotion and real need instead of wants on the part of the applicant. It is a Law of the Occult that you have to ask for help before it can be granted to you as no higher Being or Power will go against the free will of anyone by assisting without having been asked first. This also applies to your spiritual development. If you persistently ask for help to assist you in the next step on your spiritual path such help cannot fail to present itself, although usually not in the way the aspirant expects. *For no help or teaching can be kept from a seeker who is ready for it, and such help never fails to present itself.* No matter what lines of constructive thought we may be interested in, we can receive help and inspiration from the Great Teachers. Thus must we ever put forth such faith in the Powers that Be that they will sustain and assist us if we are concerned with our spiritual development.

Invocation is therefore the asking of help from a higher Being. Such Being can be a human being higher than oneself in spiritual development such as *The Teacher of the Order*, an Adept, Initiate, Saint or a member of the Celestial Hierarchy such as Genii, Angels, Archangels up to the Almighty. Evocation on the other hand is whereby help and assistance is required from lower beings than oneself. Such help is commanded as we do not ask those below us for permission. Lower beings generally encompass the nature spirits, other human beings and the infernal spirits in the abyss such as demons.

In all systems of mysticism the power of prayer and that of set disciplines and exercises incorporated into daily life *are specifically emphasized*. It can also be safely stated that the difference between the man in the street and the Initiate or spiritual aspirant is that he has incorporated into his life daily spiritual disciplines and exercises. Such activity strengthens the will and transmutes, atom by atom, a part of his being, the inner alchemical process. Spiritual progress is not seen on a day by day basis but as we look back on our lives, year by year, our own advance and progress on the spiritual path becomes apparent. "The importance of having a set time each day when we focus our attention upon the ideals we are striving to express and when we strive to commune with the higher spiritual consciousness of our Father-in-heaven or Higher Self cannot be too strongly realized." Thus we should incorporate, slowly but surely, such exercises as concentration, meditation, prayer, devotion and entering the Silence into our life, as beautifully put forth in the booklet *The Temple of Silence*. These can be done in the earlier parts of the day when we are filled with vitality. Ere we drop off to sleep at night we should reflect on all that has been done during the day, starting from the moment we do the exercise and slowly working backwards to the beginning of the day.²

It is by invocative magic, or prayer, that we call down upon ourselves that which we are most in need of, for we open the doors by asking. *The Order of Christian Mystics* hold the devotional prayers or invocations as a great tool and help to further the spiritual advance of the seeker. Throughout the many works of the Order we find a host of beautiful Invocative Prayers that engender definite spiritual states and vibrations. Such Prayers are truly inspired, having been given to the Order direct from their Teacher who in turn has garnered them from the Hierarchy that *The Teacher of the Order* serves, given therefore from out the Higher or Divine Realms. Some of these Invocative Prayers have been given out to its pupils as early as 1908 but in 1934 a small booklet, *Potent Prayers*, was issued, a rare and most beautiful work.

For many years we have had repeated requests for a little manual containing all the prayers given to the Universal Religious Fellowship, Inc. (Order of Christian Mystics) from time to

² Curtiss, *The Inner Radiance*, p329,330

time by The Teacher, and issued in such convenient size that it can be carried in the pocket or handbag for daily use.

Believing that it contains prayers suitable for almost all occasions and for almost every need, we take pleasure in presenting this little booklet in the confident hope that it will encourage the development of the devotional or heart-side of the student's unfoldment in consciousness and realization by making the prayers more accessible at all times.

This booklet is sent out with the blessing of the Hierarchy whence the prayers were received. And we trust that by its use the students will be able to tune in their consciousness to that great reservoir of light, life, and love and thereby be able to respond to the down pouring return currents which such sincere aspirations invoke.

"Prayer should be understood, not as a mere mechanical recitation of formulas, but as a mystical evaluation, an absorption of consciousness, in the contemplation of a principle both permeating and transcending our world. It is incomprehensible to philosophers and scientists, and inaccessible to them. But the simple seem to *feel* God as easily as the heat of the sun or the kindness of a friend." *Man the Unknown*, Carrel, 147

The object of all religions is worship of the Divine. And the primary object of all worship is personal contact with and realization of the Divine. But as there is a method or mechanism by which the whole manifested universe comes into physical expression, so is there a method or mechanism by which conscious contact is made between the human personality and those higher expressions of God toward which the heart aspires.

While there are many avenues by which such contact is made, ranging from contemplation, meditation and silent aspiration to the sudden despairing cry for help and protection in times of crisis, nevertheless, the avenue most readily available to the average consciousness is prayer. This does not mean that one must necessarily repeat certain stipulated words as set forth by another, for each heart can usually formulate its own words to express its own desires and needs. But as words both symbolize and embody definite ideas, when properly used, words can be used to produce specific effects.

The prayers contained herein are not the intellectual compositions of the Authors, but were given to them already formulated direct from the higher realms. They, therefore, constitute definite mantrams which express definite ideas and engender definite vibrations whose use is designed to tune the consciousness of the user in to the wave-length of definite states of consciousness and to certain Hierarchies of Beings in the higher worlds. Their conscious response will do all that is possible to accomplish the desired results, depending upon the degree of its reception and correlation.

As we have said elsewhere: "The repetition of such prayers is like a projectile fired through the Earth's atmosphere, creating a passage through which the One Life must necessarily flow." While for certain higher spiritual contacts, it is best to "enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret," nevertheless, most of these prayers can be used at almost any time and in almost any place, while walking, riding in cars, etc., wherever your powers of concentration are sufficient to enable you to repeat them to yourself with at least some degree of realization of their meaning, and then to meditate upon them.

Praying that this little volume will be the means of stimulating many to make more regular use of the prayers and thus experience the manifold blessings and joys, protection and comfort of the forces they invoke, we send this booklet forth with our blessing and also that of its Source.

"Man offers himself to God. He stands before Him like the canvas before the painter or the marble before the sculptor. At the same time, he asks for His grace, exposes his needs and those of his brothers in suffering. . . . The modest, the ignorant, the poor are more capable of this self-denial than the rich and the intellectual. When it possesses such characteristics, prayer may set in motion a strange phenomenon, the miracle." *Man the Unknown*, Carrel, 148.³

It is already an ancient teaching as put forth in the Upanishads that 'what one thinks that one becomes.' For the mind is the highest vehicle we have in the manifestation and as our mind is always fixed on some one thing, having it fixed on the highest and most pure thoughts we are capable of, we necessarily start to reflect and become exactly that. And it is through prayer and devotion that we mould our thoughts and undercurrents to always dwell on our object of worship. This principle is at the basis of many a mystical system and thus must we ever guard our thoughts

³ Curtiss, *Potent Prayers*, iii to viii

and so go forth in purity. As these prayers can rightly be classified as mantrams, they should be used as often as possible to strike a new keynote in our very being. For mantram comes from the roots 'man' which means 'to think' or 'the thinker' and 'tra' means 'to save from' or 'liberation.' Therefore mantrams are a powerful tool to aid us in our quest for liberation.

The following prayer, ritual or mantram is a most potent and simple exercise to assist us in our daily spiritual development. Do this exercise first thing in the morning. There is a mystic potency in the first thoughts held and the first words uttered and they strike the keynote for the day. Repeat the exercise ere you drop off at sleep in the evening and many times during the day. Meditate on each line and visualize clearly.

PRAYER FOR LIGHT^{4,5,6}

O Christ! Light Thou within my heart
The Flame of Divine Love and Wisdom,
That I may dwell forever in the radiance of
Thy Countenance
And rest in the Light of Thy Smile!

After repeating this prayer, see with the mind's eye the Divine Light descending upon you like the beam of a gigantic searchlight, pouring down from above upon your head and flooding you with its radiance.

See the beam of Light surrounding you with a circle of brilliant white Light, forming the Ring-Pass-Not, within which no inharmonious or evil thing can penetrate without being consumed by that Divine Fire.

Then see it illumine your mind, expand your consciousness and deepen your understanding of life, love and law, and the experiences of your daily life.

As the Light surrounds you, see it awaken in your heart a tiny, bright Flame. Watch this Flame spring up and grow until it illumines every fibre of your being with Divine Love and Compassion. Feel the Flame send an actual glow of warmth throughout your physical body to the tips of your fingers and toes, purifying, spiritualising and transmuting the very atoms of your flesh with its spiritual radio-activity.

Then see it ascend and blend into and make you one with the Divine Flame that is pouring down upon you from above.

Then ascend in consciousness within the column of this Divine Light to the realms of Divine Consciousness where you lose yourself in Oneness with the Divine and think of the smile that the Divine One turns on all those who tune in to His consciousness through the aspirations of their hearts. And rest in the joy of that smile.

The above simple prayer is a most potent invocative force for calling down the Divine Light into us. Performing this ritual and prayer cannot but have a positive effect on the wellbeing of the individual and its positive effects should be felt immediately. Repeating rituals and prayers often, preferably in the same place and at the same time, strengthens such rituals. All things of the spirit are strengthened through repeated use. That these prayers were given directly from on High also increases their potency. They have also been used by thousands of people all over the world and by such Invocation one taps into a limitless source of Divine Blessing. Invoking and correlating with the Divine Fire is a most potent exercise.

GOD-IN-ACTION

Remember that this cosmic force of Divine Love is not a mere intellectual concept or metaphysical speculation, but is a mighty dynamic, cosmic, electronic force which you can wield consciously to attain definite ends if you will. It is literally God-in-action. But it will never force itself upon you or compel you to use it. It will never descend to manifest outwardly until it is first invited and invoked to manifest within and through you. And there is but one

⁴ Curtiss, *The Temple of Silence*, pp50-51

⁵ Curtiss, *The Inner Radiance*, p184, 185

⁶ Curtiss, *Why Are We Here?* p127,128

method of invoking it, and that is through your eager aspiration, your sincere love for and your fervent prayer for and devotion to it.

YOUR RADIATION

Once you have realized this Divine Love of the Christ within as a blazing white light so intense that you actually feel it thrilling and illuminating, warming and vitalizing you and radiating from you, then it will begin to accomplish its miracles for you. Stop now and meditate upon it that it may bring you the realization that Divine Love is truly God-in-action in your heart, in your mind, in your body, and in all your affairs.

AT YOUR COMMAND

Knowing that it is responsive to your direction, you can command it to surge through your body, penetrating and bathing every cell with its cleansing power, washing out all impurities and revitalizing every tissue and organ until every function is restored to normal and you manifest perfect, radiant and joyous health. (Of course you must cease creating the causes of ill health, such as wrong food combinations, faulty elimination, inharmonious thoughts, destructive emotions, etc. For details see *Four-Fold Health*, Curtiss). Then turn the current of this Divine Love into your mind, dissolving all negative or limiting ideas, all resistance to new and higher concepts of life and love, leaving your mind calm and receptive to inspiration and guidance from above.

PURIFIED EMOTIONS

Then turn it into your emotions, washing away all irritation, all antagonism toward, or envy or jealousy of others, leaving your feelings poised and quiescent and at sweet peace with all the world. If you have reason to believe that anyone is inharmonious or antagonistic toward you, do not resist or fight back, but simply bathe that one with wave after wave of the white Christ-love and see all his or her opposition dissolved and washed away, leaving only peace and harmony. If there is some material, physical problem, condition or obstacle that seems to block the path of your progress, focus your thought upon it and bathe it and all connected with it in the warm current of the Christ-love and you will see the opposition rapidly crumble and disappear or you will be shown how to solve the problem.⁷

This prayer also constitutes a strong *banishing ritual* that can be used when feeling down, depressed or if one feels under negative psychic influence or attack. The term, the Ring-Pass-Not, as described in detail in *Realms of the Living Dead* basically constitutes the physical, astral and mental aura of the individual. Such constitute the bodies of the individual and belong wholly to him. It is thus that any negative influence can readily be banished and removed from ones aura as any such influence goes against the free will of the individual, there where he should be utterly in command. Prayer has a mighty and mystical radio-active spiritual power which holds at bay and dissipates antagonistic forces. To the enemy it forms a barrier of living Light, something like a screen of fire-mist, through which they cannot penetrate, while to all who are striving to follow the Christ, it is like a benediction of blessing, comfort and protection.⁸

That such prayers and invocations engender definite spiritual currents can be attested to by millions of people from all spiritual denominations and walks of life. Indeed, it is hard to fathom how any spiritual development can take place without incorporating prayer into ones daily disciplines and exercises. It is also through sincere and ardent prayer, that an inner intuition develops, the small still voice which if listened to always leads to the right end. It has been scientifically proven many times over that the vitality of the body can be enhanced and increased through prayer, meditation, concentration and visualisation techniques. Such forms part of occult healing and psychology and is discussed in more detail in a further chapter. Therefore, daily prayer should be a part of our spiritual routine, for just as we have to look after our physical health, so must we also take care of our spiritual health.

⁷ Curtiss, *Why Are We Here?* p105,106

⁸ Curtiss, *The Inner Radiance*, p33

Not only is His force present, according to His promise, "Wherever two or three are gathered together in My name," but anyone can tune in to His consciousness and receive His help at any time if he will use the proper technique of the higher aspiration. For just as your love and mental wireless call for your discarnate friends reaches them and brings its response, just so surely does your love and your spiritual wireless call reach Him and bring His response.

These calls are not mere imagination or metaphysical speculation, but are actual currents of force which can be measured with appropriate instruments. In Washington we have a radionic instrument, using radio tubes, which measures vibrations up to fifty million cycles. (When radionics was in its infancy Ed.) With this instrument, in our experiments one day, we took the reading of Mrs. Curtiss' vitality index and found it to be well within the normal range at 37. We then repeated our Healing Prayer, and meditated for a few moments on contacting and being filled with the powers invoked. When we felt the answering vibration we took another reading of Mrs. Curtiss' vitality and found that it had risen from 37 to 48 just through the power of that prayer. Then I concentrated the force upon her more directly and her vitality rose still further, up to 60, or nearly double the normal reading! So you see that His force is so real that it can be physically demonstrated and scientifically measured.⁹

All prayers are received and listened to by a special class of Beings and workers. Depending on the sincerity and need of the prayer, and whether it is in line with the Karma of the individual prayed for, such prayer will be answered. And so we perform magic on a daily basis and are scarce conscious of the fact that prayer is indeed a magical invocative act. From the inspired work *Towards the Light*.¹⁰

To ev'ry spot on earth where prayers rise,
We quickly fly and carry them to heaven,
Descending swift with blessing from above,
We watch in patience by the bed of pain,
And guide the faltering steps of infant souls;
We fill the poet's dreams with wondrous beauty,
And bid him hear a strain of angel's songs.
His silent sobs We melt in harmony. . . .
His highest thought is but a gift from Us.

From that beautiful book by Owen, *Lowlands of Heaven*, we have:

You must know that there are appointed guardians of prayer here whose duty it is to analyse and sift prayers offered and sent up by those on earth, and separate them into divisions and departments; to pass them on to be examined by others and dealt with according to their merits and powers. . . .

In order that this may be done perfectly, it is necessary that we study the vibrations of prayer, as your scientists study the vibrations of light and sound, and as they are able to analyse and classify and separate the rays of light, so we are able to deal with your prayers. And as there are light rays with which they are confessedly unable to deal, so many prayers present to us those deeper tones which are beyond the range of our knowledge. These we pass on to those of higher grades, to be dealt with in their greater wisdom. And do not think that these prayers are always found among the prayers of the wise. They are frequently found in the prayers of children, whose petitions and sighs are as carefully considered as the prayers of nations. . . . And what applies to prayer, also may be applied to the exercise of the will in directions not so legitimate. Hate and impurity and greed, and other sins of the spirit and mind, take on here a solidity which is not seen or realized in your sphere: and these also are dealt with according to their merits. . . . and. . . . alas, those who say that the angels cannot grieve, know little of our love for our brethren still battling on earth. Could they see us dealing with some of these misusing's of the Father's great gift, they would probably love us more and exalt us less.¹¹

The following prayer is a powerful protective prayer that can be used for almost any occasion where a cleansing or protection is required. Such help may be for you

⁹ Curtiss, *Why Are We Here?*, p126

¹⁰ Karadja, *Towards the Light*, pp92-93

¹¹ Curtiss, *Personal Survival*, pp58-59

as an individual, your whole family or however the need is conceived. As it too is an Invocation to the Flame it comes with a stern warning!

PRAYER OF PROTECTION¹²

O Christ! Surround and fill us with the
 Flame of Divine Love and Wisdom,
 That it may purify, illumine and guide us in all things.
 May its Spiritual Fire form a rampart of
 Living Flame around us
 To protect us from all harm.
 May it radiate to every heart, consuming
 all evil and intensifying all good
 In the name of the Living Christ! Amen.

How to use the Prayer of Protection. In using the protecting Invocation, the pupil must be fully aware that he is touching a tremendous dynamic force. Hence, only as we recognize that the Ring of Fire is the very heart of creative substance which can create, preserve or destroy with equal force, is it safe to use it. Remembering this, we must maintain the reverent attitude of mind that is willing to take the consequences, i.e., that we hold a Love so holy that it will create in us a closer, more intimate and sensitive oneness with Divine Fire; that it will preserve in us this sensitiveness and destroy or take from us all that in us may impede our growth in godliness. Therefore, we must repeat this prayer reverently, knowing that carelessness may be disastrous. Never repeat it unthinkingly or carelessly.

The Prayers of the Order are transmutational and are invocations to assist with the inner alchemical process of regeneration. More of this in the next chapter.

It is a *Teaching of The Order of Christian Mystics*, as well as a deep mystery, that every night, during that phase of deep sleep (susupti) for which few can give an explanation as to the state of the soul, that we ascend and join with our Higher Self in the Divine. For if we did not bathe in the Radiance of our own personal Father-in-heaven on a daily basis we would wither and soon die. And in doing so, for that brief state, all is revealed to us that we have ever known and experienced. For in deep sleep, our third eye¹³ opens and we see and realize all. When we descend from that state down into dreamful sleep and down into wakefulness, we bring a little of this Divine Light with us into wakeful consciousness. Thus may we also explain that haunting feeling we have on waking up as from a feeling of indescribable bliss that soon fades with growing wakefulness. It is the final and ultimate aim of spiritual development to raise our consciousness to such a degree that we become conscious of that deep sleep state of susupti even during wakefulness. Thus will we have become one with our personal Father-in-heaven. As it is above, so is it below. Sleep can be seen as a death in miniature every night. And we enact this process consciously through deep meditation where we learn how “to die daily” and so make contact with the higher spheres. And just as we ascend to the higher spiritual realms after every life in our cycle of reincarnation, so do we do this every night we sleep and consciously every time we meditate. This Teaching is repeatedly given in *The Teachings of the Order* and is alluded to in the following prayer, to be performed before we go to sleep at night.

MIDNIGHT PRAYER¹⁴

O Divine Mother!
 I feel Thy Love enfolding me and surging through me
 As it breathes and pulsates throughout the Universe.
 Let the Waters of Life cleanse and purify me.

¹² Curtiss, *The Message of Aquaria*, p478, 155

¹³ Blavatsky, *Occultism of the Secret Doctrine*, p558

¹⁴ Curtiss, *The Divine Mother*, p28

Bring forth in me the fullness of thy Son, the Christ.
 As my consciousness is released in sleep.
 Open for me the door of Divine Consciousness,
 And bear me in Thine arms into the
 Presence of the Most High,
 That the Wisdom of Life may be expounded unto me.
 Beloved Mother!
 I surrender to Thee my thoughts, my desires, my will,
 And rest in peace upon Thy bosom.

This prayer is especially to be used at night when the forces of the sun have been withdrawn and the astral forces are sweeping closest and having the greatest power on earth, or whenever we are wakeful, restless and apprehensive.

The final goal of painfully walking the spiritual Path, of our sojourn here in the physical world, is to become so enlightened through life experience that we become once more acceptable to enter the Divine or Ecstatic Realms. As we once were a Unity with the Divine, our final reward is to achieve this state once more. And this state is achievable while we are in the flesh as attested to by the spiritual giants and Avatars of all times. For when we raise our keynote to such a refined and high vibration, our Higher Self or Real Self starts to manifest within us, whilst we are here on earth. We all have within us, as the most real and enduring part of our being a Divine Spark. And it is the manifestation of this Divinity within us, that 'must grow till it becomes a flame, which through Eternity will not be quenched.' This is the product of the Inner Alchemy and the War of Transmutation as will be described in the next chapter. Such Radiance has been noted by psychics and clairvoyants of all times and pictured by artists as the radiant halo surrounding the heads of saints and holy people. The following two prayers are Invocations to this Higher Self or Divine Indweller.

PRAYER TO THE DIVINE INDWELLER¹⁵

Come, O Lord of Life and Love and Beauty!
 Thou who art myself and yet art God!
 And dwell in this body of flesh,
 Radiating all the beauty of holiness and perfection,
 That the flesh may out-picture all that Thou art within!
 Even so, come, O Lord. Amen.

PRAYER TO THE LORD OF LIGHT¹⁶

O Lord of Divine Light, which is Life,
 The all-seeing Eye of Spirit, enter into me.
 Illumine every secret corner of my being.
 Fill this body of flesh with Thy life Divine.
 O Lord of Divine Love,
 Awaken my heart within me that it may answer
 To the dulcet harmony of Thy love divine.
 O Lord of Celestial Beauty,
 Radiate through all my being, so that even in my flesh
 I shall out-picture the beauty of holiness.

The following excerpt from *The Love of Rabiacca*, a mystical play as recovered psychically by a sensitive of the Order, is put forth to show the powers of Invocation when used aright and to give to the reader a feeling of the forces that flow when such invocations to higher beings are made. In this instance the Invocation is made to thwart the evil intentions of a sorceress in league with evil powers and

¹⁵ Curtiss, *The Message of Aquaria*, p479

¹⁶ Curtiss, *Potent Prayers*, p33

the ritual is performed by a High Priestess on behalf of one of her subjects. Note the Invocation to the Flame and the open sun-worship. This ritual was performed in the ancient and mystical Temple of the Sun in the city of Iztamal, Teotihuacan, far back in the mists of time before the Central American civilisations turned to evil ways which brought about their ultimate destruction. This ritual can rightly be classified to belong to the branch of Ceremonial Magic, which is but prayer, or invocation in another form.

“But I will help thee, Rabiacca. ‘Tis but thy right to wed with Zanzibaris. And I, the Sun God’s bride, will aid thee by my power from on high. . . . All the mighty force that I do gain from yonder sinking sun, my Lord, my God, will I exert to foil that sorceress’ plot, and bring to thee thy happiness. . . .

From time to time she cast into the flame certain mystic herbs, whose pungent, aromatic odours seemed to exalt the higher faculties of her soul to ecstasy. With each herb she repeated mantram, and with the last, shaking free the folds of her flowing robe, she raised her arms to the now glowing symbol of the sun, and half prayed, half chanted the solemn invocation of the Fire Sacrifice.

“Ascending Flame, within whose all-encircling arms all substance must be dissolved, all lower forces transmuted into the all-creating force of Love, let Thy hot breath burn ‘round my trembling soul, and consume all earthly dross. Let Thy purifying heat transmute into godlike love all my mortal thoughts, that I, Thy Priestess, may stand on earth Thy virgin bride, unsullied e’en by a thought of mortal love, as stand those souls, who, after many lives and many funeral burnings, at last attain perfection.

“O Thou great and glorious One! to whom all men turn in time of need! Thou wondrous embodiment of the all-creative power that dwelleth in our sun! Accept, we pray, the incense of these our burnt offerings. And as the potent force of life, imprisoned by Thee within these herbs, ascends to its divine Creator, so mayest ascend to Thine embrace the adoration of this humble heart and the service of this my life.

“As the tongues of flame shrivel up the form and transmute the substance of these herbs that their soul-force may be set free, so may the Divine Creative Fire of these two hearts, Thy children Zanzibaris and Rabiacca, joined by the force of pure mortal love and watered with the rain of perfect sympathy and due respect, purge from their minds the dross of earthly passion and flow forth creative and ennobling unto a future life.

“Accept, we beseech Thee, the sacrifice of all earthly joy in the person of this, Thy Priestess, and give to them the happiness of perfect love on earth that through its mystic power they may evolve to mastery. Accept, O great God of Fire, the body, the life, the soul of this Thy Priestess, and let her life be even as the withered herbs, that the divine spark of their united lives may ever fly straight up to be at one with Thee. Send down Thy swift, pure ray into their souls, that they may see Thee face to face and worship Thee aright.

“Thus as the warmth and the light and the force of Thy outer breath hath made these herbs to grow and bloom, so may Thy inner breath perfect and bring to birth their inner selves. Seven times, O Glorious One, did I cast into the Flame the seven herbs of power. Three times doth Thy Priestess prostrate herself before Thine altar that Thou mayest accept the living sacrifice so freely made that Love may reign supreme.”¹⁷

The High Priestess offers here also a sacrifice, off all her earthly joy, making of herself a living sacrifice to the Most High, in order to effect the desired result. And so it is in all development of the spirit, for as we selflessly sacrifice all we have, these sacrifices but come back to us in the form of pure spiritual gold, freedom from all earthly dross.¹⁸ The outcome of the above is the death of both the evil sorceress as well as the departure of the spirit of the High Priestess, for in the encounter with the evil sorceress her body is thrust through with a sword. It is said that her body, barely alive, is kept in suspended animation, a secret known to the Ancients, awaiting her resurrection and return to this world once more, to lift up her nation through the light of her inspiration.

¹⁷ Curtiss, *The Love of Rabiacca*, pp22, 29-32

¹⁸ Curtiss, *The Message of Aquaria*, Chapter XXI

In the manifestation we have a physical, astral and mental body or vehicle and in a balanced unfolding of the spirit all three these vehicles are developed. Naturally the mind is the highest of these vehicles and it is thus that from all the Masters we are taught to master the mind and guard our thoughts. For thus do we grow and gather the most light. The mind is also the most enduring of our manifested bodies, the personality, astral body or emotions coming to an end in the reincarnation cycle. For when we descend from the higher realms down into reincarnation we bring with us our mental body or character, which endures throughout a cosmic age, and are given a brand new astral body as well as a physical body. Yet in balanced spiritual development we need to look after our emotional or astral development as well, and prayer and devotion, our aspiration to the Divine, is a way to achieve a higher contact.

. . . but that is not enough. For man has more than a mind to satisfy. He has a heart also. And that heart hungers for the spiritual food of love and a realization of God as a personal experience, just as the mind hungers for the intellectual food of logical explanations of laws and phenomena of the world we see around us. Hence, something more than mere physical demonstration is necessary for complete Soul-satisfaction. A higher contact is necessary.¹⁹

And this higher contact is enshrined in each human heart as a direct Ray of Himself, our personal Father-in-heaven, our Higher Self or our Real Self.

Prayer is generally used as a personal tool for personal spiritual development. Yet it is also used most effectively as a collective tool by larger groups to achieve definite ends. It can be used by a community to pray for rain, for healthy crops, for peace, for tolerance, on behalf of a group, a nation and even the wellbeing of the planet. During the First World War (then called the Great War) the Order of Christian Mystics instituted a world wide prayer service in order to help end the great conflict. The effect of such organized group thought forms and visualization is well described throughout the volume *Realms of the Living Dead*.

. . . seen not only in religious services and mass-prayer action, in which spiritual forces are invoked to vitalize and make more powerful the thought-forces, but is also seen in aroused public opinion so-called, but which is simply the aggregation of similar thought-forms directed toward a definite end. Its compelling action is so great that it can quickly settle a coal strike or even the recent great "general strike" in England, the constructive thought-forms generated for the common good neutralizing and finally overpowering the personal and selfish thought-forms of individuals or smaller groups.

The gradual aggregation of the thought-forms of both temperance and woman's suffrage, generated at first by a handful of altruistic and far-seeing Souls, but persistently repeated and endowed with positive will and great spiritual power, at last swept the whole nation and finally amended the Constitution of the United States! During the World War, after "The Order of Christian Mystics" had inaugurated a world-wide noon-day prayer service for peace among its pupils throughout the world, the idea was taken up by many churches and other organizations, and within a few weeks the lust for war and the will to fight of the Central Powers was neutralized and overcome by the Will for Peace thus consciously generated. The Central Powers then made overtures for an armistice, not because they could not have fought on for months so far as guns, ammunition and supplies were concerned, but because of a so-called "loss of morale," both in the ranks and at home. This was a purely psychological reaction which produced the concrete result which saved millions of human lives and reshaped history and human destiny.²⁰

The following prayer for world peace as used by *The Order of Christian Mystics* was given to the Order directly from on High by their Teacher. When such prayers or mantrams have with them the subtle high vibrations and Divine substance, they become exceedingly powerful invocations, the effects of which are attested to. *The Order of Christian Mystics* made use of a similar system to pray in a group for

¹⁹ Curtiss, *Why Are We Here?*, p116

²⁰ Curtiss, *Realms of the Living Dead*, p306

people with illness and health problems over many years, with striking results as discussed in the chapter on *Spiritual Hygiene and Occult Psychology*.

PRAYER FOR WORLD PEACE

O Thou glorious Source of all life, light and love, our Lord God Almighty! from whose heart the Ray of Spirit in each mortal is sprung! let the realization of our oneness in Thee descend upon our hearts as heavenly dew, refreshing our souls!

May the love of God and the fellowship of all mankind, without regard to race, creed or condition so fill our hearts and minds that each will gladly unite his forces for the attainment of peace, fellowship and cooperation amongst men.

May all persons and classes and nations cease their conflicts, and unselfishly strive for peace and good-will, that world peace may speedily be attained.

Let the calm of Thy eternal peace, which passeth all intellectual understanding, envelop us with its divine serenity. May it quiet the turmoil of our minds, and the conflict of our desires, dissolve our fears, and reveal to us the essential brotherhood of all mankind.

Thus shall the power of Thy loving Spirit bring victory over all opposition to the establishment of Thy peace on earth, and good-will among mankind. Amen.

Pause after each sentence and meditate upon it. Visualize its radiance going out to envelop all mankind. See the radiance which this Prayer invokes dispelling the dark clouds of inharmony and war as the Sun dispels fog, and stimulating the growth of the good in each heart as the Sun stimulates the growth of the sprout when the fog has been dispelled and the Sun can perform its constructive work.²¹

In the times we live in we have so many people and seekers that are waking up to the higher possibilities that a life of spiritual awareness can bring to them in their own personal unfoldment. Yet they are exposed to unending sources, teachings and books, giving hundreds and thousands of disciplines, formulas and exercises that will assist in this 'unfoldment' and bring to them occult powers, but after trying this and that, running here and there, they find themselves much the same as when they started off. For no occult powers have developed and they feel themselves let down by all these promises of glory. We should never strive to develop occult powers, for in the untrained they are a curse and not a blessing as made out to be. Such faculties will develop due to normal, step by step spiritual development, at its own pace and in its own time. When you are ready, and can be trusted with the responsibility that such powers bring, they will come as surely as the sun will rise tomorrow. Yet, if the aspiring heart asks for something practical to do in his occult studies, we cannot recommend more strongly to the seeker to incorporate in his daily life the power of prayer. Try it then as a scientific experiment and see the results for yourself, for prayer opens the door to your understanding and therefore your soul unfoldment.

Spiritual development is, therefore, the unfoldment from within, firstly, of the realization of all this and, secondly, a persistent effort to manifest it in our lives. For altho most of us have vague haunting memories of our Father's home of glory, and of the great and eager desire which led us to offer ourselves as volunteers to come into this world of spiritual darkness to uplift, conquer and subdue it and make it a fitting kingdom for "our Lord and his Christ," we fail to apply these memories to our daily lives. We often awake from deep sleep feeling that we have had experiences of unspeakable glory, and for days we may feel something we cannot express hovering over and inspiring us, yet, unless we understand that this is the result of our momentary union with the Divine in heaven, and of our being filled with the glory of the Sun of Righteousness that we may radiate it in our lives, we will not be able to make the most of it. Such glimpses are given to all from time to time, whether fully recognized or not; else we could scarce endure our exile on this dark star. And always, as we return to Earth for a new incarnation, we bring this haunting memory of our spiritual home with us.²²

²¹ Curtiss, *The Philosophy of War*, 3rd edition, pp16-17

²² Curtiss, *The Message of Aquaria*, p465

The following prayer is a beautiful communication as entrusted to the consciousness of Mrs. Curtiss whilst she was in full waking consciousness. It is pregnant with occult meaning.

THE GARDEN OF PRAYERS²³

Invocation. *Evening Prayer.* O Divine and loving Father, as we rest through the darkness on thy breast, help us to draw close to thee in love, and to realize the Almighty power of thy divine Son filling and comforting us. For as the earth and air retain the magnetic and life-giving forces of the sun to bring forth for the new day as it withdraws each night, so may we retain in our Souls through the darkness the light and warmth of his shining, knowing that as the sun rises for the new day we too shall rise stronger, truer, sweeter and more beautiful because we have rested in thy love in abiding faith and trust.

In the fair Fields of Asphodel prayers grow like flowers. Some are prayers of anguish from hearts that are breaking. And, oh, they are crimson red! Yet out of the centre of each a golden stamen points upward, bringing down the Divine Radiance into the very heart of passion or sorrow, stilling them.

There are the prayers that are lisped by baby lips, "God bless mama and papa." These are tiny violets and daisies, so sweet and pure and beautiful, nodding their little heads in hundreds of thousands all over the grass.

Then there are stately lilies, so pure and white. They are the prayers of the saints whose hearts have been purified from all earth desires. There are beautiful roses too. These are the prayers of those passionate lovers who have learned to know and to dwell in beautiful love. They pour out their hearts in adoration like the perfume of the rose. Oh! How beautiful are these fields!

Prayers for success are grand and stately flowers with long stalks standing up straight and high, with flowers all down the sides, many, many flowers. Some are white with golden centres. And some are purple and blue and crimson according to their ideal. But the most beautiful are those that have within their hearts little golden stamens. And every time the Winds of Heaven blow the bright dust of their golden pollen showers down upon mankind. Why, you ask? Because these are the prayers that have asked success and blessing for all the world. So the showers of golden dust fall upon all. And where'er they fall and find lodgement they bring happiness and success.

Selfish prayers for mere worldly success are not allowed to grow in these fields. We call them weeds. We go out and pull them up and cast them back to earth and say to the children of earth: "Take back your prayers, they are not worthy of place in this Garden. They come back to you to be readjusted. Gather them up. They belong only in the soil of earth. Readjust them." For only when so readjusted can such prayers grow into beautiful flowers in the Fields of Asphodel.

Sometimes selfish prayers force success, like hothouse flowers of untimely bloom. These the angels pluck and throw back to earth. Such success as may thus be gained is but of the earth and only for the moment: only while the flowers thus plucked endure. They have no root in heaven.

The prayers that demand and demand and insist upon their fulfilment without saying, "Not my will, but thine be done," are also weeds, bitter weeds and rank. Their answer seems to come because they grow a little, but their flowers soon fall and give place to bitter fruit which often purges those who planted and must eat.

The prayers that the Great Gardener loves are those which create the beautiful Flowers of Immortality. They are prayers of gratitude and thankfulness; the recognition of what you really are; the accepting of all your blessings with joy. Those are the greatest prayers of all, the prayers of thankfulness and joy; when you accept your blessings and realize how your Father loves you and how glad he is to see that you understand and permit him to help you.

Take then your blessings and laugh back into his face like glad flowers nodding joyously back to the sun. Say, "O my Father! I am so happy because you love me and give me that which you know is best for me, except when I demand for self alone."

During the act of prayer, which is invocative in nature, we make our needs and ourselves known to Those above. They in turn respond, often by a personal visit. This can take on the form of a concentrated brilliant white light, often moving,

²³ Curtiss, *Realms of the Living Dead*, pp279-281, An Independent Communication

which presents itself to our psychic vision, or it can be a feeling of warmth and a tingling all over the body. More often, such visitation is done by the sense of smell, and can be attested to by many. Astral perfumes are often smelled by sensitives, such perfumes often indicate the presence of some spiritual Being whose emanations naturally has the “odour of sanctity.”²⁴

Also when the Great Teachers desire to approach a pupil, the pupil should have every sense alert to detect their presence. If acute, the sense of smell can be readily utilised by a Master, often only a waft of the Master’s characteristic perfume being given as a signal to the pupil of his presence. . . . The Masters need no perfumes to attract Them, hence the use of any perfume on the person such as sandalwood, etc. is worse than useless, the perfume of love, aspiration and devotion arising from a pure heart being all that is necessary.

Man must attain a kind of faith, a living faith in the workings of the Great Law, that everything is as it should be. And once we have attained to this faith we can face any condition that is sent to test us and be carried safely through. For the spiritual path is a thorny path as will be shown in the next chapter and through an innate belief in the efficacy of prayer, much comfort and courage will come to us. It is also through ardent and sincere prayer and devotion that we start to develop an inner intuition (tuition or teaching from within) and as we progress step by step and day by day, our mystical centres start to open. Then there comes a surety, a calm inner conviction which quiets all doubts, even though we may not be unfolded enough to hear the Inner Voice.

True prayer therefore is an aspiration of the Soul for union with the Divine. All prayers to be effective must be accompanied by intense aspiration to contact God. It is a ray of spiritual force from the heart which penetrates up through all the lower realms of the invisible worlds to the spiritual realm with which it affinitizes, the highest the development of the aspirant can reach. But it has to reach up at least into the fourth sphere before it can contact the Higher Teachers, Masters, Devas and other angelic Beings. They will come down halfway to meet you, but you must also reach up to meet them half-way. This is why selfish and insincere prayers never reach higher than the earth-bound realms, hence apparently unanswered. For the angelic helpers have no knowledge of you and your needs until you tune in to the high vibrations of Their consciousness.²⁶

PRAYER FOR DEMONSTRATION

I am a child of the Living God.
I have within me the all-creating power of the Christ.
It radiates from me and blesses all I contact.
It is my Health, my Strength, my Courage.
My Patience, my Peace, my Poise.
My Power, my Wisdom, my Understanding.
My Joy, my Inspiration, and my Abundant Supply.
Unto this great Power I entrust all my problems,
Knowing they will be solved in Love and Justice.

(Here mention all financial and physical problems pertaining to your outer life, environment and *worldly affairs* with which you desire guidance and help, that they may work out *in the way that shall be best* for you. Meditate a moment on each until visualized, then conclude with the following words): O Lord Christ! I have laid upon Thine altar all my wants and desires. I know Thy love, Thy wisdom, Thy power and Thy graciousness. In Thee I peacefully rest, knowing that all is well. Not my will but Thine be done.

²⁴ Curtiss, *The Inner Radiance*, p202

²⁵ Curtiss, *The Key of Destiny*, p163

²⁶ Curtiss, *Four-Fold Health*, p97,98

(For a full exposition on the above prayer, see Chapter XII, Children of the Household in *The Message of Aquaria*).

We close of this chapter with a most beautiful and potent prayer as was found in the back pages of a rare edition of *Letters from the Teacher Volume 1*. Nowhere else does this prayer make an appearance through-out the manifold works of the Order. It is put forth by an unknown woman by the name of Margaret Doane. We can but only assume that she was a pupil of the Order.²⁷

Of all supplications voiced by man through-out the ages, the one and supreme call that holds within itself full completion of each individual soul unfoldment, is the prayer, "Not My Will, Oh God, But Thine Be Done."

To pray this prayer without ceasing, and with our whole attention focused on our Christ Spirit within, is to open the way for God to manifest Himself through us in His own perfect way.

Every life squared by the rule of God's Will cannot help but show forth miracles and wonders past all believing. Take for your daily prayer and eternal dedication the following. It is all inclusive. Using it you have obeyed the commandment, "Take My Yoke Upon You and Learn of Me," and having put everything up to the God-Self within you, this God-Self, being trusted and proved, will not fail in a single jot or tittle in filling full the measure of your whole life.

This is a personal prayer for the unfoldment of our own individual Christ Self. It embodies complete surrender of each to the "Will" of the Master Creator, Maintainer, and Sustainer (God), and in this surrender the way is open for the God in us to do greater works of which Jesus Christ made mention. There is no greater prayer that man can pray than that God's Will be done in him, through him, by him, and for him, and there is no greater blessing that can be bestowed upon us than that which flows from the doing of God's Will as it is revealed by the Christ within. Seek ye now your own Christ and learn of Him.

Each morning, after first giving thanks for the blessing of endless life everywhere manifesting, turn within to your own Christ Self-God manifest in you, and say:

THE SUPREME PRAYER

Infinite Spirit of Divine Love, My God and My Father, I thank and bless Thee
for this golden day in Thy endless eternity. As this day is perfect, so, too, am I perfect,
for I and My Father Are One.

And as Thou didst foresee this day from the beginning, and hath prepared for all its needs, I
do acknowledge this glorious preparation and accept all things with joy and thanksgiving.

Therefore, throughout all this day and forever more.

"Let Thy Desires be My Desires. Let Thy Thoughts be My Thoughts. Let the words of

My Mouth be Thy words, and let the Action of my entire being be the expression of
Thy Holy Spirit working in me, through me, by me and for me, at all times, in all places,
under all circumstances, and before all people, according to Thy Perfect Will concerning
me, and the Divine Design of my Life which Thou didst conceive for me when Thou didst
conceive me within Thyself in Glory before the world was. I thank Thee Father, that even
before I have asked, it has been done unto me. Amen.

(To supplement this Chapter see also, Curtiss, *Personal Survival*, Chapter VI, Effects of Prayer).

²⁷ Curtiss, *Letters from the Teacher Volume 1*, Unique Prayer Insert

CHAPTER IV

INNER ALCHEMY AND THE WAR OF TRANSMUTATION

“The world is a field of battle where liberty struggles with inertia by the opposition of active force.”

Transcendental Magic, Levi, 31.

“It is only by the attractive force of the contrasts that the two opposites Spirit and Matter can be cemented together on Earth, and, smelted in the fire of self-conscious experience and suffering, find themselves wedded in Eternity. This will reveal the meaning of many hitherto incomprehensible allegories, foolishly called ‘fables.’”

Blavatsky, *The Secret Doctrine*, Vol. II, 108.

“This is the Order of Transmutation or Alchemy. . . . attention is given to the transmutation of all the baser qualities, including the elements or inner forces of all life, into the spiritual gold of Regeneration through the power of Divine Love. . . . The Object of these Orders of Evolution is the spiritualization of matter after the crucifixion is completed”

Curtiss, *The Key of Destiny*, p202, *The Voice of Isis*, p56

In this work we will but touch briefly on a Divine Reality, that of the Spiritual Sun, and to the changes that take effect on the neophyte and spiritual seeker who consciously enters the Path and what the practical outcome may be for those of us who attempt to lead the Higher Life. Such a chapter as this can but skim the surface as it were of a subject so vast, and an experience and result so transcendental and Divine, that it has been the object of study for all seekers bent on discovering the secrets of the Eternal. These Teachings are aimed at the inner spiritual unfoldment of the seeker, to awaken within him *The Inner Life* and thereby to enter into the more inner realms of the occult. So must each aspirant make it his business to work on himself to transmute his whole being, physical, astral (emotional), and mental (mind) and so draw closer to his personal Father-in-heaven, his Higher Self, the Spiritual Sun or the Almighty.

In all presentations of religion much is said of a re-birth, a change of heart, a renewed life and so forth, yet little is taught exoterically as to the process or the laws of its attainment. Such a vital change is not a chance occurrence or merely a vague mystical dream, the result of strong emotion, crowd hysteria or even of religious contemplation alone. It comes as the result of definite growth, the working out of a definite law of Nature and in accord with the cyclic law of the individual.

The Path of Discipleship is, indeed, a difficult and strenuous one, firstly, because a disciple must be one who is not merely a vague follower of his Master or his chosen ideal, but is one who endeavours to embody that ideal in all the affairs of his daily life. Secondly, the Path is difficult because the disciple is definitely seeking to advance more rapidly than the rate afforded by the slow and sluggish evolutionary path of racial evolution which gradually sweeps the great mass of humanity along through the ages, ultimately sweeping them to the foot of the Mount of Attainment where they must then consciously begin to climb its heights. This Path is difficult because the disciple must accomplish, in the few years of this incarnation, the advance for which the race requires ages. The Path is also difficult because the disciple must rise above the crowd and enter into, and be affected by, and respond to, new and higher octaves of vibration. For he is starting out on a higher round on the Spiral of Life where he must again meet the same problems and face the same tests that he has met and passed on the lower rounds years ago. Here he must prove that those former lessons were really learned and

¹ Curtiss, *The Message of Aquaria*, p416

that their powers were really built into his character. But he now faces these tests with a more sensitive organism which reacts more strongly to them. Yet he also has the greater strength gained by passing those tests at the lower stages of his unfoldment.²

The system of mysticism as put forth by the Order is one of Invocation and it is a central *Teaching of the Order* that we should bathe ourselves in the Divine Light on a daily basis through *prayer, meditation, aspiration, proper breathing and radiation* in speech and conduct. As we try to manifest more of the god-man within us, our Higher Self or personal Father-in-heaven will start to make Himself heard in our life. And it is a fully *legitimate* system in the occult to invoke our Divine Indweller by using such prayers as *The Prayer for Light* and the *Prayer to the Divine Indweller* as given in a previous chapter and through-out the works of the Order. Therefore the system of mysticism as given out by the Order is one that can safely be practised by all, for most today have to strive without the help of a personal teacher.

“... we should visualize our Real self, not as a finite mortal, but as a great and glorious immortal spiritual being. . . . overshadowing us and endeavouring to find ever greater and greater expression through us, according to our recognition of and response to His Divine guidance. We should picture Him so radiant with the spiritual emanations of His divinity that He is bathed in a dazzling white light which pours down over us, fills our aura and thus surrounds us with its snowy-whiteness, much as though we were encased in a giant bottle of snowy white glass.”

This teaching is aptly represented by the Tarot card of *The Lovers*,³ as put forth in the Rider-Waite pack and others. And so we may kindle the fires within us and start the transmutation or inner alchemical process in our life and consciously enter the spiritual Path. And by consciously we mean, that once we are aware of our Divine birthright, and the end to be attained, we can grasp the end from the beginning, and consciously work on with that end in view.

Such quest, or entering the Path, has been the aim and goal of Alchemists through-out the ages. And true Alchemy has always been an Inner Alchemy, the transmutation of man himself as the vessel to raise his vibration to a higher keynote. The heat of the furnace being nothing less than the aspirations of the seeker bringing him closer to the Spiritual Sun. The furnace being the earth plane or school of life in which the aspirant finds himself. Through his aspirations he brings himself closer to the Divine realms, in which burns the All-Consuming-Fire. As he comes into closer and closer union with his divine Higher Self he is more and more washed in the blood of the Christ and enabled to take up the conditions and Karma of the past with greater comprehension and greater power and thus work with the great Law of Karma to straighten out and adjust the legacy of the past in the life of the present. And it is through this Cosmic Fire, and calling it down to and into him, that man purifies and redeems himself, and makes of his being a living sacrifice to the Almighty.

Holy Fire from on High,
Enter in and purify.
Burn the dross and cleanse from sin,
Make me pure and true within.⁴

It is this Holy Fire which is the Key to the Secret for the neophyte to enter the inner degrees of occultism and so to consciously accelerate his spiritual development above that of the average seeker. And once it is firmly grasped, deep within

² Curtiss, *The Mystic Life*, pp35-36

³ Curtiss, *The Key to the Universe*, pp214-216

⁴ Curtiss, *The Inner Radiance*, p176

his own being, to the initiate is revealed the true and grand Mystery, *that man himself is the mystery*. For the average person grows spiritually at the pace that the Race grows, slowly, and by the law of growth and evolution. But for some, the Divine Spark within him burns bright, and he seeks consciously to accelerate his own unfoldment, to the degree that his karma and life circumstance permits.⁵ For such is his right, as he was given free-will by the Almighty. Know ye not that ye are gods? Claim then your birth right and enter the Path.

“Nearly all ancient names for God include in their meaning the idea of fire. Hence, a universal belief in the sacredness of fire, and its connection with the manifestation of a mysterious power greater and more incomprehensible than all other manifestations in Nature, is older than recorded history. It is common to all religions, from the dumb adoration of primitive man, awed and mystified by its power, down through the ages in every clime and in every form of worship. The Christian religion is no exception; in fact, so full of references to fire and the Flame are the Christian scriptures that well might they be classed by a foreign investigator with the religion of the Parsees and other Fire Worshipers. But it must not be concluded that, either in the Christian religion or any other form of so-called “fire-worship,” the physical fire itself is worshiped any more than the cross can be said to be worshiped by Christians. And a symbol so universal to all mankind must have a vital spiritual significance. It is the recognition of fire as the most awe-inspiring manifestation of Deity, or, speaking metaphorically, fire and Flame are an outer garment of the Divine. We are told that “Our God is a consuming fire,”⁶ and of the Ancient of Days it is said: “His Throne was like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire. A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him.”⁷ Job, in speaking of the Great Initiator, says: “Out of his mouth go burning lamps and sparks of fire leap out. . . . His breath kindleth coals, and a flame goeth out of his mouth.”⁸ “The light of Israel shall be for a fire and his Holy One for a flame.”⁹ David tells us that “The Voice of the Lord divideth the flames of fire.”¹⁰ Jesus said: “I am come to send fire on earth,”¹¹ and of Him John the Baptist said: “He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire.”¹² Hundreds of other references to fire and the Flame make it very plain that the inspired writers of both the Old and New Testaments were fully aware that the Mystery of the Flame is the Mystery of God and of all creation.¹³

If the physical sun can bring up out of the mire of Earth all kinds of beautiful flowers, healing herbs and foods for man’s physical well-being, how much greater is the power of the Spiritual Sun to bring up out of the mire of man’s lower self, out of his bitter experiences, his evil creations, sin, sickness and death, the beautiful flowers of spiritual unfoldment which were implanted by God as seeds in man?

Just as the Light and heat of the Sun bring to Nature God’s divine power as a manifestation of Cosmic Light and Life, so hidden in the symbol of the Flame is the secret of man’s spiritual quickening; his spiritual growth and unfoldment; his testings and purifying burnings, which are so necessary until his heart has become like a diamond, pure and limpid, yet firm and unswerving, *a Sun in miniature*. But only through contact with the fiery Flame of Divine Love can man transmute the particles of earth which compose his physical body into a matrix in which the pure Spiritual Flame can be focused and all else excluded, so that like the ingredients from which the diamond is slowly formed when mysteriously incased in its matrix, the earthly desires and selfish thoughts may be consumed in the glowing Flame of Divine Love until the heart becomes a jewel of great price, pure and colorless, holding in its depths the pure White Light, yet shedding forth every colored ray of manifestation.”¹⁴

⁵ Curtiss, *Letters from the Teacher Vol II*, pp36-38

⁶ Hebrews, xii, 29

⁷ Daniel, vii, 9

⁸ Job, xli, 19-21

⁹ Isaiah, x, 17

¹⁰ Psalms, xxix, 7

¹¹ Luke, xii, 49

¹² Matthew, iii, 11

¹³ Curtiss, *The Message of Aquaria*, pp294-295

¹⁴ Curtiss, *The Message of Aquaria*, pp295-296

While comparatively few minds have embodied sufficient of the Fire of Illumination to be able directly to grasp and express the high ideals and inspirations of the Real or Spiritual Man, nevertheless all are gradually learning to do so more and more in each incarnation, according to the degree of spiritualization their minds have attained. This is not an attainment which comes automatically, but is something that must be striven for more or less consciously in each incarnation.

If we seek continually for our Divine Guidance, through prayer and aspiration, looking inward and upward instead of outward and downward, and responding more to the within than to the without, we will fill our minds with mentoids or corpuscles of a far higher and more spiritual quality which can and will respond to the higher Spiritual Fire and allow our minds to be released from limitations of the lower fires, and thus enable our spiritual consciousness to guide and control all our thoughts and emotions and therefore all the words and acts of the human personality.

Every prayer and aspiration, every effort to live up to our highest ideals, every effort to express peace, love, joy and happiness builds more and more spiritualised mentoids into our minds. And as these grow in number and displace the mentoids which respond only to the lower fires, we experience the warm glow of love, brotherhood, compassion and unselfishness and finally the fire of spiritual exaltation and ecstasy.

Thus, to the degree of our sincere aspirations and efforts to follow our Divine Guidance do we draw down and build into our minds actual atoms of Spiritual Fire whose spiritual radio-activity will so purify and transmute the lower atoms of both our minds and our bodies that they will both rejoice to respond to and express the Divine Fire of our Real or Spiritual Self so that without the usual resistance and opposition of the lower atoms we will do His will on Earth even as it is done in heaven

It is not surprising then that the very heart of all great religions springs from the thought of Fire in one form or another, from the worship of the Sun as its source and the adoration of the perpetual Flame upon the altars of the Ancients to the Christian statement that "Our God is a consuming fire." And even today in the highest form of Fire, namely Divine Radiance which is Divine Life or Spiritual Fire, it still finds its place in our worship and is represented in many symbolic forms. The gift of Fire, as represented in the myth of Prometheus and the sufferings he endured as a result of bringing Fire to man, is the crux of all the various myths of the sacred Sun Gods.¹⁵

As to what is meant by the Nirmanakaya body, it actually means a body of spiritual fire. In reality, as we tread the Path of Discipleship and one by one overcome our faults and failings and draw closer and closer to the Divine Light of the Christos, we literally change the atoms of our bodies from mere atoms of earthly forces into fire atoms. It is not fire in the sense of something that consumes and burns up, but spiritual fire. As we go on, life after life, conquering and building in these fire atoms, there comes a time in some incarnation when all the atoms of our bodies are thus turned into spiritual fire.

Then we are said to put on the Nirmanakaya body, or the fire or spiritual body. In other words, we have redeemed the flesh. But we do not do this all at once. As we have said, it takes many incarnations. However, if we are earnest and sincere and determined, we do, in each life, redeem a certain number of atoms. Then in our next incarnation this number will be built around the sacred centers, until there does come a time when they are all redeemed. When this time comes we are no longer subject to physical death because we are no longer of the earth earthly, but have become the Master of conditions. This fire body is therefore the spiritual body of Mastery and of the perfected Super-man who is clothed with a spiritual body, the atoms of which are spiritual fire.¹⁶

¹⁵ Curtiss, *The Inner Radiance*, p209

¹⁶ Curtiss, *Letters from the Teacher Vol II*, p224

Yet many are called and few may enter. But he who has a pure aspiration, cannot fail to progress. And it is here that the wheat and the chaff are separated, for wrongful and a false sense of aspiration leads the aspirant down winding roads, to be retraced in pain and sorrow, but he who is sincere, cannot fail to make progress.

The Teachings of the Order were put forth to cater for a more advanced seeker than those who belonged to the regular sects and societies of the time. Yet, as their pupils were spread far and wide, their methods and teachings given, were by all intents and purposes quite safe to be practiced by all. Their writings and prayers were formulated in the higher realms as mantras to be used on all occasions to invoke this Cosmic Fire and so to 'burn the dross and cleanse from sin,' and purify its aspirants who belonged to all walks of life. So were planted the seeds that are to form the basis of the new religion expected to be founded by the coming Avatar.

A simple philosophy is given and espoused, eminently practical and accessible, that can be followed by all, to make accessible the secrets of old, but couched in simple language. A beautiful promise, that excludes no-one, is given as follows:

"... no matter how many skirmishes are lost, if you persistently follow the Light of your highest Ideal, be it ever so primitive to others, it will lead you step by step to ultimate victory."¹⁷

Such are *The Teachings of the Order*. The quest for spiritual transmutation and regeneration of the various bodies of man to respond to a higher keynote have been the subject of writings of a multitude of authors, occultists and seekers since time immemorial. And all such writings but point the way to a central concept that can only be grasped to the degree of unfoldment of the seeker. This is why we have certain books and writings that can be read many times over, and each time new truths are revealed to the reader, depending on his unfoldment. It can also be stated positively that all divinely inspired writings have manyfold layers of truth to suit each and every aspirant. For the concept of which the aspirant is not yet prepared to grasp will pass him by without his notice. Yet at a point in time, when he has experienced certain life lessons, or when through astral instruction during sleep he has learned certain things, the truth of the teaching will be grasped and internalized.

"With each increase of our ability to appreciate the magnitudes of the divine plan, we are said to be reborn. . . . Each will discover in the writing that which he himself knows, he will interpret it according to that which he himself is, and he will apply it according to that which he himself desires."¹⁸

This but shows that the divine truths and teachings are and have always been available to all and through proper meditation on spiritual matters, the next teaching that will assist the seeker onwards will make itself available "when the pupil is ready."

The subject of spiritual regeneration can only be experienced to be understood. It is here that we must add our whole life, a living sacrifice, into the regenerating fire of the Spiritual Sun, and we must be prepared to let go of all hampering conditions, be this our possessions, even our most treasured thoughts and emotions. For *all* has to be transmuted to respond to a higher keynote, not just a few base qualities here and there, a feat attainable by even the most ignorant brute.

At the outbreak of the first world war many of the students of *The Order of Christian Mystics* asked for an explanation as to Why War? And to what purpose? *The Teacher of the Order* responded in what became a full book publication, *The Philosophy of War*. Here it was pointed out that all physical expression (such as a physical war on the earth plane) has its more subtle counterpart in the higher realms. The discourse is very informative and explains in simple and plain language

¹⁷ Curtiss, *The Philosophy of War*, 1st Edition, p21

¹⁸ Manly P. Hall, *The Most Holy Trinosophia*, 1933, pp89-90

the karmic implications of the group and individual and how these are to be paid off at the end of each and every cycle and especially at the end of an Avataric cycle when is expected the coming of the Avatar to close the old cycle and usher in the new. This end of a grand cycle is the time in which we find ourselves today. Many prophecies which have come true in a remarkable way are set forth in this publication, but more interestingly in this discourse is the explanation of *The War of Transmutation*. For here on the physical plane, the most unresponsive of all the planes to our Divine Ideals, we indeed fight an ongoing war, consisting of many skirmishes and battles, on a daily basis. These are to realise our dreams and ideals, to live the higher spiritual life, to be understood, to be loved and cherished by others, for physical survival, to raise and educate our off-spring, to survive financially, our daily mental and emotional battles, old age and our unending battle to fight our ego monster and to win the spiritual war against our lower expression. Yet, these are but part of the grand story of the Initiate, the Universal Solar Myth, for we are a true microcosm of the great macrocosm, and we reflect, however faintly, all that pertains to the greater as per the axiom, As Above, So Below.

But the impelling Force which caused the Outgoing or downward arc of the projection into Manifestation resists the in drawing power or upward arc of Realization which is necessary to complete the At-one-ment. This resistance to the uplifting, dematerializing and in drawing force constitutes and is the basic principle back of all reflections or inertia phases of the War. In the physical world this resistance is expressed as the war between Spirit and Matter; the resistance due to the density and inertia of Matter to the unfoldment and expression of the Spirit which, with the descent of the Light, clothed itself in Matter that it might evolve up through it and by so doing spiritualize it and return it to its primordial state. It is the inability of the lower vibrations of Matter to respond to the higher vibrations of Spirit until, through the subliming and etherealizing process which results from the friction thus engendered, Matter becomes finer and more plastic and thus more responsive to the expressions of Spirit. Hence in all cosmogonies, 'There were many Wars,' all referring to the struggles of adjustment, spiritual, cosmical and astronomical, but chiefly to the mysteries of the evolution of man, as he is now.

Thus the War began with the "War in Heaven" or the resistance of certain expressions of the Godhead to carrying out the Divine Will; again the resistance of the lower to the higher Will. This is far more than merely an expression of the Sun-Myth or the personification of the forces of nature, the war between Light and Darkness. For the various versions of the Sun-Myth are but allegories expressing the cosmic principle of the resistance of Matter to the expression of Spirit, whether it be represented by the Christian

Michael, the Angel of the Sun, slaying the Apocalyptic Dragon; Horus, the Egyptian Sun-god, slaying Typhon, the Dragon Apophis; Hercules strangling the Python in his cradle or Phoibos-Apollo, the Greek Helios, the Sun, 'the Light and Life of the World' . . . who at the moment of his birth asks for his bow to kill Python, the Demon Dragon. They all symbolize the eternal struggle for light, progress and evolution which constitutes the war between the Light of Wisdom and the Darkness of Ignorance. . . . The second great phase of the War, as reflected in humanity, occurred at the creation of man, when the resistance set up by the desires of the lower to the Will of the Higher. . . . In the mental world the War manifests as the resistance of the Intellect to the promptings of Intuition; the temporary refusal of the Head to obey the promptings of the Heart. . . . It is the War between Higher and Lower Manas or the resistance of the human or intellectual consciousness to the Illumination and guidance of the Divine. And this phase of the War will continue in man until, by the subliming and spiritualizing process due to the friction (suffering) engendered, the Intellect will admit that it is but the creature and instrument, and must become the willing servant, of the Real Man or Higher Self, to translate the Inspiration of the Spirit into terms of human consciousness which shall enable the human personality consciously to follow the Divine Guidance. . . .¹⁹

And further:

In the physical body the War is expressed through certain storms of bodily inharmony, illness or disaster which sweep over those who are endeavouring to follow the Higher Guidance and striving to "live the life." When the ideal of a higher life is set up by the consciousness,

¹⁹ Curtiss, *The Philosophy of War*, 1st Edition, pp5-11

it sounds a new and higher keynote throughout the body. Those atoms which can respond answer the call and follow the new Law-giver and are led out of bondage into the freedom of a new cycle or expression of Life. While in those atoms which belong wholly to the old dispensation, which have fulfilled their mission and are not sufficiently evolved to take on the higher vibration and enter the new cycle, the resistance to the higher call is so great that it brings on the War in which they are vanquished and sloughed out of the body through a cleansing cataclysm of illness which, while it leaves the body temporarily devastated and weak, has nevertheless cleared the field of opposition and prepared for the manifestation of a higher expression of Life. . . .

In the daily battles for poise, control and harmony which the individual begins consciously to fight as soon as he endeavours to follow a higher ideal, he may possibly find himself worsted in some of the skirmishes of the early stages, and evil and inharmony may accumulate until it can no longer be held back and must find physical expression for it is a well known principle of psychology that thoughts express themselves through their creators in terms of action, unless counteracted by opposite thoughts of greater power but no matter how many skirmishes are lost, if he persistently follows the Light of his highest Ideal, be it ever so primitive to others, it will lead him step by step to ultimate victory. If he finds himself facing such an outbreak, it means that he has created more inharmony or evil than his present stage of spiritual unfoldment is able to transmute, hence the precipitation.

In the mental world the outlet will be found through the emotions. The expression of these emotions becomes a storm which sweeps away the control of those who open the door of their minds through irritation, impatience, anger, jealousy, envy, animal desires, etc., and leaves them devastated, yet relieved and ready, in the next time of trial, for an encounter which shall be more successful, in proportion to the effort made to conquer in the past. This, however, should not be made an excuse for giving way to emotional excitement of any kind, for a strong effort should always be made for control and peace, i.e. to transmute inharmony and turn its perverted forces into constructive and useful channels. But if a storm should gather and burst, be ready to set a higher standard and a greater degree of achievement in the period of reconstruction.

The War is also reflected in the terrible struggles through which the candidate for Mastery must pass during his Initiation; the struggle of The Christ within to slay the dragon of self; the Guardian Angel to slay the Dweller on the Threshold. It is also exemplified in the resistance of humanity to new or higher spiritual teachings; the misunderstanding, misrepresentation, condemnation, slander, persecution, final crucifixion but ultimate triumph, through which every Lightbearer who comes to humanity has to pass. . . .

There must be periodic manifestations of the War as long as Matter resists Spirit. . . .

Each Soul is judged at the close of each life-cycle by the sum total of how much it has overcome, how much of the lower self it has illumined by the higher spiritual consciousness. And strange as it may seem to some, evolution in man is gauged by how successfully he has fulfilled his mission as Arbitrator between Spirit and matter. . . .

Hence there is not a single man or woman who cannot be an active factor in bringing the Golden Age of Love, Peace, Harmony and Brotherhood into manifestation the sooner, through the controlling of thoughts, words and emotions, and by overcoming his or her resistance, and responding more and more understandingly and gladly, to the upward urge of the Divine.²⁰

So do *The Teachings of the Order* summarize the spiritual war of transmutation that each of us face, here in our exile on this dark star. Such battles we all understand, but that such has to become accelerated when we consciously enter the Path, is both difficult to understand and even more difficult to experience and to endure. Yet to achieve final liberation from the earth plane, so that we need 'no more go out,' and so end our cycle of physical incarnation and rebirth, we have to transmute all our past Karma and the mistakes we have made in this life. We must place ourselves unresentfully in the hands of the Lords of Karma, holding the attitude of "Thy will be done". Then in accord with our sincerity The Law will begin to work out, precipitating on us our old Karma. This must then be accepted and worked out cheerfully. And so we enter the final life or few final lives before we attain liberation. Yet it is this final phase in our spiritual unfoldment, which is

²⁰ Curtiss, *The Philosophy of War*, 1st Edition, pp19-25

the most difficult, beyond our comprehension until entered and conquered, and it is this final phase that is so aptly described by all fables, legends and sagas, whereby the neophyte sets off on a quest, experiences many difficulties, slays the dragon monster, and is crowned king in a far off land with his true love or twin soul.

It is only once we have firmly set our feet on the path, that we call down upon us our past karma, and so start the transmutation process in earnest. It is described as follows:

In *The Voice of the Silence* we read of four periods, called “modes of Truth,” through which the Candidate for discipleship must pass ere his feet can be truly planted upon the Path. Until he awakens to the desirability of the spiritual life and has heard the Voice of the Divine in his heart, the candidate is passing through the first period, called in the Hindu Ku or the assembling of misery, or walking in darkness. When his gaze is turned toward the Star of Initiation he calls down upon himself more rapidly his past Karma. This period is called Tu or the assembling of temptations. In the third period he meets and conquers all temptations and wipes out all old karmic debts, which period is called Mu, the destruction of temptations.²¹ And only in the fourth period, called Tau, does he consciously enter upon the Path.

The above points to a long and often painful process, one which may span a number of lives, depending on the strength of the aspirant and seeker. But once the Path is started and even the smallest step taken, there is no going back, for the seeker will not rest until he is at peace. To be an Initiate, is to be a beginner, for each end has a beginning and must be trodden step by step. And it is this Initiation which is the birth-right of each individual, whether he enters the Path through books and writings such as *The Teachings of the Order*, or whether he is taken up into a physical plane organisation and initiated there, all must begin the Path somewhere and all will earn his spiritual reward all the same. In the life of all seekers there is always some or other event that pushes the aspirant onwards until he finds the birth of a spiritual realisation within himself.

The first creation is that of light, symbolizing the light of The Christos which breaks into the darkness of man’s ignorance and sin and turns his attention toward a higher life. This light perceived in his heart is called the Star of Initiation because the first glimpse of its glory initiates him into a new world,²² and the memory of that flash leaves him no peace until he seeks its source.

There is a saying that once an initiate, always an initiate. For once we have had this first glimpse of glory, be it through a vision, an understanding or some or other mystical experience, there is no turning back, and we come back life after life to take up again the quest where we left off previously. And we do not walk this Path alone, for by our very aspiration and the law of vibration, we draw the attention of the Higher Ones, who ever have their hands stretched out to us in help, love and comfort if we but ask for it.

The Lord of Mercy sends me down to earth, To show the way, which leads men up to Him. I sow in sinful hearts contrition’s seed, Then buds humility from burning shame. The yearning soul strives hard to leave the mire; Though weak and trembling still it bravely seeks, To climb the thorny path to which I point. Then hasten to his aid the Radiant Host, Who, in the name of Christ, work deeds of love. Their gentle hands cannot remove all pain, But they give strength to bear the heavy cross. They fill the weary soul with hope and courage, And whisper promises of coming bliss. The pilgrim soon is taught to fix his gaze, Above the darkness of this present world, Up to the distant home where all is peace. For thee there still remains thy crown to earn, Of Faith and Hope and Charity entwined. These thou must tend and nourish in thy heart.²³

²¹ Curtiss, *The Voice of Isis*, p320

²² Curtiss, *The Voice of Isis*, p321

²³ Karadja, *Towards the Light*, pp40-42

This is the crown of Adeptship that we must earn, mastery of the highest station on the Tree of Life, Kether or Kingdom of Heaven.

It is by repeated effort, sacrifice, turning back if we have gone wrong and starting again, ever moving forwards, onwards and upwards that finally, somewhere, and sometime in some or other incarnation this war between matter and spirit ends, and liberation dawns for the aspiring soul. As we were projected from out the Divine realms to enter the physical manifestation or school of life to learn, grow and to gather light, we ultimately retrace our steps back to the Divine, the upward arc of evolution, and join with our personal Father-in-heaven, our Divine Higher Self in an ecstatic conscious Union, Samadhi, the Chymical Wedding, or as described in Kundalini Yoga, the union of Shakti with Shiva.

The first emanation from the Absolute coming into manifestation necessarily had its positive and negative aspects or poles, Spirit and Substance. From the very dawn of the going forth of the Manifested from out the bosom of the Unmanifested, the state of perfect equilibrium was disturbed and the mighty *urge toward union* and a restoration of the primordial equilibrium came into manifestation. It is this *urge toward the restoration of the Projected to its Source*, the call of the Spirit to Matter, the Father to the Son, the Heavenly Man to the human, the Higher Self to the lower personality, that is the cause back of all war, all desire, hence back of all evolution. For *only in a union with its Cause* can the Cycle of Necessity be ended, the desire be satisfied and become one with the Will of the Father, *the War* ended and the evolution be completed.²⁴

Once we have attained the final mystical union with our Higher Self in the highest initiation²⁵ capable by a human being on the physical plane, *The War of Transmutation* is finally ended and we end up back in the Divine Realms, but on a higher station than before we came down into the manifestation. For it is an axiomatic law that we have to go down first before we can go up. As above so below.

Little by little, through sorrow and suffering, he awakes to the realities of life. Sorrow and suffering are to man what matter is to Spirit, the sinking into the densest and most limiting conditions of expression. And the object is the same, i.e., for Spirit, to gain experience in physical conditions and thereby redeem matter; for man, to gain his Soul experience and thereby redeem the causes in the world which produce sorrow and suffering, namely sin and disobedience, as well as to redeem the matter in which he clothes himself. Hence, while the Law as Karma will bring to all the suffering they have earned, at the same time as they conquer they become redeemers for the Race, for they can not conquer for themselves alone. They have been born from the world of thoughtless action into the realm corresponding to the period when man was endowed with mind. They have begun to respond to their Higher Mind. Once having reached this point they can go no more back. Life no longer flows smoothly. They can no longer be thoughtless and carefree, for they must henceforth take in their own hands the working out of the great problems of their spiritual lives, just as man at the corresponding stage took over the guidance of his physical life. They must seek for themselves the solution of life's problems.

When you have reached this stage you have entered the Fourth Degree²⁶ of humanity where you consciously take up the work of spiritual regeneration. In this Degree you consciously start out upon the Path and must conquer all the kingdoms below you, both in yourself and in the world. All who are interested in these teachings, for example, have reached this point. And to you we will say that you are not mere creatures of impulse, driven hither and thither by a relentless fate, but are children of your Father-in-heaven. You have reached your majority and are being tested. You are encouraged to take up the great work of your own redemption. Your guidance is now no longer that given a schoolboy, but rather the supervision of a loving parent over one who must of his own free-will follow the principles taught by that parent. It is comforting, however, to realize that you have this power to walk alone or you would not be where you are today. If you were still a child in spiritual leading-strings the great problems of life would not confront you, for the Law of Divine Love brings to the Soul only such problems

²⁴ Curtiss, *The Philosophy of War*, 1st Edition, p5

²⁵ Curtiss, *The Key to the Universe*, p108

²⁶ Curtiss, *The Voice of Isis*, Chapter III

as it has the strength to meet and conquer. Your Heavenly Father would not that any perish.
Yea, not one sparrow falleth to the ground but the Father knoweth.²⁷

Let the Dot within the circle remind you that no matter how dark and chaotic the circle of your life may seem, you have within you the Dot of pure, white, spiritual light, the Sun of your Soul whose rays can unfold and illumine every condition in your life and help you to manifest their highest possibilities, if you will but open the door of your heart and let them in. Do not be appalled at that which the Light reveals within you, for the so-called things of evil, those which are unredeemed, will first be stirred up that they may come into the Light and be transmuted, spiritualized and redeemed. The Spiritual Sun within must shine if evolution is to take place.²⁸

(to be continued)

²⁷ Curtiss, *The Voice of Isis*, pp212-213

²⁸ Curtiss, *The Key to the Universe*, p60

CHAPTER IV

INNER ALCHEMY AND THE WAR OF TRANSMUTATION

(CONTINUED)

“What glorious bliss it was at last to fly away from cloudy earth in liberty, and to approach the sun, whose golden rays surrounded us with roseate brilliancy. Divinely fair is the eternal dawn, which greets the first ascension of the soul. Its wondrous splendour mirrors faintly forth the great Creator’s own magnificence. Praise, glory and thanksgiving unto God, Who made the Sun - an emblem of Himself. . . . Life, Love and Light compose the Trinity. A myriad sparks proceeded from that source. Each spark must grow till it becomes a flame, which through Eternity will not be quenched. . . .”

Karadja, *Towards the Light*, pp86-87

“. . . that is the Light Body which we finally build up by the purification, transmutation and spiritualisation of certain atoms of our various bodies. . . . until our final incarnation we have built up a spiritualized vehicle or body through which we can manifest on any plane we wish. . . . it is the light from that Sun (Son) that is the source of our spiritual light and life, the power necessary for our spiritual growth.”

Curtiss, *Why Are We Here?* p21

As per our caption, it is the light from the Spiritual Sun that drives our spiritual development depending on how much of it we can assimilate and let into our being. It is this Divine Light that is the object of various writings of occultists through-out the ages, and depending on our faith, courage and aspiration, we open ourselves to this Light and thereby allow its transmuting effect to act upon us. For the Lord is an all-consuming Fire, and nothing impure can withstand its heat. Another way to see it is that through our aspiration to become more godly, we start to resemble the Almighty and thus naturally draw closer to Him. And the closer we move to this Divine Flame the hotter it gets and verily the all-consuming fire burns away the dross of materialistic life and all that goes with it. This process is usually painful and difficult and can bring with it much suffering, for in order to break free from the bonds of birth and death, we have to transmute all the karma of the past and the mistakes of our current incarnation. It is this Divine Light or Fire, that ultimately drives the final stages of our unfoldment on the earth plane and purifies our entire being, all three our bodies, physical, astral and mental. This is the Inner Alchemical process alluded to by a myriad of writers that forms the basis of all systems of mysticism as practised by the Seven Rays worldwide. It is this final stage of our journey which is the most difficult of all, beyond the comprehension of the average seeker unless personally experienced and mastered.

The instant the Star of Initiation sends down this two-fold ray into the darkness of his earth life, every creeping thing, not only in his heart, but also in his environment, comes forth. The instant he speaks the Word all this darkness filled with thought-currents of evil—powerful, malignant, deadly beyond description, but heretofore inert, asleep, quiescent—will be stirred into life, in this way precipitating his Karma upon him. . . .

The vision of the Light may be but a fleeting glimpse, but it will awaken within him a response that will forever urge him on until victory is attained. . . . If you carry this lesson into your own lives you will see why so many undreamed of trials and temptations are the first result of your determination to lead a spiritual life. The more powerful the Light, the more earnestly you determine to lay every corner of your life open to it, the more you let the Light shine out into the darkness of surrounding conditions, the more will the germs of unsuspected traits and temptations awaken to life and assail you and evil conditions surround

you, conditions of sickness, poverty, lack of love and appreciation and many other adverse things. These conditions do not come to you to hurt you, nor are they sent by any great Being who desires to see you squirm. . . . but they come to you, their creator, to be redeemed because they were latent in your personality, and the first beams of The Christ-star penetrating the darkness awakened them to life. . . . Therefore do not be surprised if things assail you more than formerly. Do not expect that seeking for Spiritual Wisdom will make life easy or will mean that all your trials are over. Do not seek The Christ-life for the purpose of making your pathway in life smooth, your body free from disease or your environment free from inharmony and trial, for if you seek it for this purpose know well that you have not really spoken the creative Word and must reap bitter disappointment. These things must come, but if you are strong and determined and earnest and fearless, and keep on crying, "Let there be light", you will have the power of the Light to pass this step; for this step is the destruction or transmutation of all temptations into the strength necessary to enter consciously into the Path.

Take courage. Never say, "I cannot," for by the power of The Christ within you can. There is nothing in yourself or your environment that you cannot transmute into good, for all constitute the "worldly goods" given you by your Father-in-heaven, out of which you must create your Immortal Habitation. Whatsoever you put behind you and say you cannot conquer today, must pass into the outer darkness (outer, in that it is out of your present life), there to remain until you are strong enough once more to take it up and redeem it.

Your loving Father will help you. In tenderest pity he sees your struggles and your despair. But if you give up and cry "I cannot," then, in mercy, you are lifted out of the Path and another night's sleep is given you in which to gather strength, you must await the light of another day. For, know well that you must come again and take up the task again and again until all is redeemed.

It is often remarked that many reach a certain point of development and then apparently fall back. This means that they have failed in some important task and are awaiting the coming of a new day period. But "the enemies he slew in the last battle will not return to life in the next birth that will be his."

. . . . Be not discouraged, for you are able and strong. You shall come forth victorious, but ask not that one drop of bitterness pass until all is transmuted; until you have drained the cup, and in its dregs have found the Jewel of Great Price, for which a man will sell all that he hath to possess. Keep on crying, "Let there be light." Create and redeem. For thereby shall you pass through the fifth and sixth periods and shall come to the seventh, when ye shall rest from your labours and the God Within shall see His creations and pronounce them good.¹

The spiritual path is not for the faint hearted and few there be who attain final liberation in the life that they consciously set out to conquer. For many attempts are made by the aspiring soul until in some incarnation, final victory is achieved. And we all as seekers, find ourselves at some stage along this most difficult path, and are honour bound in true brotherhood to assist each other, when-ever and where-ever we can.

The seven periods as mentioned in this chapter of *The Voice of Isis* may be likened unto a system of initiations and when the seventh is reached, all past karma has been redeemed and the Initiate can now in earnest enter the Path, unhampered by past conditions. He is now a pure and true tool that can be used for useful work by the Masters of Wisdom in order to further their interests here on this world. The Initiate has now entered Adepthood and his real work begins. He is now 'An Adept on His Trial.' In the inner alchemical process as the mystical centres open the initiate starts to see with inner vision a system of colours correlating to his spiritual development. He starts to hear with his inner ear Anahata sounds. He starts to perceive the future and his place in it. And thus it is that when we strive for occult powers, we do not get them. But when we go forth in purity and care little for such things, as we grow spiritually these come automatically and are a sure sign of our progress. The Inner Alchemy as termed The Great Work is described through-out *The Teachings of the Order*.

¹ Curtiss, *The Voice of Isis*, pp325-329

... Many of us recognize the possibility of spiritual gold, and become very enthusiastic and desirous of accomplishing the Great Work at once. We eagerly read the teachings and books on philosophy, and attend meetings, courses and lectures, but when we are asked to place our lives in the retort, gather the fuel for the fires, and give up our pet pleasures, our money, or even our worries, to tend the fires, we quickly abandon all real effort and say that spiritual gold is but an Alchemists dream; and our ideals become overlaid with frivolous ideas which, like parasites, find in it fertile soil, and by their growth, sap its vitality and disintegrate it. In fact, they are like the stony ground of the parable. When the seed fell on it, it quickly sprang up, but having no depth of soil, it is quickly withered. Therefore, unless we are ready to toil and make sacrifices similar to those of the old Alchemists, who gave up everything for their Art, we cannot expect to demonstrate the practical results of transmutation and ascension. . . .

Many talk glibly of "ruling their stars" and drawing everything they wish to them, but until we become spiritual alchemists we do not realize that there is but one thing we really want, i.e., to accomplish the Great Work and make the ascension. Only too often by our very affirmations and willpower we draw to us things which entail much suffering and require the working out of bitter Karma ere we learn their lesson and find out that they were not what we really wanted. Hence we should meditate upon the realization of the Great Work and then never cease our determined efforts until it is attained.

We must realize firstly, that there is but one divine Cosmic Christ-force manifesting through the One Life in all forms, and that this One Life is the Soul of the World, the Christ made flesh and dwelling among us. Paracelsus, in his *Book of Revelation of Hermes*, speaks of this Soul of the World as follows: "This is the spirit of Truth, which the world cannot comprehend without the interposition of the Holy Ghost, or without the instruction of those who know it. The same is a mysterious nature, wondrous strength, boundless power. . . . By Avicenna, this Spirit is named the Soul of the World. For, as the Soul moves all the limbs of the Body, so also does the Spirit move all bodies. And as the Soul is in all the limbs of the Body, so also is this Spirit in all elementary, created things. It is sought by many and found by few."

Secondly, we must believe in this power of the Christ to accomplish the transmutation of everything in our nature into pure gold. Thirdly, we must definitely determine that since our spiritual evolution is the end and aim of our existence, that we will set about it at once and make its accomplishment the first and only real aim of all our efforts. Fourthly, we must so order our lives that all we do and all that we think shall work toward the great end which we have set ourselves to attain, i.e., an unquestionable demonstration of the Great Work. The demonstration may not be recognized by the world at large any more than was the practical demonstration of transmutation by the alchemists of old; yet each one who has made the demonstration within will be the happiest of mortals, no matter what ridicule he has had to meet or what hardships he has had to endure, for he will have the spiritual gold to prove his success.

Above all, let us remember that it is only by the fires of Divine Love and Wisdom, fed by an indomitable will, that the *black and base metals* of the personal self can be transmuted, first, into the *white sulphur or purified earth*, then into the *orange of purified life and illumined mind*, and finally into the *rosy glow of the perfect Rose*, the symbol of Divine Love and Wisdom made manifest and taking form on Earth. In other words, the disciple must permit the Flame of the Christ-love to permeate every atom of his being and make every fault and shortcoming not something to be killed out, but to be transmuted into a necessary part of his character, and take form around the Christ-centre as a petal in the Rose of his Individuality. But these fires must burn pure and steady and continually or the Philosopher's Stone will lose its virtue. If love be tainted with passion, it becomes, not a purifying, but a consuming fire. If the fire be permitted to cover itself with the deadening ashes of selfishness, indolence, pride, or self-righteousness, or any other cinder of personality, it will die out² and the Great Work will fail, and our ascension will have to wait until a future incarnation.

The above processes are referred to as The Great Work by philosophers and alchemists through-out the ages, being the transmutation and spiritualisation of the bodies of man to a far higher key-note than can be dreamed off by the average seeker. And it is once this inner high state has been achieved that the outer or physical Alchemical processes as expounded in countless volumes over the ages can be achieved.

² Curtiss, *The Inner Radiance*, The Great Work

The great Work has two major operations, the chief one being the transmutation of all base forces and passions in ourselves into spiritual gold thus setting the Soul free from all prejudice and vice. The second is a threefold mystical operation *which cannot be performed until the first operation is completed*. It consists of, firstly, the transmutation of all base metals into gold, secondly, the production of the Universal Medicine which cures all diseases, and thirdly, the production of the Philosophers Stone which turns to gold everything it touches.³

It is by following a system of Mysticism that the processes of inner unfoldment are set in action, and once started the Initiate cannot stop until final victory is achieved. By following *The Teachings of the Order* such processes are set in motion through its personal devotional exercises and general enlightenment as expounded in its writings and much growth can be expected there-from for all who incorporate such disciplines and exercises into their lives.

As soul growth and spiritual development is a step by step slow and sure process, *The Teachings of the Order* warn on a number of occasions in their writings against exercises and disciplines that seek to force the unfoldment of the inner psychic centres or chakras before the seeker is ready and not to attempt any such exercises unless under the guidance of a knowledgeable teacher.

We cannot emphasize too strongly the fact that there is but one way to grow, i.e., according to the Law of Growth followed by Nature. "Grow as the flower grows, unconsciously, but eagerly anxious to open its soul to the air. So must you press forward to open your soul to the eternal. But it must be the eternal that draws forth your strength and beauty, not desire for growth. For in the one case you develop in the luxuriance of purity, in the other you harden by the forcible passion for personal stature." (Light on the Path). In this one paragraph is contained the great secret of all growth and the student must grasp its significance and master it. Indeed, until the essence of the truth underlying the above direction has been mastered and incorporated into the consciousness, to attempt any practice calculated to unfold inner faculties is fraught with grave dangers⁴. . . . The blossoming of the rose must not be forced if it is to endure, but must unfold according to the nature of its species. The bud must not be pulled open from without, but must follow the Law of Manifestation, i.e., that all growth must come from within outward. The buds of the rose may be likened to the mystical centers in man's body which, in some incarnation, are destined to unfold and shed their perfume in his life. If their unfoldment is forced they are apt to develop abnormally and confront the student with forces and problems he is not prepared by normal growth to master. Only when we have been firmly rooted by experience in the soil of Earth conditions and our buds begin to open normally, because we are responding to the Sun of Righteousness and are absorbing the waters of Divine Love, can these centers blossom in our lives as true spiritual unfoldment or petals of our Mystic Rose within.⁵

A proper preparation of the pupil is therefore essential to ensure success and a philosophy needs to be followed that can prepare the pupil to endure all phases of the Path. Spiritual development is a lifelong process, and not something that is attempted for short term gain. It is the practice of all true systems of Mysticism to awaken the Kundalini force in the base of the spine and to unfold the inner psychic centres and so to open these centre through spiritual disciplines, exercises, mudras, mantras, austerities, prayer, meditation and devotional exercises. And it is here that a personal Teacher who has walked the way before is indispensable to final success if such a practice is to be forced. For the majority who do not have the grace of a personal Teacher, such unfoldment is possible due to natural growth but will take a while longer. Yet the end is the same and most certain.

Much of the work of the Order is designed to transmute and uplift the base sexual Kundalini energy into true spiritual enlightenment. For the sexual energy is Kundalini in its lowest aspect. Yet all such energy is creative, and by lifting up this energy to a higher key-note and directing it to useful channels for spiritual

³ Curtiss, *The Key of Destiny*, pp62-63

⁴ Curtiss, *The Voice of Isis*, p346

⁵ Curtiss, *The Inner Radiance*, pp114-115

development, much profit can be gained. *The Teachings of the Order* abound with methods to uplift this energy.

“... the Tree which is in the midst of the Garden is the spinal cord, the sap of which is the *Kundalini-force* (serpent-force), a dynamic creative power functioning through the spinal cord, its lower aspect being expressed through the sex organs, and its higher aspect functioning through the pineal gland. The Fruit of this Tree is the spiritual power gained as the result of the opening of that what is known as the Third Eye. As man, through experience, gains Wisdom he uses this mystic power gradually to bring about its higher physical manifestations as well as the psychic and spiritual. It slowly ascends the spinal cord through the central canal until it reaches and stimulates into activity the pineal gland, the functioning of which is called the opening of the Eye of Wisdom . . . only through the functioning of this *Kundalini* power can mankind gain the experience that both good and evil have to teach. . . . This primitive symbol of the serpent symbolized divine Wisdom and Perfection, and has always stood for psychical Regeneration and Immortality. . . .

From time immemorial the serpent has symbolized the sex force, good when lifted up . . . evil when allowed to crawl in the mire of the earth”⁶

And further:

The tree is the spinal cord, whose sap is the Kundalini force. It is the Tree of Life and Death, until, by conscious power, this force is lifted up and made to function in the central canal of the spinal cord. Then it becomes the Tree of Life in the midst of the Garden. To attempt to force the development of this power or to strive to awaken it without a personal teacher who has mastered it, is to invite undreamed of disasters on all planes and in all bodies. It should develop only as the result of natural growth.

In the average man the serpent-power normally passes around and up the spinal cord - the “tree” in the midst of the Garden (body) - reflexly and without man’s being aware of it, in a spiral or serpentine manner. Its positive and negative currents are called *Ida* and *Pingalla*, and they cross over each other at certain levels to form nodes of force or chakras. This is all graphically outpictured in the *Caduceus* or Wand of Hermes, the use of which is said to confer both healing and wisdom. This symbol consists of a straight rod, representing the spinal cord, surmounted by a knob, representing the *medulla oblongata* and the head, with two serpents twining around the rod from bottom to top. It is used today as the symbol of the physician.

When properly unfolded, controlled and used uprightly this serpent-power no longer twines around the spinal cord like a serpent, but passes directly up the central canal of the spinal cord to the brain, changing from a serpent into a rod of power, the God-power symbolized by the Rod of Moses and Aaron, the Wand of Hermes, and the *Brahmadanda* or knotted stick carried by Hindu ascetics. For there comes a time in the spiritual unfoldment of every Soul when the spiritual seed of Christhood, planted in the Garden of man’s physical body at the base of the spine, begins to put forth. Then the manifestation of this spiritual fire, this spiritual creative force, like a mighty volcano, begins to erupt; for it must push its way upward through all obstacles and make straight the path of God-consciousness, instead of following the serpentine path as during the less developed stages of spiritual evolution or when used for mere psychic development.

During the process of making a straight path to the brain the ascending *kundalini-fire* or serpent-power stimulates into a higher octave of activity the seven sacred centers or chakras along the spine whose higher functioning gives to man the *sidis* or super-physical psychic powers. These are not spiritual powers in themselves, for their development merely enables man to use his five senses in a higher octave of vibration or function consciously in that semi-physical world which is just above the physical world. But when this current of spiritual fire reaches the brain it stimulates those higher centers whose unfoldment brings to man that “divine experience” or spiritual illumination promised to Eve by the serpent, by means of which man should become “as gods, knowing good and evil” and whose proper use will ultimately enable man to face the Flaming Sword and re-enter Eden from which the Law of Good (Lord God) drove him when he had ignorantly aroused and perverted the serpent-power.

As the serpent-force spreads out at the base of the brain and then pushes upward to the top of the head it forms a small cross called the “cross of suffering.” For it is upon this cross that the body is crucified as the atoms of the flesh are subjected to the transmuting and spiritualizing

⁶ Curtiss, *The Voice of Isis*, pp242-244

⁷ Curtiss, *The Voice of Isis*, p315

effects of this spiritual fire. It is this mystic cross which forms the hilt of the Sword of the Spirit and is symbolized by the cross on the hilt of the swords of the Knights of the Holy Grail whose real, mystic quest was none other than the attainment of this same “divine experience” of spiritual illumination.

When aroused artificially and without proper preparation or out of due season, or if improperly controlled and perverted, the serpent-power stimulates only the lower aspects of the centers and thus tempts man to use his newly discovered creative powers of mind and body for self-gratification and the self-indulgence of the merely animal nature, so that sex impulses are often mistaken for desires of the Real Self. This brings about an entirely different kind of crucifixion: not the voluntary crucifixion of spiritualization and transmutation which enables man to enter the next higher kingdom of Super-man, but the involuntary crucifixion of the flesh - through disease and degeneration - which sinks man below the level of the animal kingdom beneath him.⁸

If, therefore, the “fruit of the tree” is eaten ere it is ripe, that is, if man attempts to use these higher mystic powers ere he has reached the stage of spiritual growth and gained the spiritual understanding through which alone he can normally unfold these centers like the petals of a rose, the attempt to use them can bring only inharmony, suffering and premature death. Far better not eat of the fruit of these higher powers at all, that is, it is far better to be just a good, wholesome, normal human being and take a little longer to evolve into the Super-human kingdom, than to try to force a development for which neither mind, character nor body is normally prepared.

When man is unprepared for its proper control and use, the very God-power, or the divine ecstasy of the serpent-power itself, which is given to man in due season to make him as the gods, “knowing good and evil,” becomes the Flaming Sword which guards the gates - centers or chakras - of the Garden. For ere man can safely use the super-normal God-powers in such a way that *Nachash*, the “divine experience” can “beguile” or “lift him up” into the ecstasy of spiritual consciousness, he must have gained the wisdom and the moral strength of character to use such higher dynamic powers *consciously*, and *constructively*, under the guidance of the Lord God of his Garden, or the Indwelling Spiritual Man or Higher Self within.

To every Soul who sincerely strives to do his best, according to his stage of evolution, to express harmony in his life and helpfulness to his fellowman, the time will come in some incarnation when these centers will open as normally as the petals of a rose. But if he tries to force them open ere they are ready, the beauty and fragrance and joy of life will wither and fall to the ground and be lost in the dust of the earth like fallen petals.

Today, in the manifold teachings available to the general public where nothing is secret any more, many arcana are practiced by all and sundry, often producing experiences and results for which the practiser is totally unprepared, causing much discomfort, insanity and even suicide. For one needs to be prepared and to have a solid *Cosmic Philosophy* as a foundation in order to enter into the final and inner degrees of soul unfoldment. *The Teachings of the Order* have been put forth in such a way that they can be safely practiced and implemented by all and the results will be determined by personal effort. For no matter whether you have a teacher or not, he can but point the way, guide and assist to quicken the end through comfort, help, inner guidance and loving support. The effort however, has to come from you yourself. The pain and suffering along the way is yours to bear. The spiritual glory, reward and final liberation, is yours for eternity.

No one can claim to give spiritual development. Only the Soul itself can earn it.¹⁰

It is a *Teaching of the Order*, that the Divine Flame is a great Mystery of the Elements, but if we show the necessary care and reverence, then an Invocation to the Flame is our Divine right. The Lords of Karma¹¹ are very high elemental Beings who apportion to us in exact justice our rewards and sufferings. They are truly impersonal and mete out to us in exact concordance just that what we need

⁸ Curtiss, *The Truth About Evolution and the Bible*, pp132-135

⁹ Curtiss, *The Truth About Evolution and the Bible*, pp138-139

¹⁰ Curtiss, *Letters from the Teacher*, Vol I, p10

¹¹ Curtiss, *The Inner Radiance*, The Lords of Karma

for our next step in our spiritual growth. Yet when we consciously enter on the spiritual Path, by our Invocation to the Flame we necessarily start to call down our karma upon us in an accelerated way. It is by recognizing this Law and working with it in understanding, that we can consciously start the transmutation process in earnest. We should leave it to the wisdom of the Lords of Karma to give us what they think we can handle, for to deliberately call down our past karma in an effort to work it out quickly is to possibly be overwhelmed with more than we now have the strength to bear.¹²

For within each heart, and in the midst of every life, there is a reflection of the Flame which burns eternally upon the altar of the Most High, the great All-seeing Eye, whose fiery glance penetrates to the inmost secrets of the heart.

Hence they are no vain words that are used when we invoke the elements. We cannot worship this Divine Flame if we have not erected an altar of truth and purity in our hearts and lives, for it is like a physical fire. Unless the chimney is unobstructed, and we are careful to see that the fire is kindled upon the hearthstone, the fire will become destructive, our home will be burned and our most cherished possessions consumed. This law is so well known and fire is held in such respect that on the physical plane no one presumes to take liberties with it, for while well regulated it is a good servant, it is a terrible taskmaster. Hence it takes little thought to understand that if fire can be so disastrous on Earth, yet so useful, comforting and cheerful when properly used, so on the higher planes its proper use can be proportionately helpful and its misuse proportionately disastrous.

To correlate with the Divine Flame realize that it is the Radiance of Divinity shining in our hearts, the Jewel in the Lotus, or the glow of the Spiritual Life-force surging through our hearts; for during life a golden Soul-glow, composed of myriads of dancing points of light, is focused in the heart and shines in the blood. But when the Soul withdraws from the body no trace of this fire or light can be found and the body becomes cold and lifeless.

The forces of the elements should not be invoked carelessly.¹³

“How then are we to invoke the Flame in our lives? Are we to stand aloof because it is too dangerous? If we say, “I will stay out in the cold for fear of the fire,” we will find that cold is death. *First banish fear.* Then boldly enter the sanctuary of our hearts and face the Flame upon the altar.

When we have done this, like the three prophets of old when cast into the fiery furnace, we will find the Christ walking with us. To invoke this Flame in safety repeat the following *Prayer for Light* on awakening in the morning and ere you drop asleep at night, and many times during the day.”

PRAYER FOR LIGHT

O Christ! Light Thou within my heart
The Flame of Divine Love and Wisdom,
That I may dwell forever in the radiance
of Thy countenance
And rest in the Light of Thy smile.

Visualize the descent of this Light as the beam of a great searchlight pouring down upon you from above. See it shine round about you in a great circle of Light, the “Ring Pass Not” within which no inharmonious thing can penetrate without being consumed by that Divine Fire. Then see it illumine your mind, expand your consciousness and deepen your understanding of life, love and law, and the experiences of your daily life. As the Light surrounds you, see it awakening within your heart a tiny, bright Flame. Watch this Flame spring up and grow until it illumines every fibre of your being with Divine Love and compassion. Feel the Flame send an actual glow of warmth throughout your physical body to the tips of your fingers and toes, purifying, spiritualising and transmuting the very atoms of your flesh with its spiritual radio-activity. Then see it ascend and blend into and make you one with the Divine Flame that is pouring down upon you from above. Then ascend in consciousness within the column of

¹² Curtiss, *The Voice of Isis*, pp117-118

¹³ Curtiss, *The Inner Radiance*, p182

this Divine Light¹⁴ to the realms of Divine Consciousness where you lose yourself in oneness with the Divine.

Yet we should be prepared to understand the effects and outcomes of such invocation. And it is in this regard that *The Teachings of the Order* put forth in clear and simple language, the actual practical effects that such inner alchemy produces in ones life. Thus a work such as *The Pattern Life*, as given under a previous chapter, *The Universal Solar Myth*, will show most clearly to the neophyte the individual stages and spiritual crisis that may be expected to manifest in his life once the spiritual awakening has taken place. The bodily, emotional and mental difficulties that may be encountered are stated clearly in many instances, and even though we think we may die in such difficult times, this is not to be, for of what use will we be to the Powers that Be if taken out of incarnation?

Our whole being must adjust itself to the rarified atmosphere, to the higher vibrations, to the focus of previously unknown currents of force and to the dazzling Light to which we are now subjected.

This type of illness naturally results from an excessive input of Divine Radiance, for as the higher spiritual forces pour into the body all its nerves and tissues must respond and be transmuted or those which are too dense must break down and be cast out.

Not only must the bodily tissues adjust themselves to the great influx of spiritual forces, but in the mental realm the seed-thoughts of every fear, sin or disease experienced since childhood, together with similar seed-thoughts brought over from past lives, which have been impressed upon the sub-conscious mind or lodged in the astral body or physical tissues in a latent or spore stage, are fructified and stimulated into active manifestation until conquered or thrown off, because their Karma has been reaped. Hence it is necessary to use every possible means, physical, medical, mental and spiritual, to help Nature make this great readjustment, lest the physical be unable to bear the strain.

Often such latent seeds of fear, sin or disease may have entirely disappeared from the mind and not have been thought of for years, yet they suddenly break out into manifestation without apparent cause. Hence the Aspirant may pass through attack after attack of various severe illnesses, often of an infectious nature with high fever and great prostration, or through attacks of neurasthenia or nervous prostration from apparently trivial causes. But in spite of passing through this "mystical ill health" as it is called, many of whose attacks would kill an ordinary person living on the lower levels of attainments those who pass through this rapid chemicalization or transmutation seldom die during the attacks and often live to a ripe old age in spite of their invalidism. But when the process is over they return to perfect health, although still very sensitive to inharmonious conditions of body or mind.

Such persons survive because the main life-centers have been sufficiently transmuted and spiritualized in the past and in this life to be able to withstand the higher forces sufficiently to hold the body together and preserve its life. But this should not be made the excuse for giving way in a negative manner to every little indisposition or inharmony instead of striving to conquer it.

All these experiences are evidence, not of backsliding or failure to "live the life" but of the fact that higher altitudes on the spiritual mountain-side have been reached.¹⁵

In a *Letter from the Teacher* a similar explanation is given as to the apparent causes of these 'mystical illnesses' that beset many aspirants who consciously strive to live the higher life. And if the philosophy behind such experiences are grasped and fully understood, then it becomes possible to endure such suffering with courage, strength and faith that all is well, for we are apt to think that by such suffering we are on the wrong track. Indeed, if any person who is ill understands the true causes behind illness, much pain, anger, misunderstanding and suffering can be alleviated from world conditions. And this is but one reason why it is important to disseminate and make available to all such people and seekers who would thus

¹⁴ Curtiss, *The Temple of Silence*, pp50-51

¹⁵ Curtiss, *The Inner Radiance*, pp263-264

benefit there-from a true and all encompassing *Cosmic Soul Philosophy* as set out through *The Teachings of the Order*.

May 19th, 1908

“I have been quite ill again, and I should like to know just what is the cause of it and what to do to avoid these spells in the future.”

We will try to give you an understanding of the conditions in your case. You have taken a decided step upward and are feeling the change of vibrations. All life is due to vibrations emanating from the great, pulsating Heart of the Unmanifested. Conceive of the pulsations as coming from the centre of a circle and radiating outward to the circumference. Draw seven concentric circles and each one will represent a step inward toward the centre; and in each the vibrations will become faster and faster, finer and finer; for naturally they slow down as they get farther and farther away from their source, being slowest on the outer rim the physical plane. Therefore, a body attuned to the vibrations of the physical plane would be subjected to great strain when indrawn to where the vibrations were more rapid. This is so true that if a sudden jump were possible instant disintegration would result. At every step taken by the Soul there must be a readjustment of the particles of the various bodies until they all harmonize with the vibratory unit of the step. This often results in physical illness and, if not understood, the neophyte is apt to grow discouraged and think he is growing worse rather than better. But when understood it is no more alarming or unreasonable than that an eruptive disease should first have to reach its crisis before a cure could be effected; it is all a part of the cure. You have asked that the Lord of Health shall lay His hands upon you, and you must understand that your request is being literally fulfilled. But all that is evil must be cleansed; all our sins, omissions and misapplications of the Law of Health must first be readjusted ere we can be filled with “Life and Love and Purity.” This is the only rationale of healing and is recognized by all regular schools of medicine. We so often forget that there is but one law, “As above, so below.” You must recognize and realize that the Divine Healer, represented by the Master Jesus, is present with you and has, at your request, laid His hands (powers) upon you. So be still, and patiently trust and love and believe that every step all the way through is but a step toward the great, pulsating Heart of Love which is Life and Health and Immortality. You can retard or accelerate this readjustment by your attitude of mind exactly as a patient can help or hinder a physician in his physical cure.¹⁶

We therefore trust that a study of *The Teachings of the Order* will help such Souls who are in the midst of such Kundalini awakening and spiritual crisis brought on through their own individual effort to give but comfort and understanding where normally a physical plane teacher would be present to explain the conditions met with and encountered.

The following message from the high intelligence of the great Angel of the planet of Saturn was received by Mrs. Curtiss via the Independent method while in full waking consciousness. It is a message to the Initiate who would conquer himself and what he must face, for at some stage of his unfoldment he will have to meet his past creations, face them and conquer them. It is this stage where the most severe test awaits the aspirant and where most seekers quail and fail. For when he reaches this stage, he has called down upon himself his past Karma and it is a very black and evil period where life is a barren desert and all lights go out. Here the Initiate stands utterly on his own, for to finally one day achieve the ultimate reward of Union with the Divine, a long and thorny path must be trodden.

For as soon as we consciously place our feet on the spiritual path to reach mastery over ourselves, we awaken within our being a great enemy for we all have an ego within us and it then knows that its days are numbered. The fight which then ensues between the Real Self and the lower self is an ugly one that make's ones life most unlovely and unhappy. You find yourself in the condition that Saint Paul speaks of when he says: “I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present within me.” And the more determined you are to do the will of the Higher Man within

¹⁶ Curtiss, *Letters from the Teacher Vol I*, pp73-74

you the more you find unsuspected tendencies within you to transmute, tendencies which were quiescent or sleeping, but which now become awakened and fighting for life. It is the awakening of these unrecognized forces that makes the darkness of the night period so depressing and awful. Each soul has to face this darkness alone. Scarce one passes through without bitter complaint.

Your Teacher may hold your hand in his, and give you the utmost sympathy the human heart is capable of. But when the silence and the darkness come, you lose all knowledge of him; you are alone and he cannot help you, not because his power is gone, but because you have invoked your great enemy. And here we mean the ego within you, you yourself. Now we must pull the weeds and conquer the foes one by one as they appear. No compromise can be made. You must conquer or be overcome. For the very recognition of your Divine Birthright lashes into fury all those forces of the lower self which have held you in bondage for so long. It is here that we must meet the dread Dweller on the Threshold so graphically described by Bulwer Lytton in his novel *Zanoni*. This dweller is an entity built up by the synthesis of all our faults and failings, hence because it is the evil in ourselves it is horrible to the last degree and most difficult to face, recognize as our own and conquer.

The battle however is not one sided. He that is with you, your Higher Self, is far greater than he that is against you, the lower self. The spiritual path must be walked by oneself, more often than not in great weariness and with bleeding feet. But we are taught by all the True Rays that every Soul that struggles bravely upwards finds the Light. Though far the goal, yet it is reached at last.

The following message is singularly profound, and will have meaning to the reader depending on his stage of unfoldment. We reproduce it here verbatim, as we believe this to be an accurate description of the most severe test the initiate has to face in his personal *War of Transmutation*.

A MESSAGE FROM SATURN¹⁷

I AM the first and the last. I am the beginning and the end. I am the dread Guardian of the Threshold. I come to you with gaunt and pallid face, cold and lifeless as the dead. I stretch out my arms as a barrier to stop your onward journey. Come, look into my dead and lustreless eyes. Look upon my ghastly countenance if ye dare! Look me in the face and recognize me for what I am; for until ye can meet me face to face and know and conquer me ye cannot pass.

I am the Great Initiator. I stand upon the Threshold. I am the Great Tester, the glass which mirrors back each mortal's own creations, his Dweller which each Neophyte must face and recognize before I let him pass.

I am Saturn the great Reaper. I am he who binds, who congeals, who solidifies. I am he that seemeth like a corpse; for I am all that is dead and lifeless. Look! Look in my dead face and recognize me! What do I mean? I am the sadness and the darkness and the coldness of death, the fear of which each Neophyte must face and overcome.

The planetary forces that gave ye life push ye ever onward and outward on the great Spiral of Life.¹⁸ Day after day ye are urged farther and farther away, onward and outward, until ye reach my domain. Here I stretch out my grizzled arms and bid ye halt; for I am he that saith: "Thus far shalt thou go and no farther." Not even the forces of the gods can pass my domain unchallenged.

Each planetary force hath carried ye a space and given ye of its guerdon of power and wisdom and truth until the confines of the Spiral of Life are reached. And I, what have I to give? I give ye naught. I bid ye face thyself. Here do I meet ye and say, "Thus far shalt thou go." Stand and look me in the face! Can ye stand still while thy vitals are frozen by my icy breath? For I am the wintertime when all is cold and dead. And I must be met and passed before the spring can come. Out of this ordeal must ye gather the power that binds together into an entity all the forces ye have received from the planetary gods.

Are ye proof against my frozen breath? Can ye bear to have thine ideals shattered, thine advance retarded, all that seemed good and true filched from thy grasp? Can ye meet these

¹⁷ Curtiss, *Realms of the Living Dead*, pp273-278, An Independent Communication

¹⁸ See lesson *Spiral of Life*, Curtiss

tests undaunted, seize them and turn defeat into victory, discouragement into power? Can ye be still and reach my stage of calm contemplation while all that ye loved and believed in seems to wither and die in thy sight? Not until ye have seized from me my weapons and gained my power can ye pass this point (Initiation) and go onward.

Think ye there is no reason why I, Saturn, stand at the Threshold? at the outpost of life and evolution? In the foundation of the universe it was I who made the cosmic centre and gave the stability and inertia upon which the other planetary forces might act. Mine was the force sent out in the beginning and mine shall be the last to return; the power of holding still, of being fixed and immovable. I am the dot that expanded into the circle¹⁹ which contained and circumscribed all that could come forth in a cosmic manifestation; the aura of a man; that which limits and confines his life-forces and prevents them from being dissipated; the measure of a man.

In the solar system the planets are ever sending their forces outward into space, and were it not for me they would go onward beyond the confines of this system and be dissipated. But when they reach my domain I stop them and say: "So far shalt thou go." I build a wall about the universe and turn back the separate forces and blend them into one. This wall creates form and number.

I am he that bindeth and that is bound with the three bands.²⁰ I hold the three forces that bind body, soul and spirit. The force of this calm that can bind and hold ye must learn; for as long as anything can upset and disturb thy calm ye cannot pass on. For I, Saturn, am the Guardian of the Portals.

The planetary gods lead ye down the Spiral of Life until the last round is reached and there stand I. If it were not for my outstretched arms ye might be pushed over the edge of the Spiral into the Great Abyss and be lost in the Outer Darkness.²¹ Yet ye must face this Abyss and calmly contemplate its depths and lose not thy balance ere ye have strength to turn and walk upward inside the Spiral. Then thy path is no longer outward but ever inward where ye shall feed on the inner Essence of Life.

The Soul who has dared to meet and face me and wrest from me my power and walk upward within the Spiral, for him do I gather up all the planetary forces and send them back to him as helpers, as the dot expands into the circle. "As above, so below." As in the cosmos, so in man. For him shall I no longer be Saturn the Reaper, but will be crowned as Cronus, God of Time; for he who has reached this step is ruler over time. But ye must see the outward face of Death the Reaper ere ye can recognize my true face. Then do I become benign and my power is the power of wisdom. But ye must be able to correlate with my force before ye can climb the Inner Path. Ye cannot pass on until ye have culled from me the lesson of stability and the wisdom Cronus alone can teach. Then shall ye conquer through discernment.

I am the melancholia of the world which if not conquered leads on to insanity and death. Ye must face the world with death, pallid and stark, standing at thine elbow. Ye must become as dead to the changing tides of the world and of man's changing affairs as though in the grave.

O sons of earth, like Saturn ye are bound with three rings, hand and foot; body, Soul and Spirit. These rings are the three days in the tomb.²² These ye must break through, and conquer the force that binds ye, a day for a ring. These binding conditions must hold ye until the very force which bound ye is turned into the stability of the indomitable will of undaunted courage and unquenchable faith; the faith that has touched the confines of life and has penetrated its Mysteries. And when I am conquered ye will find me Lucifer the brilliant Angel of Light, the bright Star of the Morning who shall make all things plain unto thee.

But to know me ye must meet me face to face. Ye must see my gaunt arms reaching out for ye and boldly walk into those ghastly limbs and tear the mask from my dead and frozen face; must warm my cold heart with the warmth of thy breasts. Come to me and wrench from me the power of Silence; of quiet contemplation; of standing still. To know me ye must study me and find out my secret.

I come not to give ye my force. I cannot. Ye must wrest it from me in battle. I am the dread God of the Threshold guarding all Wisdom! How dare ye pass me? I am placed here at the end of things to weigh and measure ye all. After ye pass me there is no other. Ye are free to pass onward and inward toward the Fount of all Light and Wisdom. No more can the forces assail ye nor the terrors of the Abyss draw ye down; for ye have passed the edge and are inside the Spiral and turn back only of thine own free will.

¹⁹ See *The Key to the Universe*, Curtiss, Chapter 5

²⁰ The three Rings of Saturn.

²¹ The dead region where the forces of one planet end and ere those of another begin.

²² See lesson *Three Days in the Tomb*, Curtiss.

But ye dare not pass me until ye meet me; until ye feel the grip of my grizzly hands at thy throat shutting off thy life's breath; until ye feel my icy breath on thy cheek. Thus must ye wrestle. If I conquer, down into the Abyss ye go, to begin over again thy Cycle of Manifestation. But if ye conquer I am thy Servant and Saviour.

I am he who was sent out in the beginning, hence I am called Lucifer, Star of the Morning. I am he of whom it was said, "I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven."²³ I am the angel of Revelation who goeth forth to weigh and take the measure of all men. For no man is a MAN until he has been measured; until he has cognized my force and has gained its stability.

Once the spiritual regeneration process in the seeker has commenced in earnest, it may seem as though all light is extinguished in ones life. And when everything goes wrong it becomes very difficult to accept that all that the seeker is going through, and all the turmoil and troubles that seem unending, is but his own karma working itself out. But, before final liberation can come, each Soul must, of its own choice, take up all the accumulated odds and ends of Karma and work them out or redeem them.

And it is here that much courage and encouragement is needed, for if the seeker perseveres, as sure as the sun will rise the next day, so too will his period of trials and testings end, for we know not the hour when the Sun of Righteousness will dawn for him and victory will have been attained.

As all students, who have truly undertaken to lead and guide the flocks belonging to their lower personality, can verify, the first effect of the attempt at control is to turn life into a lonesome desert. How often do we hear the student complain that this period of sadness and depression is as though he were forsaken and left alone in a Desert! Just as the shepherd, alone in the desert, must fight off wild beasts, shield his flock from the elements, find pasturage for them and keep them from straying, so the neophyte must fight the lonely battle with his lower personality in this desert of depression that seems to have enwrapped him. But when he reaches the darkest point, the backside of the desert, he finds the Mountain of God. He can only reach this Mount by fearlessly entering the desert and conquering its terrors. Here 'The Angel of the Lord' appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush; and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire and the bush was not consumed." He had met with a realization of the fire of Divine Love; the sun of Righteousness had illumined his heart; he had arisen and met the Lord. This point is reached when the pupil is able to hear the voice of the Master. When the Kundalini force has passed up through the spine and touched the pineal gland, opened the third eye the disciple is able to see "the glory of the Lord" surrounding him. This is a physical effect which always accompanies spiritual illumination and is comparable to a fire which burns without consuming. But while this is a physical effect²⁴ accompanying illumination, remember it is not the cause of illumination, merely an effect.

The subject of transmutation and regeneration is so profound that it can hardly be described in a few chapters. *The Teachings of the Order* have at its very foundation the regeneration of man, a spiritual ideal and feat that is followed by the final ascension of the soul to become once more unified with its Higher Self, its personal Father-in-heaven, joining Shakti with Shiva. This in itself touches upon a new subject and teaching in which we can barely scratch the surface in an expose such as this work. The Path of the Initiate has been described by hundreds of authors and writers through-out the ages in a myriad of forms. These can take the forms of adventures, myths, sagas, legends, fairytales and allegories. Yet it can be stated that there is but one story, however it is put forth, and that is the story of the Initiate on his quest towards the Sun. This story is beautifully expressed in the life of Jesus as part of the *Universal Solar Myth*.

For each Soul has a task to do, and if he strives ever onwards and achieves final victory, he may accomplish great things in this life, under instruction and guidance

²³ St. Luke x, 18

²⁴ Curtiss, *The Voice of Isis*, pp315-316

from the Heavenly Hierarchies. And his struggles and trials and in his manner of overcoming all of these will but guide the Soul on to greater things to follow.

The greater the work laid out for a neophyte, the greater the necessity for thorough testing. This is a merciful law, for the suffering and the evil Karma would be much worse to bear if you were given a great opportunity and failed for lack of proper training; for, of necessity, you would draw others down with you. Until you have been tried and have proven your strength you cannot bring forth the harvest. . . . The greater the struggle, if persisted in to victory, the stronger and more self-reliant will be the new-born Soul.²⁵ . . . Just as the physical Sun will ultimately rejuvenate and transmute devastated areas into usefulness and beauty, so will the Spiritual Sun ultimately transmute the evil and devastating vibrations and experiences in us into usefulness and beauty. This process of continuous transmutation, if persevered in, makes it possible for man's body to become so purified and spiritualized as literally to be a temple of the Living God through which he can manifest his Real or Higher Self as the Lord from Heaven and rule himself and all the kingdoms of the Earth.²⁶

We close of this chapter with a few encouraging words regarding the personal resurrection we should all strive for in our spiritual unfoldment from this selfsame book, *The Pattern Life*.

Strive to live consciously in the Power of the Resurrection. Whenever confronted by a serious problem, sit quietly by yourself, take a few slow deep breaths and relax. Say to yourself again and again *until you feel it*: "The Power of the Resurrection is now working freely in my body, my mind and in my affairs! And I rejoice and give thanks that it is so! And I will wait patiently for its manifestation in due season." Thus will you receive a resurrection of health in your body, enlightenment in your mind, and peace and love in your heart. . . . Pray daily: "O Christ! From every wild flower by the roadside, from every plant and shrub and tree, help me to learn the great lesson of correlation and unfoldment, that I may experience the inner Resurrection and put forth and blossom and bring forth the 'fruits of the spirit' according to the inner pattern of my true, Spiritual Self." Then you, too, will partake of the renewed life and joy of the springtime, and experience the Resurrection from the unsatisfying life of materialism and the darkness of spiritual ignorance,²⁷ and fill the air of your environment with the perfume of your Rose of Life.

²⁵ Curtiss, *Letters from the Teacher Volume 1*, p33

²⁶ Curtiss, *The Inner Radiance*, p90

²⁷ Curtiss, *The Pattern Life*, pp230-231

CHAPTER V

PROPHECIES OF THE ORDER

PART I: THE AGE OF AQUARIUS

“What but the dawn of the new Age of Light, the great Aquarian Age, when the Sign of the Son of Man shall reign in heaven; when the ancient priesthood shall be gathered from the Four Winds again to receive the ancient wisdom of the Spiritual Sun direct from its Infinite Source and give it forth that its rays of Divine Truth may again illumine the minds and warm the hearts of mankind.”

Curtiss, *The Message of Aquaria*, p225

“All spiritual prophecies have two aspects: individual and collective. They are first fulfilled in the individual hearts and lives of the few who can grasp their inner meaning, and then, as such individuals become more and more numerous, they make it possible for the prophecies to be fulfilled for a whole nation, a Race and finally for all mankind. Thus far only individually has this spiritual realization prophesied by the angelic host been fulfilled. For mankind has never yet collectively realized its common origin in the Divine, and hence its essential spiritual brotherhood. Only the realization of this brotherhood can bring about the peace and good-will so long promised by the heavenly host.”

Curtiss, *The Pattern Life*, pp52-53

The Teachings of the Order abound with accurate prophecies, some of which have already materialised in a striking fashion such as the two world wars, the beginning of the third, the discovery of the planet Pluto, the mystery or 10th planet, the great depression of the 1930's and many more. Many of these were already given out as early as 1910. The main prophecies that have been put forth in this work are the expected global cataclysms, the dawning and influence of the Age of Aquarius and the expected descent of the Great World Teacher, the Avatar.

The prophecies of the Order were compiled in a full publication *Coming World Changes* first published in 1926 as well as the publication, *The Philosophy of War*. Yet it will be our delight to highlight many other prophecies that are to be found through-out their works. It is a clear indication of the *Divine Origin of The Teachings of the Order*, to see so many of these fulfilled in our present day.

PROPHECY AND PREDICTION

The manner in which the prophecies have been transmitted are manifold. The main and central prophecies were given to the Order by *The Teacher of the Order* on instruction from the *Hierarchy back of the Order* including a number given directly by the coming Avatar. These were transmitted to Mrs. Curtiss according to the *Independent Method* of Theopneusty¹ whilst in full waking consciousness and constitute the prophecies of the Order proper. Yet others have come down to us due to the research as conducted by the Founders and their ability to communicate with higher beings such as planetary intelligences, genii and the elementals. Others come from prominent discarnate people with whom the Founders have made contact over many years of spiritual work. Finally, a number of prophecies are quoted from other sources, obviously regarded as being significant at the time of writing.

¹ Curtiss, *Realms of the Living Dead*, p13

We can once more but scratch the surface regarding this matter, and refer the reader to the collected works of the Order for the full set of prophecies as are to be found throughout their works.

How prophecy originates is dealt with extensively through-out the works of the Order and is constructively put forth in *Realms of the Living Dead*. The highest form of prophecy originates direct from the Divine realms such as those given by *The Teacher of the Order* and the Avatar. These realms are also called the Absolute or the All in All, so that what is 'seen' or transmitted from here will come to pass. The book of Revelation is a proper example of writings or prophecies received from the Divine realms. Other prophecies as yet originate from the inspirational realms, the mental realms and lower down from the astral realms. And as the messages come from both the Higher and lower planes, each has its place, for coming from the Higher they constitute Prophecy which is absolute and requires a true Prophet, Priest or Priestess of the Most High, where-as coming from the lower astral they constitute common prediction, a feat achievable by ordinary clairvoyants.

In the foreword of *Coming World Changes* the Founders state that it takes "... a certain amount of courage to place predictions as to coming events before the people of this materialistic and sceptical age, nevertheless we would not be true to our trust unless we gave out that which has been revealed to us. It should be remembered, however, that the mere predicting of coming events does not constitute a prophet; for a prophet is one who speaks by divine inspiration as the interpreter through whom a divinity declares himself . . . one who interprets the will of the gods to man, and prediction alone plays but a small part in his life and work." Therefore, the Founders have dared to prophecy and to 'reaffirm the ancient dignity and authority of prophecy.' All things proceed from the higher realms on their downward arc to the lower realms and on into physical precipitation and manifestation. There is an old saying, 'Coming events cast their shadows before.' We heartily thank them for it.

THE AGE OF AQUARIUS

It is today common knowledge to esoteric students that we find ourselves in the new Age of Aquarius according to the calculations of astrology. Our solar system has recently entered the sign Aquarius or 'the Sign of the Son of Man in heaven,' referred to in the *New Testament* as the time of the New Dispensation or Age. As we pass from the Age of Pisces into this new Age, our solar system passes into new fields of space and encounters new conditions and new streams of force. Therefore each Age brings to the planets a new spiritual, mental and physical dispensation. Hence the long predicted and almost universal belief among all peoples of a new manifestation of Divinity at the beginning of this new Aquarian Age, in the person or overshadowing presence of a Divine Teacher or Avatar who descends into physical manifestation from the higher realms to become the World Teacher for the Aquarian Age.²

In the *Bible* the sign of Aquarius is called the Sign of the Son of Man, and in astrology the Water Bearer, and is represented by a man emptying a water pot. The sign Aquarius is the eleventh sign of the zodiac, and kabalistically its numerical value is also eleven. As is explained fully under that number in *The Key of Destiny*, eleven symbolizes the first step in a new cycle; a new condition or undertaking. And as the Aquarian Age dawns our Earth and its humanity is preparing to take a new step, to enter into new cosmic fields, gain new experiences and outline the great discoveries to be brought forth in the generations yet to come.³

² Curtiss, *The Key of Destiny*, pp36, 37

³ Curtiss, *The Message of Aquaria*, p24

Since we are now standing on the threshold of this New Age and its doors are swinging outward, it is time that we understood something of its positive qualities and what the Earth and mankind may expect to meet and gain from it during the next two thousand years. During this period the human race must penetrate deeply into the mysteries of Aquarius, which are the mysteries of Man. For man has now grown up, become a Man. Hence, to study Aquarius we must study man. We must now take up in earnest that which our lips have so glibly repeated: "Man, know thyself." And step by step we must prove and demonstrate to the world the knowledge thus gained.

The following is a prophecy which clearly shows the influence of the Age of the Outpouring and how we are emerging from out the darkness of the previous Piscean Age into the new Age of Aquarius. This will be an Age in which many more people will follow their Divine inner urgings and Divine Light. This will be an age in which many fruitful initiations will take place and seekers will reach thereby for the 'sun' of liberation. So will be ushered in the Age of Knowledge, the Golden Age of a 1000 years so long expected by the Elect. The goddess Urania is here referred to as the bringer of Light, Uranus being the ruling planet of Aquarius. It is interesting to note that "she is enshrouded in mystery." It has only been in the last few decades that we have learned anything as to the physical nature or otherwise of this planet. We leave it further to the insight and intuition of the reader to make sense of this prophecy, especially as we are now nearly a hundred years on since the prophecy was given to *The Order of Christian Mystics*.

A PROPHECY OF THE AQUARIAN AGE⁴

The Moon, a pure, cold, chaste goddess, was wooed and won by the Sun God. He was warm and ardent and his embraces were irresistible. From their union was born the wonderful goddess Urania. She is more beautiful and more chaste than her mother, yet more warm and ardent than her father. Her force is so great that the Children of Earth are not able to greet her, for they cannot endure the light of her countenance.⁵

All through the ages she has walked in darkness. A thick veil covers her face and thick clouds compass her about. She is enshrouded in mystery. Even the Sun God her father can scarce find her.

From time to time as she walks her appointed path she crosses the paths of the other gods (planets).⁶ And as she walks the heavens her footprints become centres of force. And along and within their radiations blossoms of wondrous potency spring into being.

Although she is invisible the gods feel her approach and are thrilled with expectant love. The chords of their hearts are moved with a mighty force, prophetic and inspiring. Even the far-off Children of Earth catch the vibrations of that thrill and in every heart attuned to love's higher chords there awakens an answering wave of joy from whence unknown. And in every Soul who has sacrificed on love's altar, who has suffered and lost, there is born with that cosmic thrill a new conception of Love Divine.

Clothed in impenetrable mystery, bold indeed is the mortal who dares to lift even a corner of her veil. Yet the time⁷ draws quickly nigh when her cloak will drop from her shoulders and she will no longer be shrouded in mystery. The veil will be lifted from her face and mankind will marvel at her wondrous beauty. Even now on earth there is found one here and there who boldly climbs to the seat of the Sun God and lights his Torch of Truth in those golden rays. As torch after torch flames out into the darkness the dank mists of ignorance will melt and chill darkness will die in the embrace of Light. Then will mankind seek out the goddess Urania in her hidden ways and daring to lift her veil will bask unharmed in the unspeakable loveliness of her smile. Then all who have given up the great gift of love for duty or conscience's sake

⁴ Curtiss, *Realms of the Living Dead*, pp268-271, An Independent Communication

⁵ Uranus affects the horoscopes of mortals largely through her effect on other planets, for she is a Ruler among ruling planets.

⁶ These terms refer to the ruling Planetary Deities, the great spiritual entities who have charge of the various planets, "The seven angels that stand before the throne."

⁷ The Aquarian Age which we have now just entered, during which Uranus is the esoteric ruler.

will find it again, purified and sanctified by her potent force; grown sweet and fragrant under her cloak. Then will their own come to them, whom none can take away.

The time will come when the world shall see this goddess sitting upon the golden throne of her father the Sun God, with the silver sceptre of her mother in her right hand. Behind her will stand her faithful henchman Neptune, with his Rod of three-fold Power in his hand, ready to defend her or to punish any mortal over-bold. On her right hand will stand the god Jupiter, and on her left hand Saturn, while prone at her feet will lie the beautiful Venus who has yielded up her life only to find it in more abundance in the smile of her elder sister Urania. And as Venus' valiant lover Mars stoops to lift her, he places his arms around her and draws her close to his heart. With the tears of passion dried from out their eyes so shall they stand, like two innocent love-children, all smiles and beguilings, in the pure radiant Light of the goddess Urania.

WOMAN'S AGE⁸

The Aquarian Age is also called by many the Woman's Age, for in the last century or so it is Woman and the feminine principle that have really come into their own. It is not good for man to be alone, for he has proved his inability, while working alone and dominating, to use the feminine Principle, either within himself or in the Race, for the best good of all mankind.

Today there is once more sent out from the Lodge of Masters the thought received by them from the Elohim—the assembled gods of all worlds and systems—"It is not good for man to be alone." Once more there is a fresh and greater outpouring upon humanity of the Mother-force from the jar of the Water Bearer (Aquarius), who falls on his knees to pour out the Water which shall enlarge and deepen the channel of its manifestation in mankind as does a freshet in the springtime. The feminine aspect of creation is sweeping the Earth. Even in the most materialistic quarters we find women waking up to the thought that they have something more to do in the affairs of the world than heretofore. This in reality is the result of a current of force *deliberately* sent forth into the world from on High, and only as it is able really to manifest and not only the women of the land wake up to their great possibilities, but also the womanhood of the Race or the feminine qualities in both men and women—the love, intuition, sympathy and compassion that can bring forth, even in man—can humanity as a whole receive its New Birth.⁹

But in this coming Woman's Age, now dawning, she must take her place as a co-equal part of the framework of human society, no longer merely a rib in a man's world, but having ribs and a complete independent structure of her own, which shall henceforth work as a co-equal with man in bringing forth the new conditions for humanity.

Since the special and specific organisation of woman's body necessarily makes her open to the higher invisible worlds that she may give incarnation to the Souls in those worlds which desire birth into the physical world, so should she be open to and bring down to Earth and give embodiment to such higher spiritual ideals as love, compassion, purity, righteousness and joy which are seeking incarnation in the minds and lives of humanity.

Her relation to man should be to stimulate his passion for Truth instead of his passion for lust. Her greatest aim should be to lead man not to the altar, but to idealism. She should strive not for political but for moral and spiritual leadership. In other words, woman's mission on Earth is to represent the Divine Mother in spiritual things as she does now in physical things: to give embodiment and physical manifestation to ideals as she now gives embodiment and physical manifestation to incarnating Souls.

⁸ Curtiss, *Why Are We Here?* pp63-74, See also The Two Tables of Stone in *The Voice of Isis*.

⁹ Curtiss, *The Message of Aquaria*, pp78, 79

The time has now come when woman must take her place as the Priestess of the Most High, the Revealer of Purity and Truth to man. . . . It is woman who must lift up the world's ideas of the sex-force from the mire and degradation of man's misconceptions and give this great power its proper place in the Temple of the Living God (the body) as the highest expression of the Divine in man. Just as it was woman who gave to man the apple of discord, so must it be woman who plucks the golden apples that grow at the top of the Tree of Life and gives them to man to eat. . . . But, until woman awakens to her responsibility and understands her real mission, *i.e.*, her power to play upon man's heart, stimulate his noblest aspirations and thus lead him to the heights of spiritual attainment, instead of into mere physical union without love, she will continue to be the slave she is today, in spite of any political or social liberties she may attain.

Man is as ready today as ever to be led by woman in any altruistic and unselfish crusade, but to secure his co-operation he must be led by ideals, for he instinctively resists being driven by force or compulsion. Most women realize this power of moral leadership, but they should understand that it is their duty, their great privilege and their great opportunity in this New Age.¹⁰

DESCENT OF THE AVATAR

Various astrologers, groups, orders and sects have given many dates as to when the Age of Aquarius came into being, some being as bold as to put forth a specific day and year. Some of the earliest dates are given post 1850, others state that it will but truly start after the end of great earthly cataclysms, a devastating war and the coming of the Avatar. It is generally accepted that the 20th century ushered in the Age of Aquarius proper. Every 2000 years or so, there is a Divine projection of the Sun (or Son) of Mankind to manifest phenomenally on earth in human form. This happens when the physical sun comes into conjunction with the Spiritual Sun or "the Sun behind the Sun" and its influence is then most potent upon the earth. "Then, gathering to itself the power of its own source and transmitting it through our Sun to this Planet, it is said to send the Sons of God (The Avatars) into the consciousness of the earth sphere that a new world of thought and emotion may be born in the minds of men for the stimulation of humanity's spiritual evolution. Such a manifestation marks the beginning or end of an epoch upon Earth by the radiation of that divine consciousness known as the Christ Ray or Paraclete."¹¹

The Manifestation of the Spiritual Sun or "Sun behind the Sun" is called the Chariot of the Sun, the Chariot of Fire or the Fire of the Lord. This Chariot of Fire periodically descends low to Earth approximately every 2,000 years. As the first effect of the Sun in Spring is to melt the banks of snow, thaw out the ground and purify the Earth of the debris accumulated during the Winter, so the first effect of the Chariot of Fire is to melt the rigid, set and crystallized habits, customs, ideas and conditions among mankind: to melt the heart and purify the minds of humanity and bring a new outpouring of the three-fold aspect of God—Divine Light, Life and Love—which shall enable the soil of men's hearts to bring forth anew the seeds of their higher possibilities and powers, to renew their spiritual life for a new season of growth and expression. This also carries home to the heart of the Godhead the fruits of the last Age (Piscean) through which the world has just passed.

As this Chariot of Fire draws close to Earth of necessity mighty changes must take place; changes in the Earth itself, comparable to the breaking up of winter and the thawing of the ground; changes in the thought, life, customs and institutions of humanity, comparable to revolution in all phases of life: in science, industry,

¹⁰ Curtiss, *The Truth About Evolution and the Bible*, pp89-91

¹¹ Curtiss, *The Truth About Evolution and the Bible*, pp181

economics, in society, government and religion. The chaff of former seasons, the husks or outer forms which once held grains of truth, must now be cast aside as the new grain begins to sprout for the New Age. All outgrown forms or expressions of truth—whether scientific, philosophical or religious—must be gathered up and consumed by the new out-breathing of the Fire of the Lord, just as the farmer gathers up and burns the weeds and trash of the past season that all the good which remains—the mineral salts of the ashes—may go to enrich the soil for the coming season. Just so must the weeds humanity has allowed to grow and the trash which civilization has allowed to accumulate be consumed, that whatsoever of good it contains may go to enrich the soil of mankind and help the spiritual seeds of love, compassion, co-operation and helpful service to spring forth, that the seeds of good lying dormant in the hearts of even the most unevolved and the seemingly debased may awaken into life as man's life and understanding are enriched by mistakes corrected, faults overcome and trials and tests bravely borne.

Today as the cosmic Chariot again draws near that the Son of God, the Light of the World, the Christos, may step forth among mankind, its fiery steeds start down the steep descent which marks the close of a cosmic day or Age (the Piscean), and a dark night-period must be passed ere the Earth can awaken to the New Day in a new chamber of the zodiac (Aquarius). The decree has been sent forth from on high: "Gather the grain into the garner, but burn the chaff with unquenchable fire." The unquenchable fire is the Fire of the Lord in its consuming aspect, which must consume the husks of civilization's past age: everything that prevents man's spiritual evolution and a higher and truer expression of God's Divine Plan.¹²

A NEW RELIGION NECESSARY

The following prophecy relates to the end of the dominance of orthodox religion as we have it on our world today. With the overshadowing influence of the coming Avatar there will be ushered in to the world a New True Religion, accessible and believable by all that will precede the start of the Golden Age. This religion will grow out of a distillation of the essential truths of all religions. It foretells of the end of the dominance of the false priesthood and a promise of a True Priesthood that will govern mankind. Ever has the symbol of the Sphinx stood for truth in all its aspects. Ever does it face the rising sun, the Light and Life of our world.

THE MESSAGE OF THE SPHINX¹³

ONE evening while sitting around a blazing wood fire there was placed in the hands of Mrs. Curtiss a small stone image of the sphinx which had been brought to her direct from a royal tomb in Egypt. Holding it lightly and unthinkingly in her hands and while conversing about Egypt, suddenly the following psychometric message poured into her consciousness and was written down verbatim as it fell from her lips.¹⁴

Out of the distant past when the forces of the world were gathered into a mighty storm there was a message, a mighty message, given to humanity and embodied in imperishable symbols.

All the kingdoms of the earth gave to this Great Mystery something of their forces and experience. Out of the Earth rose great animals, strong and mighty to labour. They lived and died and while forgotten they left behind a force which was Strength and Power and Endurance. This formed the hind part of the Great Mystery.

Upon this, like a mighty thing it crouches, lying down in patience, resting in powerful strength; subject to the mighty dictates of the Law of Time; waiting for the hour to strike when the power and strength and patience shall be utilized.

That mighty Image of Eternal Creation shall arise. On its shoulders powerful wings are spread; for out of the Air, like great birds soaring in the heavens, comes the force which we

¹² Curtiss, *The Truth About Evolution and the Bible*, Chapter XVII

¹³ Curtiss, *Realms of the Living Dead*, pp283-287, An Independent Communication

¹⁴ Also see lesson *The Message of the Sphinx*, Curtiss. (As reproduced in this work).

know as the awful longing to penetrate beyond the clouds; to explore the heights; to bring back an answer from the invisible Portals of Eternity. It is this unanswerable longing that is forever expressed in the outstretched wings.

On its forepart are breasts as of a woman, symbol of the force which goes ever on and on, ever feeding, ever bringing forth; patiently giving and waiting; waiting for the end when these creatures she has suckled shall become the Lords of Creation. And the cry goes forth:

O the force of Mother-love! O Eternal Nourisher who hath poured forth a never-ending stream of Life, feeding the children of men, how long, how long shall it endure until man awakens and stands upon his feet?

This Great Mystery has the head of a lion, and in its eyes the light of daring and fortitude. The eyes are those of a human Soul looking out; searching the four quarters of the earth; looking, waiting, watching. Today the same as yesterday; the same puny creatures calling themselves men and women, with the same selfish traits, the same animal instincts to kill and rend and tear. And forever the same godlike forces struggling for birth within them! Yet the eternal patience waits.

O generations of pygmies! How long shall it be ere I trample ye with my lion's feet, and with my lion's mouth rend ye limb from limb? Eternal Justice demands your extinction, O bestial creatures who call yourselves kings of earth!

And yet, back of it all and crowning its head is the kingly Cap, the Ureus, the diadem of the King of Kings!

In those eyes so strong and fixed is the look of unutterable Love and Hope and Cheer. Looking always into the future, seeing innumerable suns rise and go down in blood-red fire, yet always waiting for the coming day.

O Love Divine! How long must ye wait? How many hearts must break with longing ere thy force conquers the evil in the world? This is thy message to the children of men:

Too long has the world groaned under perverted falsehoods calling themselves religions. Too long has priest craft held mankind by the throat with lion's claws and lapped their blood.

Draw near to the Fount of Life.

Drink from the paps of Mother-love.

Draw great nourishing drafts of Life and be not discouraged.

Ye are not a stone image blindly crying out age after age the great story of man's redemption. Ye forget that ye are living, breathing vital forces with the power to act.

Ye too have stood on Egypt's sands and have given up your lives for the Great Cause; have been born again and again, struggled, hoped, despaired, and laid down your lives with trust in the Great Law. Yet always as life departed the vision of Reality is held before you.

There is an end to all things mundane; an end to long-continued waiting. I have waited through the ages and I crumble not, neither decay, because I symbolize to man this Eternal Waiting for the fullness of time, ever looking toward the Light and knowing that it will come.

Help mankind to see the Light.

Help them to shake off the shackles of superstition and priest craft.

Help them to stand alone in the desert of human existence and look only toward the Rising Sun.

All things manifest in cycles, and it has been borne in on my stony heart that the Time is almost come; the great Cycle of Time has almost run its course.

There is a sacred scroll on which are the calculations of the incarnations which must be passed ere the deliverance comes. And since in ancient Egypt the first recognition of the Great Mystery was recorded in imperishable stone, so shall it there be fulfilled.

And She who came and went shall come again.

And the Spirit of Truth shall once more be taught.

The night is almost done and Egypt shall once more live in all her splendour and greatness as of yore. Not an earthly greatness, but a *spiritual illumination* through the *manifestation* of the eternal truths.

A MESSAGE FROM EGYPT

The prophecy refers to a great Cycle of Time that has almost run its course. This is the end of a great astrological year, culminating with the end of the Age of Pisces, a cycle within a grand cycle. Reference is made to Egypt once more standing at the apex of some great spiritual event. The first shall be last and the last shall be first. As it is in the beginning, so will it be once more at the end. It is known in occult

circles that the sphinx hides a great secret. The sphinx guards the entrance to a vast underground temple complex in which is expected to be found massive engravings on its walls depicting the ancient truths both in writing and in picture format, much as the system of Tarot cards do today. This underground temple complex is to be uncovered after some of the major planetary changes and cataclysms have occurred that are expected to finally usher in the Golden Age of Aquarius.

Although at present buried so deeply in the sand that little more than its head and fore paws are visible, the Great Sphinx of Giza at one time stood upon a high hill and formed the roof of a sacred temple. Even today, between its paws, a shrine has been found dedicated to the Sun-god Harmachis (Horus), the "Great Light of the World." But ere the Aquarian Age has entered upon its second decanate, the sand that now so nearly buries it will be removed and many wonders and facts confirming the truths destined to be brought to light in this New Age will be found, as predicted by Madame Blavatsky in *The Secret Doctrine* many years ago.¹⁵ (See also the lesson *The Message of the Sphinx*, Curtiss, *The Message of Aquaria*, as reproduced in this work)

The great Pyramid is as much of a mystery today to science as ever. How was this stupendous edifice built, and to what purpose? In occult tradition the Pyramid was and is a great temple, used to this day for astral initiation ceremonies. That there is still much to learn and many discoveries to be made in the Pyramid comes from a communication with a high Air elemental. As to its construction, it is made clear that this was done by levitation, not surprising, a feat that is performed daily in spiritual séances, and was demonstrated many times over by HPB while alive. (See chapter *The Russian Sphinx*).

A WIND SPRITE SPEAKS¹⁶

I know the Masters of the World. I helped them build their great and beautiful Temple thousands and millions of years ago. I carried on my magic wings the great stones. I worked by the power that comes from the eyes of the great Masters of Wisdom. I can lead you, when They give me their permission to do so, into the secret crypts of the Temple. I have watched and waited and obeyed and known what was intended, because I am part of the elemental power that is used and manipulated to bring about the great changes that the Master in his great wisdom and mighty will desires. I can ride upon the whirlwind. I can fulfil the decrees of the great North-wind. When it sweeps across the prairies, when it shakes the windows of your home, it is I who seek admission. . . . I can make myself at home in the soft murmurs of your dreams. I can whisper of love and of beauty and of peace. When the Master wants his servants to understand, He sends me forth and I embody His thought and am propelled by His will. And so I come to you direct from the eyes of the Master.

PLANETARY CHANGES EXPECTED

A number of prophecies point to a final climax that will be reached at the closing of this great astrological year. It is this final climax that will fully precipitate the racial, group and individual Karma of the planet and so rid the planet of its karmic debts, enabling the proper birth of the Golden Age, for how can we have an age of plenty and prosperity, whilst we are still burdened with social, financial and planetary conditions as they are today?

The influence of Uranus in Aquarius will bring to the world many great and sudden changes, both in the physical conditions of the planet and in the mental and psychic realms of its inhabitants. "A partial cataclysm occurs at the close of every 'age' of the world, they say, which does not destroy the latter, but only changes its general appearance. New races of men and animals and a new flora evolve from the dissolution of the precedent ones." The earth will have to endure not only changes in climate, terrible storms and disasters of every sort, but

¹⁵ Curtiss, *The Message of Aquaria*, p225

¹⁶ Curtiss, *Realms of the Living Dead*, pp169, 170

also cataclysmic changes in its crust ere the adjustment to the new vibration is accomplished and the earth is prepared as a dwelling place for the New Humanity.¹⁷

According to the far more ancient Hindu calculations we are now living in the early part of the Kali or Iron Age of this great year or Maha Kalpa, concerning which the *Vishnu Purana* prophesies:

“Property alone will confer rank; wealth will be the only source of devotion; passion will be the only bond of union between sexes; falsehood will be the only means of success in litigation . . . dishonesty will be the universal means of subsistence, weakness the cause of dependence; menace and presumption will be substituted for learning; liberality will be devotion; a man if rich will be reputed pure; mutual assent will be marriage; fine clothes will be dignity. . . . He who is the strongest will reign.”¹⁸

When storms, earthquakes, tidal waves, volcanoes or catastrophes of other kinds take place, many say, “Behold the work of God! How insignificant is man!” This is false. God never made a storm, an earthquake or a catastrophe of any kind, for God is the great Law of Love. They are all evidences of man’s power. Had man never sent out evil thoughts, wicked words, blasphemies and curses, the earth’s aura could never be so charged with destructive forces that a catastrophe was necessary to dissipate them and bring about equilibrium. Had man never exercised demoniacal cruelty to his brother man, neither the animate nor inanimate worlds would be at enmity with him. When a cataclysm takes place, instead of saying that man is but a helpless atom before the manifestations of Nature we should say, Behold how powerful is man! For it is by the misuse of this power of the Life-principle, exercised through freewill, that man has brought suffering and destruction into a world created by love.¹⁹

Today the surface of the Earth is not only depleted of its life-force, but it is saturated with the blood shed in all the wars of mankind throughout the ages; all the vibrations of inharmony, selfishness and enmity; and all the effluvia and off-scourings of mans impurity. This pollution has gone on until the whole crust of the earth is impregnated with disease and death, even where modern man has never trod, so that the whole planet is nauseated with it. . . . And from mans inhumanity to man arises all the myriads of diseases, insect pests, plant diseases and blights, materialized expressions of mans perverted and destructive thought-forces which accumulate in the earths aura and then precipitate on earth.

Through the maddening pollution of the air by the screech of rocket, missile, explosions and jets of every kind, more destructive forces are added to the atmosphere and earth through these inharmonious sounds and syncopated rhythms. These ultimately find expression in all kinds of storms, pestilences and even earthquakes, for they intrude most crudely upon the terrain of the elementals, the Gnomes and Sylphs, who are thereby readily incited to destructive action.²⁰

The prophecies therefore state that the beginning of this Age will precipitate on mankind a set of devastating factors, including wars, planetary cataclysms and world-wide famines ere the adjustment to new conditions can take place. Hence, this is a critical period, for in this coming era the transition must be made from the old ideals and conditions which predominated in the previous materialistic cycle to those which will predominate in this new age to come, and such marked transitions are always periods of great unrest, strife and in-harmony between the contending ideals which are seeking manifestation, the old and the new. The new ideals must ultimately prevail, however, and be accepted by the majority of mankind and be

¹⁷ Curtiss, *The Voice of Isis*, pp40-41

¹⁸ Curtiss, *The Message of Aquaria*, p41

¹⁹ Curtiss, *The Voice of Isis*, p172

²⁰ Curtiss, *The Inner Radianc*e, p206

put into actual practice, yet the opposition will not be fully overcome until those who are wedded to the old have either accepted the new or have passed on into the higher life, where they may have an opportunity both to rest and also to consider again the truth of the new ideas.

Even though the above creates a bleak picture we should realise that we are ultimately responsible for our own destiny and creations, and it is through our individual and combined free-will that our destiny will precipitate. It is up to us to determine in which way our destiny will unfold, either positively and constructively, in peace and harmony through correlation with the Law, or negatively in sorrow and suffering through opposition to the Law because of our refusal to follow the principles of its spiritual teachings. Such conditions do not come by chance, but are guided by the Divine Love of wise and beneficent Powers for the best good of ourselves, humanity and the planet as a whole.

A NEW OPPORTUNITY

The Age of Aquarius brings to mankind new forces to work with, which can inspire it to the highest ideals ever reached on this planet. If we but take these opportunities and work with it, and make the very best of the spiritual currents now flooding this planet. The Higher Powers ever have their hands of help and inspiration outstretched to infant humanity, but it is up to us to prepare ourselves to be worthy of such help. The following is a communication from the Regent of Venus, as to the spiritual opportunities that await us in this new Age of Aquarius.

One name for the Regent of Venus is Anael, but he is represented by two great complementary Arch Angels, Lucifer (masculine) and Uriel (feminine), which in essence are one. Of these, only the masculine or Luciferian aspect has manifested on Earth as yet. For the feminine Ray, under the rulership of Uriel, is so far in advance of the Earth's present evolution that it has not as yet been manifested through mortal teachers. At one time an inspirational message was received from Uriel by *The Order of Christian Mystics* in which, among many other things, she said:

"If I could find but one spot on Earth where I could touch but the toe of my foot (*i.e.*, awaken but a slight understanding), the impress of that touch would remain forever and the understanding of what Uriel could bring to the children of men would grow and grow in the hearts of mankind. And all the pollution of man could never hide it, for pollution would melt away like snow on a summer day. Nor could the salt waters of tears and sorrow wash it out. I whisper dreams of an ideal, heavenly love, but they alas! are misunderstood, and only too often are degraded and overlaid with lust and passion. Therefore, when I try to speak to mortals the Planetary Gods place their mighty hands on my lips; and alas! language is inadequate, and man has not yet evolved to the point where he can properly interpret my vibrations. A realization of this divinely-human and humanly-divine love is the bridge of swords which crosses the abyss of perverted human love, and the feet (understanding) of those who would cross it must be wounded and their heart's blood must flow until the purified hearts of a majority of mankind can see and grasp a ray of this divine love. * * * Try to learn the lesson now, O mortals! Learn it now if ye can, and save all the sorrow and pain, the anguish and bitter regrets through which you are now slowly being taught it."

"But do not try to learn it alone. There must always be another to join hands. This great force of love and wisdom (higher *Manas*), which comes from the planet Venus must ever come as a dual ray because this Earth is the planet of duality, hence it can only reach mankind through the 'twain who shall be made one,' not one in bodily structure, but one in mind and spirit. Love without wisdom works evil, and wisdom without love works coldness and selfishness, but together they become the 'golden apples,' or perfect sphere of life. To manifest this the force between the two must be exchanged in a way now unknown to man, to be understood only as the present crude exchange is purified and consecrated until the Angel of Life can say 'Come up higher.' When the Earth children misinterpret my whisperings my veil falls to my feet and I am obliged to return to the gods with bowed head and in disgrace. Then they push me to the

rear, altho they know well that some day I will be crowned Queen of them all. And in that day the humanity of this dark star will receive my message and rise eagerly to the heights.”²¹

THE NEW JERUSALEM

It has been prophesied since Biblical times that there will be a ‘New Jerusalem.’ In occult circles it has long been expected that a ‘spiritual city or small nation’ will emerge, ruled by Initiates which will become the most advanced centre of learning and spirituality that this world has ever seen. Such is expected to appear some time after the great expected cataclysms which will remove many souls from incarnation and prepare the world for a spiritual or Golden Age. This is indeed a prophecy that will find its place in the hearts and minds of all spiritual seekers, a time and place where true spiritual progress will be possible for many, and not for the isolated few as we have it in our world today. And it is in this city that the Great Ones will once more walk with us, in the cool of day, and teach us face to face.

The New Jerusalem is a city, symbol of a large body of people, whose inhabitants are all striving to square their lives and lay their Foundation Stone of Spiritual Understanding four-square. In the world today all the signs of the times show that the New Jerusalem is coming down out of heaven and is even now beginning to manifest. It is descending surely and steadily into manifestation on earth, just as fast as the understanding of the Law of unselfish Co-operation grows and spreads in the consciousness of one here and there, then in a community, then in a city and finally in the world as a whole. . . . The New Jerusalem has existed throughout eternity as a perfect and ideal state of humanity, but it has only existed in the Higher realms and only in our Higher Selves have we been able to dwell in its mansions. If it is to become a reality upon the physical plane its manifestation must be accomplished by the united efforts of all sincere and devoted followers of the Christ who are awakened to the possibility. We must begin with ourselves. Our hearts and minds and bodies must literally be made holy temples, sanctuaries of the Most High. . . . It should be noted that the book of Revelation contains 22 chapters and that the 22nd chapter paints with glowing colours a picture of the New Jerusalem that cometh down from heaven which awaits every Pilgrim who has successfully traversed the weary Path of Evolution and who has thus completed his or her task and fulfilled the prophecy. . . .²²

As in the days of Atlantis, so today. Those whose hearts can respond to the higher note today being imparted to humanity through the various avenues of teaching utilized by the Progenitors of man, will first be prepared then gathered together into a definite Center of civilization where they can have an opportunity to receive the direct teaching and guidance of the same Great Souls who have always prepared for the re-unfoldment of wisdom at certain cyclic intervals. This great Center, however, will not be limited to any one sect, avenue of teaching or any one organization, society, or order, but will be composed of all those symbolized in *Revelation* by the mystic “hundred and forty and four thousand” who stood on Mount Sion “having their Father’s name written in their foreheads.” In other words, those who have received their mystical name and through the power of The Christ have developed their spiritual perceptions. Every movement which is striving to give out pure spiritual teachings is an avenue used by the Great Ones to reach a certain class of persons, but only those who are ready and have received the mystic mark in their foreheads will be able to enter in. *The Order of the 15*, being composed largely of the reincarnated Souls who in the days of ancient Atlantis were entrusted with the task of preparing a place of refuge and promulgating the arcane teachings, must again take up the reincarnated work; for ideas, teachings and movements incarnate as well as Souls.²³

Such a city, and the coming world cataclysms, are expected by many, and we put forth the following prophecy, penned down relatively recently by no less an august occultist and alchemist, Fulcanelli, pointing to the northern hemisphere where some of the terrible ordeals will take place, in a baptism of fire. It is those

²¹ Curtiss, *The Message of Aquaria*, pp381, 382

²² Curtiss, *The Key of Destiny*, The New Jerusalem

²³ Curtiss, *The Voice of Isis*, pp239-240

who are vibrationally or spiritually aligned with the coming of the new dispensation that will survive the coming ordeals and will be the builders who will usher in the New Age.

“ . . . we learn that a country exists, where death cannot reach man at the terrible time of the double cataclysm. As for the geographical location of this promised land, from which the elite will take part in the return of the golden age, it is up to us to find it. For the elite, the children of Elias, will be saved according to the word of Scripture, because their profound faith, their untiring perseverance in effort, will have earned for them the right to be promoted to the rank of disciples of the Christ-Light. They will bear his sign and will receive from him the mission renewing for regenerated humanity the chain of tradition of humanity which has disappeared. . . . fixing the pole of the northern hemisphere and locating in time the fatal period of this expiation. . . . for it is by fire and in fire that our hemisphere (Northern. Ed.) will soon be tried.”²⁴

We can all help to manifest physically such a centre of light, so long prophesied by the Angelic hosts, by working on ourselves to make us individually radiant centres of light. In time, by the Law of natural affinity, all such prepared souls will gravitate to this centre as naturally as the moth is drawn to the light. And this spiritual preparation is taking place under our very eyes, under the direction of the Hierarchy of the Solar School of Light.²⁵

“O King of Kings, above all earthly powers!
Help us Thy children in these our darkest hours.
Thy radiant Light, Thy Mighty Love, now showers down.
Rich be the hearts this Love shall bless and crown.”

Harriette Augusta Curtiss

²⁴ Sworder, M., *Fulcanelli: Master Alchemist*, Brotherhood of Life, 1990.

²⁵ Curtiss, *The Message of Aquaria*, pp391-394

CHAPTER V

PROPHECIES OF THE ORDER

PART II: THE COMING AVATAR

“When the cycle of my work is closed; when this 1975 they talk so much about, comes, then there will be a new Agent or Messenger from the Lodge. Who will this new Messenger be? Ah, my children, that we must leave. It will be One whose understanding is opened, One who has wisdom, who has love and sympathy, who can touch the hearts and unfold the Heart Doctrine”¹

The Teacher of the Order, October the 16th, 1928

“And then shall they see the Son of man coming in the clouds, with great power and glory. And then shall he send his angels, and shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from the uttermost part of the earth, to the uttermost part of heaven.”

St. Mark, XIII, 26-27.

“And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.”

Revelation XXII, 12-13.

In this chapter we look at the most profound prophecy expected to come to fruition in our time, and that is the universally expected next coming of the Avatar. There is hardly a movement along spiritual lines today that does not openly expect the imminent arrival or manifestation of such a Being. And by the very Laws of Manifestation, when there is such an universal aspiration and a heart cry of millions of believers after righteousness, such a manifestation cannot but help to become fulfilled. And before such a cosmic event is to take place, there must of necessity be many ‘John the Baptists’ who will hew the way, and make straight His paths, to prepare for His coming. In the olden days such an event could have been prepared by an individual such as John the Baptist, or maybe a few more. But in this age of ours, where communication has made the whole globe exceedingly small, many, many avenues have to be used in the preparation of such an event. One of the main aims and purposes of the founding of *The Order of Christian Mystics* was to assist in the preparation of the world for His coming. The world is today awaiting the advent of such another Divine Teacher or true Prophet, a personalized embodiment of the great Christos-principle of the universe, the all-pervading, vivifying power which underlies all manifestations of the One Life. He comes again, as of old, as the Sun of Righteousness to re-establish the Divine Priesthood and restore the principles of the ancient Wisdom Religion to the sixth sub-race now just beginning.

As this great spiritual Being approaches the Earth-plane each heart who can respond to the vibrations of His message will come more or less consciously into touch with Him, no matter what organization or movement he may be working in. And according as the rational mind of such a one has been trained in the laws of such manifestations and the true philosophy of the mysteries, will his interpretation be clear or imperfect. There are today many hearts who are responding more or less

¹ Curtiss, *Personal Survival*, p121

consciously to this force of Divine Love now being focused upon the Earth-plane in greater measure than ever before through His Divine overshadowing presence.

The Order of the 15 was put forth by the Great White Lodge for a definite work in helping to prepare the way and make a place for the coming of the great World Teacher, the Avatar. For ere such a Divine Being can appear on earth there must be a nucleus formed of awakened Souls who not only ardently long for His advent, but who are sufficiently instructed in the Law and developed through love, to recognize Him when He comes.²

The New Testament as given forth by the *Teachings of the Order* show us that we are not to look back and worship a crucified, dead and buried Jesus or any specific personality, but a risen and ever-present Lord of Light, Life and Love, a contactable actual *living presence* who calls us to sup with Him now in the “upper chamber”. For as he descends from the Higher realms His overshadowing presence can be felt by any sincere heart, attuned to His vibrations. And as can be attested to by many souls today, He is indeed accessible through *independent aspiration* by many. He gives His Teachings and appears to those to whom He chooses to appear, but is unknown and unnoticed by others. Such an outshining of the Christ, or let us say, descent of the Christ-light has been widely expected, until a point is reached whereby this Light will manifest and overshadow a personality, and become the next Avatar in the flesh. Such Celestial beings, or Avatars, such as Melchizedek, Krishna and Jesus, incarnate at the beginning of every Great Age, to give out the teachings of that Age, and the cycle for another such celestial incarnation is now at hand.³

A Divine manifestation does not just happen overnight, without preparation. As such a Being descends into the Earth's aura, He comes into contact with all who can correlate with Him on a mental level, then further down on an astral level, and finally into physical incarnation. And then when such a Being openly manifests, he will find many who will recognize Him and His Teachings, as they have already been prepared from out the higher realms. And it is through avenues such as *The Teachings of the Order*, that many can be prepared, through developing their own intuition, to recognize and to respond to the emanations of such a Great Teacher.⁴

Here in America many have long recognized that *The Order of Christian Mystics* is such a Messenger. Its mission is to prepare for His coming by presenting the principles and philosophy of divine manifestation. These have been sent forth from the beginning of its ministry in 1908, when its commission was given direct from on High. And His hands have ever upheld its agents through all the trials, testing's, persecutions, burnings and purifications through which the Order has passed. And His everlasting arms have been outstretched to bless and comfort all who have responded to the special call given through this Order. Hence, in spite of the natural human weaknesses of its messengers, they have never doubted the success of the message nor hesitated to obey in the face of the greatest opposition and discouragement, for they have ever remained humble and teachable.

The Great Ones can give to their messengers everything except a humble, loving heart, a teachable mind and a determination that nothing can daunt; these are qualities the messengers themselves must furnish. And they have been amply rewarded by the knowledge that through their efforts many, many beautiful crystals have been freed from their confining matrices and many facets of the Diamond Heart have been polished. But the messengers of the Order have received a new and more impressive and urgent message, which they must now transmit to you. They are bidden to proclaim to you the near approach of His advent on Earth “among His true and devoted followers in all lands. To prepare for this He bids all draw close in faith, devotion and love to their fellow men and to their chosen messengers, and help to spread the Teachings wherever a mind and heart is found open to them.”⁵

² Curtiss, *The Voice of Isis*, pp137-138

³ Curtiss, *Reincarnation*, pp34,35

⁴ Curtiss, *The Inner Radiance*, p34

⁵ Curtiss, *The Message of Aquaria*, pp302, 303

Today, in all occult groups, societies and other movements working along truly spiritual lines one will find certain advanced members who come into touch with the Avatar, as best as their spiritual development, training and purity allows. And through such persons mental ability and spiritual training the message and preparation for the coming Avatar will be brought to that particular society or movement. It is in this way that the Avatar spreads the message of his near advent 'to all people', so that the members of every society and movement shall hear the Divine truths spoken in their own language wherein they were born, and couched in the terminology, symbols and expressions particular to their own avenue of truth. And it is only natural that such inspired persons believe that they have been 'specially' chosen, that the manifestation will happen with their specific centre of light and that they will be somehow exalted and transformed and become a Christ to the world. But a little bit of thought will clearly show that these are but delusions and pitiful, for no centre of light can be the sole custodian of such a Great Mission, for He will come 'to all people'.

The current manifestation of *The Order of Christian Mystics* was founded in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and as the book of Revelation is intimately bound up with the Avataric cycle and the Avatar, we may deduce that Philadelphia will be a relevant centre for the times of the coming Avatar. The Founders also clearly expected the Avatar to arise 'in the East' but to ultimately settle in the West, being the United States, which is to become the chief centre of the New Age civilisation.⁶

Note carefully the promise given to the angel of the Church of Philadelphia, in Revelation III, 7-13: "Behold I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name." This promise is now being literally fulfilled as these are the last days of the cycle, and this Movement is the "open door" referred to."⁷

This chapter deals almost exclusively with the many remarkable and profound prophecies as given out in the chapter on *The Doctrine of Avatara* in the main work of the Order, *The Voice of Isis*. Many of these prophecies, given out as early as 1912, have already manifested in a number of ways, showing them to be true to the times *we live in now*.

The Copts in Egypt claim to have detailed records of the life of Jesus and of his three sojourns to Egypt, as well as to Ethiopia, Arabia, India and Tibet. During a visit (1938) by the Curtiss' to a specific Coptic Church in Egypt the following prophecy was given them.

In one of the temples we were shown the very bench on which it is claimed that Jesus sat at the temple services during the many years of His sojourn there. During His stay He trained seven Masters of the higher degrees of the Brotherhood to act as Custodians to preserve and transmit the whole truth of His doctrines, including Karma and Reincarnation, unchanged by exoteric misinterpretations and translations, to succeeding ages until the cosmic cycle for His second coming should arrive. It is claimed that that time is now at hand, and that the prophecy of *Hosea* (xi, 1): "Out of Egypt have I called my Son," will again be fulfilled at the proper moment. But it will not be until the world is so sick of strife and war that it will realize the essential unity of all mankind, and that *brotherhood and co-operation* on all planes are the *basic laws of life*. Only then will it be ready to listen to and follow Him into the New Age of world unity, peace and happiness.⁸

For those who care to study the life of the Saint and Master Ramakrishna, we wish to bring to attention the following few lines, in which it is intimated that the life of Ramakrishna was none other than a recent incarnation of Him that was known as Jesus. And he states quite clearly that He will have to take up a body again in

⁶ Curtiss, *The Inner Radiance*, pp338,339

⁷ Curtiss, *The Voice of Isis*, p112

⁸ Curtiss, *The Pattern Life*, pp264,265

the West⁹, amongst others to complete the Liberation of His closest Disciples. It is therefore suggestive and quite possible, that that Master has taken human form once more, in order to fulfil the Prophecies of old. A truly remarkable life, that of Ramakrishna,¹⁰ in which he had many visions of his former incarnations, and having once more with him some of His disciples that He had in the days of Galilee.

M: "I feel that Christ, Chaitanyadeva, and yourself, all three are one and the same. It is the same Person that has become all these three."

Master: "Yes, yes! One! One! It is indeed one. Don't you see that it is He alone who dwells here in this way." As he said this, Sri Ramakrishna pointed with his finger to his own body."

M: "You went into samadhi at the sight of Jesus Christ's picture in Jadu Mallick's garden house. You saw Jesus come down from the picture and merge in your body."

And further:

Master: "Those belonging to (my) the inner circle will not attain liberation (in this life). I shall have to assume a human body again, in a north-westerly direction."

It is widely accepted in occult circles that we find ourselves indeed in the Age of the Son of Man, as the Age of Aquarius is astrologically and esoterically intimately bound up with the appearance of the "Son of Man in heaven." We read in the Bible that as He was taken up into the clouds, so, at the closing of the Avataric cycle will He descend once more from the clouds, 'and all eyes shall behold him.' In our day with advanced air and spacecraft, visual global news networks and communications, such an appearance would be indeed be seen by all. The Order clearly expected Him to manifest "phenomenally" as such in America, being the most dominant nation on earth since the beginning of the previous century. As it was in the days of Noah and of Lot, today we find ourselves in much the same position, for history tends to ever repeat itself. It is therefore that planetary aspects and influences today are similar to those that existed at the closing of previous great cosmic cycles.

"Noah symbolizes those illumined ones or prophets of the Lord who are able to hear His voice and give out His loving counsel and helpful warnings to mankind. Those of "the household of Noah" are all those who are willing to listen and heed the words of the many modern prophets of the Lord in all races and languages and religions who are warning their respective peoples to prepare for great changes in the Earth and all outer conditions, as well as for the near advent of the Son of Man, whether as the re-appearance of the Asiatic Rigden Jyepo in Shamballah or of the phenomenal manifestation of the Christ in America. Therefore it is most important to broadcast the Cosmic Philosophy which explains the conditions which humanity is facing, and also the how, why and when of His coming, so that this knowledge shall be the leaven that shall leaven all humanity and give all who will, the understanding and the help which will enable them to pass through the coming conditions in safety and help them to prepare for His coming."¹¹

In order for the Avatar to find a world suitably prepared for a new religious and spiritual dispensation, to find fertile soil for His Message, much preparation and work has had to be done. This preparation started in earnest with the work of HPB more than a century ago. Since then the sheer scope of the outpouring and dissemination of spiritual knowledge accomplished by literally hundreds and thousands of groups and individual efforts over the last hundred years or so is nothing short of astounding.

What is an Avatar? for the term being used ought to be well understood. It is a descent of the manifested Deity . . . into an illusive form of individuality, an appearance which to men on this illusive plane is objective, but it is not so in sober fact. That illusive form having

⁹ *The Gospel of Sri Ramakrishna*, pp825, 826, 829

¹⁰ Saradananda, *Sri Ramakrishna, the Great Master*, Chapter XXI.

¹¹ Curtiss, *The Inner Radiance*, p21

neither past nor future, because it had neither previous incarnation nor will have subsequent rebirths, has naught to do with Karma, which has therefore no hold on it. (The Secret Doctrine, Blavatsky, Vol. III, 364). In other words a true Avatar is a focusing of the universal cosmic Christ-principle into and through the individuality of a Great Soul who has reached divinity, hence has no Karma. Such a Great Soul must be an Initiate into the Mysteries, one who has overcome and reached Nirvanic bliss, but who voluntarily incarnates in the flesh for the purpose of becoming a vehicle for an individualization of The Christos, that it may accomplish a special definite mission in humanity. Such an one sacrifices His life in the spiritual realms and offers Himself as a vehicle because of His great love for suffering humanity and in answer to its great need for a more direct manifestation of Divine Love and Wisdom.

The appearance of Avatars on this world are as old as time itself, and is an event that happens over and over again. Spiritual and moral decline go hand in hand with the rise and fall of empires, a group reincarnation cycle, and it becomes necessary, from time to time, to inject as it were new spiritual strength and vitality into the earth's aura. This is accomplished by sending down a pure ray from the Divine, a karma free being, to teach a purer form of religion, a new aspect of the one Wisdom Religion, for the spiritual benefit of humanity.

The appearance of an Avatar is determined by the needs of humanity and the manifestation is as great as the highest ideals of the most advanced of mankind demand. He comes in answer to the cry of many, many hearts for more love and light, for higher ideals and for a clearer understanding of the universal spiritual truths contained in the one Wisdom Religion. As more and more hearts send up their cries the demand creates a vacuum or a negative vortex into which the positive complementary force of The Christ-principle must flow and find an embodied manifestation in humanity. In *The Bhagavad Gita* Krishna—the Christ—says: “I produce myself among creatures, O son of Bharata, whenever there is a decline of virtue and an insurrection of vice and injustice in the world; and thus I incarnate from age to age for the preservation of the just, the destruction of the wicked, and the establishment of righteousness.” . . . In other words, when the enlightened thought of the day recognizes—as it does today—that its spiritual teachers are no longer in personal touch with the higher realms and are no longer divinely called, guided and appointed to their offices, a new regime is demanded. When the ceremonies employed and the sacraments administered by priests and ministers no longer carry divine potency, it is time for a true priesthood to be established. When the covenant of marriage is no longer a sacred sacrament, but has degenerated into the mere recital of a few words before one who has no spiritual power to discern whether or not the man and woman belong to each other spiritually—as all divinely ordained priests have—and when through such ignorance the resulting mistaken marriages degrade the Divine Creative Power into mere sex gratification, impurity and lust, then there must come a fresh outpouring of Divine Love, Purity and Wisdom. For there is never a sincere prayer uttered by the children of men that does not, by the very law of the universe, create its answer. Neither social, political nor economic injustice and in-harmony can ever be truly adjusted and regulated and graft abolished until the divinely appointed priesthood, who are under personal conscious direction of the Progenitors and Guides of the Race, is re-established.¹²

Such an Avatar would of necessity be an Initiate into the mysteries, as is plain to see to those enlightened souls that have made a study of such matters. And He will once more impart a true religion, a more esoteric and deeper truth to all awakened souls who are instructed in the Law, as stated in the caption above. The world today has many more advanced souls and Initiates in the flesh on earth than in any other period of our history, save in Atlantean times. The Avatar will therefore have large numbers of more or less enlightened souls that will follow His edicts, once these become known through His public work. These will form the core and elect who will see the earth on into the golden age, and will be the mainstay to found this new religion.

As the Avatar descends through the higher worlds and draws near the earth-plane, all hearts who are open to His influence or respond to the key-note of His message come into more

¹² Curtiss, *The Voice of Isis*, pp140,141

or less conscious touch with Him interiorly through the illuminating power of His Divine consciousness and feel an unquenchable desire and an irresistible urge to purify, uplift and make more harmonious that phase of work for humanity in which they are interested. And today all classes, types and conditions of mind are feeling the influence of a great spiritual awakening which is giving them a greater vision, a greater realization of the needs of humanity and the possibility of their filling a wider range of usefulness and accomplishing greater results. And this no matter whether they are more or less blindly following the urge to do good along philanthropic, humanitarian, sociological or political lines of endeavour, or whether they are occultists who understand the Law and are working more or less consciously under the inspiration and direction of those Great Souls, the Masters of Wisdom, whose Love, Wisdom and Power is back of and working through every effort for the betterment of the Race in direct proportion to the ability of the various channels to assimilate and make use of Their help.¹³

For as humanity progresses in wisdom and understanding so it also outgrows its orthodox religions, and a newer, truer and more profound religion has to be developed to suit the needs of the day. What would such a religion look like? It would have to suit current times and onwards for another thousand years, until at least the end of the Golden Age.

Every Great Teacher, such as Zoroaster, Gautama, Jesus, etc., has founded a new religion or at most, a new expression of the One Religion. They have all taught the Wisdom Religion, but in ways which appealed to the different peoples to which they came. While each of those Great Teachers has taken the world a step onward and emphasized some one phase of Divine Truth, still they have founded but larger sects, rather than brought the world into one Universal Brotherhood. The Christian religion is universally acknowledged to be the greatest factor in modern civilization, and the time has now come for it to take an advanced step through the awakening of a sense of the deep, underlying, vital truths common to all religions in the hearts of all earnest seekers among Christian people; thus taking the first step on the return journey to the one Wisdom Religion.¹⁴

If we take the above into consideration, it will mean that the truths to be found in all religions will be identified within Christianity itself, and that Christianity will form a vital part of this new religion, although it will not be called by any such name, the Christian religion having far too much historical baggage that follows its orthodoxy.

The Christian Church—a mighty force if it were spiritually awake and its inner mysteries fully understood and taught, indeed, a chosen vehicle for the Christ-force—has grown comfortably and lazily fat, fed upon the authority and interpretations of bygone ages. . . .

In the symbols, sacraments and ritual and teachings of the early Church there can be found all the instruction needed to satisfy every inquiring mind and all the spiritual food needed to feed humanity *if it is mystically understood and spiritually interpreted and taught*. . . .

Shall not the inrushing wave of new spiritual realization and religious conception lift us above talking and thinking of ourselves as miserable sinners? stop representing in literature and art a cruel, angry God and a mutilated Savior? The new realization must depict God as Divine Love, the sustaining power of the universe, whose beloved Son is the spiritual outshining of that Love—the Sun of Righteousness—sent to Earth, not to be cruelly murdered, but like the physical Sun—the physical manifestation of its prototype, the Spiritual Sun—to shine into the hearts of all God’s children, and in this way pour out or sacrifice His life—give His spiritual life-force—that the seed of the Divine in man may sprout and come forth into manifestation in the daily life. . . .

Yet just as there has never been a time—even in the darkest ages of ignorance—when the spiritual understanding of some great Soul has not shone forth as a star of brilliant light and glory, so today God has not left His children comfortless, in darkness and without a prophet—meaning “one who speaks for God,” or reveals the esoteric wisdom. Those who watch through the night have seen the heavens open and have seen the Angels reveal the glory of the hidden Mysteries of God to mankind, altho few there be who follow them. . . .

But we must not overlook the fact that religion is the God-given vital heart organ of humanity, through which the spiritual life-blood is meant to flow that the whole body of

¹³ Curtiss, *The Voice of Isis*, p142

¹⁴ Curtiss, *The Voice of Isis*, p147

mankind may be full of life. *Religion is therefore absolutely necessary* to the spiritual health and welfare and progress of mankind . . . religion must never be destroyed, but corrected or healed, when infected with materialism.

The Great Masters of Wisdom have stored up the entire philosophy of the Wisdom religion so greatly needed in the coming age, ready to be given to mankind. . . . For if we are to have a reconstructed religion, which shall meet the needs of the New Age, it must be all-inclusive; must be both philosophical and devotional, rational and inspirational.¹⁵

The Order of Christian Mystics was put forth to bring to the public mind these deep and vital truths underlying the Christian religion and it has achieved such to a very great degree. *The Teachings of the Order* can therefore be viewed as the preparation, the forerunner, the experiment as it were, for the content of the new religion which is to be used by the Avatar. It has been mentioned before that *The Teachings of the Order* are very much alive, and if internalised, can and will put the student in direct contact with very sublime states. Such would be the impetus of a newly found religion, for it would have to be accessible in mind and heart, and would have to appeal to a broad class of people, from the occident to the orient. If it were but to be a rehash of former teachings and philosophy, without a heart, it could not appeal to the masses but only to the intellectual. Therefore, when HPB states that all teachings will be renewed, ‘but with its heart in it,’ it points to something far more beautiful than what we have in this world today in the form of orthodoxy. This new religion, will therefore have back of it, a sublime mystical power, that will inspire the heart, and move the worshipper or practitioner there-of to sublime yet practical ends. The vision of Mrs. Curtiss at the end of this section may provide a glimpse of what transpires in the higher realms of this manifestation.

Applying this Law of Change to religion, we will readily understand that every form of religion must unfold and change its mode of expression in accord with the advances in man’s conception of the universe and its laws, if that religion’s Inner Radiance is to continue to shine forth anew and reveal its inner pattern more perfectly.

Like the rose whose petals, at first folded tightly over its inner golden center, gradually unfold and open its heart to the Sun and permit its perfumed breath to pour forth upon the air, so must religion follow the same Law of Change (growth). The “air” of mankind which religion must perfume is composed of the principles and ideals which it inbreathes and which vitally affect the spiritual, moral and social health of the nations. Air, when illumined and vitalized by the rays of the Sun, becomes to the physical universe the very breath of God, whose Voice pronounced the Word that was made flesh. Sunshine and air have been essential factors in the formation of all flesh since the beginning, but air, too, must change or it becomes “dead air” and often poisonous.

The inner mystical truths upon which the outer forms—creeds and ceremonies—of all religions are built remain unchanged throughout the ages, for they are spiritual verities eternal in the heavens. But the outer forms which veil and only partially express them must evolve, and should grow ever more transparent that the Inner Radiance of Divine Truth may shine through more brightly to illumine the minds of men and reveal all the Divine Truth that it is possible for man’s spiritual unfoldment in each age to grasp.

If, instead of evolving and more clearly revealing its Inner Radiance, a religion becomes materialized through adherence to the letter of its man-made dogmas and creeds, then it ultimately disintegrates and disappears, after having served its purpose for a cycle, as though blown away by the winds of heaven. But if it is willing to modify its former conceptions, its Inner Radiance will illumine the heart and mind of someone, or of many, to break through the crust of misconception and materialization which has gathered around it, that new conceptions of its vital truths may shine forth in forms suited to the New Age.

Thus do all religions have their reformers and regenerators. And the old forms of expression drop away as the petals of a rose which has spent its life-force fall to the ground, although its Inner Radiance still persists, either as a seed of a new rose or is indrawn into the bush that it may manifest greater beauty and fragrance in another, or perhaps several more blossoms on the same bush. Therefore, the crying need of religion today is to put forth new blossoms from

¹⁵ Curtiss, *The Message of Aquaria*, pp214-221

the same Eternal Roots of Divine Truth. For no longer can the man-made interpretations of the medieval ages satisfy either the intellect or the heart-hunger of enlightened minds of the present twentieth century, the beginning of this new Aquarian Age. Hence, if our present-day religions are to remain a vital factor in the lives of modern men and women, there must be a new and vital interpretation of the world-old spiritual principles concerning the manifestation of the Divine to man and within man, such as *The Order of Christian Mystics* is endeavoring to set forth.¹⁶

And it is through the modern New Age movements that new life, love and light will transform existing orthodox thinking for many, into a more enlightened system of beliefs. The Teachings, as put forth in the 27 published volumes of *The Order*, form a simple, yet beautiful and constructive, all-inclusive cosmic philosophy. Pearls of Wisdom from all the major religions are encompassed in its teachings, making it thus palatable to all. The Avatar, as a person, would also have to be acceptable to all the races now on earth, as He would come to Humanity and not to any one sect.

The Avatar will not come to any one society, movement, order or sect, but will come to humanity. His truths will be so divine and perfect, yet so simple, unbiased and unprejudiced by the characteristics of any cult, that they will be equally¹⁷ applicable to all, no matter what their Race, creed or special trend of thought may be

His manifested personality would transcend all racial characteristics and limitations; would be the type of perfected man. Hence He could not be pointed out as belonging to a particular Race, but would embody the perfections of all Races and therefore would not arouse the race-prejudice of even the most advanced.¹⁸

As the above constitutes a prophecy for the coming new religion, only time will tell as to its outcome. Do we then find ourselves in the times as prophesied of old? In *Revelation* we are told of the varying woes. It is generally accepted in occult circles that care to study the prophecies that the first two woes represented the two world wars. The forerunner of the third woe is taken as the nuclear incident of Chernobyl as the name wormwood in *Revelation*, and the word Chernobyl, refer to the same thing. Also the air, the land and the waters were poisoned and indeed many people did die. Today we also have more than a hundred conflicts raging throughout the world, from low intensity civil wars, drug wars, environmental wars, human trafficking, genocides and terrorism to high intensity economic and military conflicts fought on many fronts. It can rightly be pointed out that we indeed find ourselves in the third woe or the Third World War, though undeclared.

There are many prophecies in the Bible, and elsewhere, relating to the Avatar who closes this cycle, which have never been fulfilled in any sense. The Book of Revelation is distinctly a history of the preparation for the coming of such an Avatar. In it is allegorically set forth all that must occur in the world during an avataric cycle.¹⁹

In *The Teachings of the Order* such an avataric cycle stretches across an astrological month from the times of the man of Nazareth to the present close of the great astrological year. The following segment contains a number of prophecies as projected to coming world conditions (written in 1912) that will precede the coming of the Avatar and much of this can be seen in our social and world conditions today. It is estimated that in any large western city today up to a hundred different Christian sects may operate at any given time, from the orthodox establishments to the charismatic and up to the new age movements. Each professing a part or parts of the One Wisdom Religion with dire consequences to its members if they fall out of line. The following was written prior to 1912 and was true to its day.

¹⁶ Curtiss, *The Inner Radiance*, pp5-7

¹⁷ Curtiss, *The Voice of Isis*, p145

¹⁸ Curtiss, *The Voice of Isis*, pp139-140

¹⁹ Curtiss, *The Voice of Isis*, p147

Now, a hundred years later, can we not see that many of the events as foretold in *Revelation* have indeed come true?

Today many are running to and fro after self-advertised teachers, seeking to develop their psychic faculties. And many who have begun to use these faculties on even the lowest stratum of the astral-plane set themselves up as teachers or write books giving the world minute directions covering the whole field of thought and action, from the feeding of their animal bodies to the attainment of Adeptship. With the fragments of knowledge thus obtained such teachers claim that every other psychic who has gleaned a few different fragments is wrong. This psychic awakening, conflict and confusion will come as the first step in a wonderful wave of activity in all walks of life, tending to extreme selfishness and unbrotherliness; for each will claim the Truth and start sect after sect, and, like a pack of wolves tearing a carcass in pieces, each one will be ready to fight to the death to maintain and guard his bone against the whole pack. Then shall begin 'wars and rumours of wars' and the struggle for supremacy. 'Now the brother shall betray the brother to death, and the father the son; and children shall rise up against their parents, and shall cause them to be put to death.' This will be but the beginning of the end; and the prospect would be hopeless, indeed, did we not know that out of those who 'run to and fro,' one by one there will come the few who will open their spiritual faculties, sweep away the mists of prejudice, and see the Light of The Christos shining in their brother's heart. These few will band together to help spread the Light rather than to increase the confusion; and they will be the remnant who will survive the physical catastrophes and usher in the golden period of the present Kali Yuga age.²⁰

Yet, even in current world conditions, the world is not left comfortless. There are indeed many that keep the Light of Truth burning ever bright, and who give forth teachings from time to time that are unifying in spirit. It will be the great task of the Avatar, to unite in a common religion, usable and accessible to all, these varying hundreds of sects that profess to know the truth. For whatever new religion or philosophy is put forth, it must fit the times, and must be so universally true that it will also withstand the times, and remain of practical use for a thousand years to come. The expected physical catastrophes as stated in the next section will take a large proportion of humanity out of incarnation. By the Law of Resonance and Vibration, the remnants that will survive will be that class of seekers that can correlate with the new expected dispensation, and that will seek to build a new world and usher in a glorious new day, where 'Satan will be bound for a thousand years.' In all sincere hearts the seeking after a common brotherhood is an aspiring ideal, but so often misunderstood in its practical seeking and application.

The Order of the 15 is put forth in an effort to awaken The Christ-love in the hearts of men, rather than to cater to the intellect or the desire for psychic development. For only those who can correlate with this Christ-power can be gathered together as His disciples. The aim of this Movement is especially to help all Christian people to find the deep, underlying vital truths common to all religions in their own, and thus truly, and in the only way possible, prepare for an Universal Brotherhood on earth in which each Soul shall find the same vital truths spoken in his own language, i.e., couched and taught in terms of the religion in which he was born. This is the only real way of bringing about Brotherhood. For to dream of a Brotherhood in which all classes of humanity and all varieties of race-thought are forced to flow in one direction and accept as final Truth couched in one set form, no matter how lofty the form or how beautiful its trend, is but a fantastic chimera born of the human mind, and whose attempted practical establishment has always ended, and always will end, in confusion, antagonism, and unbrotherliness far more intense than before the attempt was made. It is only by touching the deep, underlying springs of Universal Love that Universal Brotherhood can be attained.

We can but pray and hope that for the sake of the Elect the coming days of woe shall be shortened, and this is indeed possible as each and every aspirant and seeker makes the necessary changes in his own heart to correlate with the expected Coming and radiates the forces of universal love, tolerance and understanding to

²⁰ Curtiss, *The Voice of Isis*, p151-152

²¹ Curtiss, *The Voice of Isis*, pp153, 154

all whom they contact. That these coming cataclysms are long overdue and have but been held back by the grace of the Higher Powers to give us time to make the necessary changes has been put forth by a number of sources.

These multitudes of advanced Souls in the Higher Realms of the unseen worlds, who have enlisted in the army of the Lord, and unselfishly seek to help humanity, together with the angelic hosts that surround the Christ as a great body guard of Cosmic Force, as He prepares to descend into manifestation on Earth, have more than once begged the Father for more time during which humanity may repent and be redeemed.

So the great day of adjustment has been pushed back, and pushed back, time and time again. But alas, cosmic forces can be influenced and diverted only temporarily, as they move inevitably forward to their destined manifestation, unless they are neutralized by opposite vibrations of greater power. . . . It is the day of seeming disaster, but is in reality the Day of Cleansing and Purifying.²²

The days of temptation, trial and tests are now upon us, not only as individuals, but as nations and races. The wars due at the close of each Great Age are upon us and the cataclysms are long overdue. They have been held back and held back through the ardent prayers of the Elect that humanity might have a little longer time in which to make the much needed advance in national and international brotherhood, harmony and co-operation, but they cannot be held back much longer. Any day now we may witness exceptionally great storms, quakes, tidal waves or other disasters on land and sea. Therefore we should all pray daily. . . . both the *Prayer for World Harmony* that further wars be avoided, and also that the coming conditions may so awaken the hearts of humanity to a realisation of their touch with the Divine and an understanding of their dependence upon God, that the readjustments of physical conditions which are now due shall come as cleansing blessings and not as hopeless disasters.²³

Whether we physically survive the coming ordeals or not makes little difference, for the world will but be cleansed and prepared for a Golden Age for all, in which real spiritual progress will be possible for the majority. "Remember that wars and cataclysms do not come as a punishment, but as an inevitable reaping in exact justice of the conditions sown by those very Souls who are now involved in them. It is a cleansing process which will prepare the better and more advanced conditions which the Aquarian Age must usher in. Those who are on the Lord's (Law's) side who correlate through prayer, meditation and service, with the constructive currents of reconstruction now being poured out, will be preserved and used as instruments to help adjust subsequent conditions and usher in the reign of peace, harmony, co-operation and righteousness, unless their services are more needed in the higher realms." Through these will then incarnate the coming leaders and teachers who will prepare conditions of peace, harmony, love and purity in which the more spiritual and sensitive Souls can incarnate. For without these teachers and helpers it would be impossible for the masses of mankind to reach the development required to usher in the New Age.

And those who consistently retard human progress by a failure to work with the Divine Law will make up a minority in the New Age and will be classed as the unfit and laggards. All of us, presently incarnate or discarnate will be born into this glorious age and partake of its fruits and its multitude of spiritual opportunities.

"The fundamental reason for the changing of the thought of mankind at the present is that the culminating together at this time of many cycles permits the manifestation and reappearance of the great Cosmic Lord from Heaven, the Solar Logos, the Divine Ruler of Mankind, the mighty Avatar or Son of God, with His holy angels, whose advent is expected so soon, under various names and conditions, by nearly all the races of mankind. His near approach quickens and gives greater power to the individualized Ray of the Divine in each Soul, the mighty I Am Presence or the personal Lord from Heaven, and stimulates it to seek greater

²² Curtiss, *Personal Survival*, p63

²³ Curtiss, *The Pattern Life*, pp173-174

manifestation in the individual through whatever avenues of expression it has been able to develop in the human personality.

But the potency of the spiritual force of the Cosmic Lord from Heaven also stimulates all the unconquered opposition of the man of flesh to the reign of his personal Lord from Heaven. Hence we have the strange paradox that while we see around us a greater desire for brotherhood and co-operation between nations, a greater revival in religious and spiritual matters and psychic investigation of the unseen, a greater expression of altruism and sympathy for the unfortunate, a greater outpouring of philanthropy, charity and help from fortunate persons and nations to those in distress, than the world has ever seen before, amidst all this we also see a greater materialism, a greater lawlessness and selfishness, crime waves, racketeering and general loss of respect for all law, authority and restraint, and a greater individual and national ambition and pride of separateness (nationalism) than the world has ever known heretofore.

But just as the solid and seemingly impervious and unalterable barriers of ice and snow of winter are melted and swept away as the Sun of springtime rises higher and higher, so will the rising of the Spiritual Sun, the Cosmic Lord from Heaven, melt the barriers of opposition, separation, inharmony and strife among the classes and nations and usher in a new spiritual springtime of peace, harmony and cooperation among the various classes, nations and races of mankind. For those who refuse to respond to this new outpouring of the Sun of Righteousness—whether individuals or nations—will be swept away in the coming cataclysms, together with the great forces of evil created by man which have accumulated as the debris of humanity's past winter period. In other words, with the ushering in of this new Aquarian Age the time has come when those who are spiritually unevolved and those who refuse to work with God's Law in spite of all the teachings and helps which God has given them, will not be permitted to incarnate again until those who are advanced and faithful to the Law have had an opportunity to reach a certain advanced stage of spiritual unfoldment, unhampered by the undeveloped and slothful ones. The latter, however, are not neglected, but for a certain cycle remain in other realms, much as incorrigible children might be shut away from their law-abiding companions in a special school or reformatory until they had learned the needed lessons.²⁴

Therefore, when we hear of wars and rumors of wars and have to face change, disturbance, upheavals and cataclysms, either in our own conditions and lives or in those of the world at large, our hearts need not be troubled nor our faith in the Divine Overshadowing be weakened, for we know that all these things are but passing phases of the great cleansing and preparation so necessary for the coming of our Lord from Heaven. Those who are of the earth, earthy, or who cling to the things of Earth must perish with the Earth, but they who have separated that which is earthy within themselves and have placed it under the dominion of the Lord from Heaven will live thereafter with their Lord.

No tribulation can affect us if we trust and believe and try to correlate with our Lord from Heaven within and endeavour to manifest Him without. Let us kneel, therefore, in glad and humble adoration before his Shining Presence and be baptized with the spiritual waters of His divine Life and Love and Beauty, and realize that all is well.

It will be a great help to this realization if we repeat the *Prayer to the Divine Indweller* as given by us elsewhere.²⁵

²⁴ Curtiss, *The Truth About Evolution and the Bible*, pp221

²⁵ Curtiss, *The Inner Radiance*, pp56-60

PRAYER TO THE DIVINE INDWELLER

“Come, O Lord of Life and Love and Beauty!
 Thou who art myself and yet art God!
 And dwell in this body of flesh,
 Radiating all the beauty of holiness and perfection,
 That the flesh may outpicture all that Thou art within!
 Even so, come, O Lord. Amen.”

The personalized manifestation of the Christ is coming not to isolated groups or colonies alone; not to certain Movements, Societies or Orders alone, but, *after the cataclysms*, to humanity, whoever and wherever they can prepare an ark or chalice in which He can manifest: not in public to walk the streets, be interviewed, etc., but privately to those properly prepared students and groups who have proved that they are His sincere, understanding and devoted disciples. Therefore, He cries: “Build me a body, not out of colonies and buildings of wood and stone, but out of the atoms of your bodies that you have purified in the fires of aspiration and Christ-love: atoms redeemed from fear, from spiritual ambition, from self-seeking, from impurity and inharmony: atoms transmuted by unselfish service to others.” This is not so Herculean a task as it might appear at first thought, for as we allow His force to manifest in us, all our atoms that are prepared to respond to His vibrations will be attracted to Him by the Law of Spiritual Affinity and will be built into a fleshly covering in which He can walk the Earth. In the mean time, all aspiring hearts can come into personal contact with His overshadowing presence, anywhere on Earth, as we have explained elsewhere.

We close this chapter with a remarkable vision as vouchsafed to *The Order of Christian Mystics* pertaining to the coming Avatar, as transcribed nearly a century ago.

A VISION OF THE COMING²⁶

The following is the description of a vision of the coming Avatar recently seen by Mrs. Curtiss.²⁷ It is written down verbatim as it was realized by her consciousness with no attempt to put it into literary form. This original form is reproduced just as it was received, for every expression has a special creative potency:

The word is spoken. The sable curtains of the darkness part. He who dwells in everlasting radiance comes forth. With Him, rank on rank, angelic Beings move in ever-widening circles. Transcendent, ever-changing hues of Light with blinding radiance intoxicate the air. From angelic harps rich melody rolls onward. The very echoes of yon planet, earth, tremble with ecstasy. And with delirious joy sink into silence profound and awesome.

What bodes it me, an humble child of earth, that I behind the veil may glimpse? Who art Thou, Lord? whom to Thy shepherds thus appeareth?, I dare not look. My weary world-worn eyes I cannot lift. Yet rests thy crown of glory on my brow.

“Light of the World, forever shining,
 Though streaming tears thy radiance hide
 Sun of my Soul, forever near
 Lift up my heart in adoration
 And there abide for aye.
 Deep in my empty heart ent’ring;
 All Love Divine and Wisdom cent’ring,
 My Savior, Lord, I’m lost in Thee.
 Empty Thine arms, with blessings laden,
 Grant me the boon to bear them on.”
 Thus spake my Soul.

²⁶ Curtiss, *Realms of the Living Dead*, pp271-272

²⁷ First issued to *The Order of Christian Mystics* in June, 1917.

From out the Silence, rolling thunder. And many Voices cried Amen! Amen! The heavenly hosts are stilled as Thou draw'st near. Aye! E'en the harmony divine in silence dies when Thou appear'st. Grant me to rest in Thy bright shining. Forth from the hosts angelic a Being speaks:

“Still, O earth, thy heart! The Lord Christ cometh.
He passeth by; and thrills the farthest region
Where waves of death beat earth's dark shore.
The darkness flees, by glory vanquished.
The day of blood and steel and death is o'er.”

Silent, still and empty. Naught of earth remaining. Only Thy joy and peace and love abiding.
Sun of my Soul, shine on! Shine on!

As the rise of the Sun each Spring denotes the beginning of a new year in Nature, so does the rise of the Spiritual Sun every 2,700 years mark the beginning of a New Age for humanity: at this time the beginning of the great Aquarian Age. If we see the physical Sun rise from the southern hemisphere every Spring to pour out or sacrifice its life-force that the individual forms of life in Nature may have a renewed expression, we may well believe the world-old teaching that there is a Spiritual Sun which also rises periodically to bring to the spiritual life of humanity a period of renewed activity, growth and expression.

Today we stand on the brink of a new and wonderful manifestation, a new demonstration that God is Love, a Love so great that again He is to send to mankind an embodiment of the Cosmic Christos: is to send “his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him, should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.”

Today, as of old, once more are the heavens opened—our higher understanding—and the angels are broadcasting their joyous song to mankind. “Glory to God in the highest, and on Earth [and in the Earth and in the hearts of men—created in His image—be] peace, good will.” Many advanced and illumined mortals may announce His coming and proclaim His message of Divine Love, but no mortal born of woman can be “He who is to come.” For *the Son of God is not a mortal*, but the manifestation of a Divine and Celestial Being in human form: God Himself manifesting in the flesh.

He can continue to come to mankind as He does today, unseen by man, and walk the streets and impress the minds of those who are capable of listening and responding, but He would do more. The day is dawning near when there must be a descent into physical manifestation, where He can demonstrate that *theophania* and *theopneusty* or the manifestation of God to men is not merely an age-old teaching, attested to by the Initiates of all ages, but a practical fact and the most reasonable thing in the world, and following the universal Law of Manifestation or the materialization of the invisible into the visible.²⁸

It is our contention, taken from various sources that the Avatar is amongst us, in the flesh, preparing to take up His work, as soon as world conditions become conducive to such a revelation. But it will not be until after the expected great karmic cleansing, until after the close of this period that He will appear openly, to reassure distracted humanity of the spiritual basis of all manifestation, and to outline a new and higher conception of the spiritual life and its forms of expression, culminating in a new religion.²⁹ As per our caption we expect such a birth date to have been around 1975. We also believe that the Master Jesus has re-incarnated on this world many times since his Mission in Galilee. For He is a type of Avatar that

²⁸ Curtiss, *The Truth About Evolution and the Bible*, pp212,213

²⁹ Curtiss, *Coming World Changes*, p89

comes again and again, until the very last pilgrim has made it back to the Father.
Such are His vows, and few there be who can comprehend it.

PRAYER FOR CHRIST'S COMING

O Christ, the earth trembles at Thy approach!
The water and the air and the Heavenly Lights
Bow down before Thee.
The earth, Thy footstool, on which Thou treadest,
Gives back its worshipful chant as Thou cometh.
O Lord Christ! Open our hearts that we may
recognize Thee.
Open our minds that we may know Thee.
Open our lives that we may follow in Thy footsteps.
We fear nothing that can come to this earth, Thy footstool,
For we are Thy children, born of Thy love,
Fed on Thy blessings, adoring Thy Son. Amen.³⁰

³⁰ Curtiss, *Potent Prayers*, pp16,17

CHAPTER V

PROPHECIES OF THE ORDER

PART III: PROPHECIES OF THE ORDER

“It is not beyond belief that we may sometime be able to do in our laboratories what the Sun is doing in its laboratory . . . but to what end? Without the moral background of religion, without the spirit of service which is the essence of religion, our new powers will only be the means of our destruction.”

Prof. Robt. A. Millikan, Collier's, Oct. 24, 1925, 6.

“As it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man . . . until the day that Noah entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all . . . Likewise also was it in the days of Lot; . . . the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed.”

St. Luke, xvii, 26-30

AMERICA, SEAT OF THE NEW RACE

When HPB set foot on American soil in the late 1800's, it was her belief and great hope, and by implication that of her Masters, that America would become the next great spiritual seat of destiny in the New World. And it is hardly surprising, for in those early days liberty, tolerance and religious freedom was to be found enshrined in the constitution of that great nation, unlike the other 'great' nations of the west that were still in the throes of dictatorships, kingdoms, empires, monarchies and church rule. Many an Indian Master and Guru would send his disciples to preach the Eastern mysteries in America, as was done by Ramakrishna, Yukteswar, Sivananda and the powers behind HPB amongst others. By the end of the last century, more than a 1000 religious leaders and more than 1700 organised spiritual and religious organisations would have left its mark on American soil.^{1,2} It was prophesied that it would be here, in America, that the next great root race would have its birth. Such was already extensively covered in the works of HPB, *The Secret Doctrine*. The Founders dedicated a complete chapter in the book *Coming World Changes*, by the title *The Heart of the World*, to the destiny of America and its greatness in world spiritual affairs.

“As this continent is to be the home of a new race which will ultimately perfect itself by the survival and interblending of the fittest of all races now existing. . . .”³

“Occult Philosophy teaches that even now, under our very eyes, the new Race and races are preparing to be formed, and that it is in America that the transformation will take place, and has already silently commenced.”⁴

“For while the main seat of the New Race is likely to be in America, that new Race will be made up of the highest and best of all races who can work together to serve the Lord or the Divine Law, in peace, harmony and co-operation. Owing to the coming catastrophes . . . America will then be much larger⁵ than at present, hence able to accommodate all who come.”⁶

¹ Melton, J.G., *Religious Leaders of America*, 1991

² Melton, J.G., *Encyclopaedia of American Religions*, 4th Ed., 1993

³ Curtiss, *Letters from the Teacher Vol I*, Aims of this Movement

⁴ Blavatsky, *The Secret Doctrine*, ii, p463

⁵ Curtiss, *Coming World Changes*

⁶ Curtiss, *Letters from the Teacher*, Volume II, p232

“... we firmly believe this is the country in which is to be established the Great Temple in which the true Wisdom Religion shall spread to the world.”⁷

It is also expected that the ongoing struggle between the teachers of spiritual Light and Truth, and between those of ignorance, will play itself out once more in this country. This will have its roots from the times in Atlantis, where there were two great schools of thought. The majority who more or less degraded their powers for selfish ends, making of them the greatest magicians and psychic practitioners the world has ever seen, and the minority, who followed the edicts of their Divine Instructors and who strove to counteract the evil effects of the other school.⁸

A striking prophecy as reproduced here regarding both the greatness and moral downfall of America, which has all but come to pass, is given by no less an august personage as by Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865), who, in his time was an occultist and thought by many to have been a Rosicrucian. That the Founders had a direct link with the discarnate personality of Lincoln becomes very clear as put forth in the volumes *Personal Survival*⁹ (handwriting, psychographs and signatures) and *Realms of the Living Dead*.¹⁰

From the outbreak of the First World War in 1914, America dithered for nearly four years before she became involved in the war. Her European allies repeatedly requested assistance from this industrial giant, but her stance of neutrality frustrated all efforts to end the carnage in Europe.

There were three of us (The Founders and one other) seated before the glowing logs of the fireplace on the evening of Tuesday, February 27, 1917, and we had been quietly discussing present world conditions when suddenly the glowing fire seemed to fade away or be obscured by a thick chilling fog. Wondering at this strange phenomenon, and shivering as we continued to peer into its thick grey depths, two of those present, while in full waking consciousness, began to see the faint outlines of the Statue of Liberty appear through the fog, but corroded, bedraggled and forlorn. Instead of the heart-thrill that had invariably marked our sight of that great symbol of our country's ideals, this vision brought with it the most depressing sense of impending disaster. And as we continued to gaze spellbound at the singular scene, the familiar figure of Abraham Lincoln seemed to emerge from the fog above the statue. His head was bowed in sorrow. His face was wan and haggard as from carrying a great burden of care and anxiety and in his eyes was the deep heart-sorrow and suffering of a consuming sadness as of one whose highest ideals had been scorned and trampled under foot by those he loved best.

Observing our attention, he raised his head, and with right arm uplifted, his lips began to move and we seemed to hear his voice, in tones of tragic sadness whose pathos seemed to melt our hearts, giving us the following message which he begged us to transmit to his beloved people.

“America can retain the freedom of the seas and her place among the nations only through a recognition of the necessity of building a Statue of Liberty, not only in the harbour of her greatest city, but by lifting up a Statue of Liberty in its true sense in the hearts of her people. Only thus can she ever take her true place.

“The proud boast of America that she is ‘the Land of Liberty and the Home of the Free’ is symbolized in her great Statue of Liberty in New York harbour. It is most significant that in this age and day America is losing her high ideals as the land of liberty and the home of the brave. No longer does she hold up the torch of Liberty to enlighten the world, but crouches behind her own bulwarks crying ‘Peace! Peace! when there is no peace, drawing her garment before her face as her sisters and brothers pass by in their misery and agony, saying: ‘It is nothing to me. We are the land of the free.’

Almost at the beginning of the crisis in the affairs of our beloved country, for which we weep, a most untoward accident seemed to befall our Statue of Liberty. You will doubtless recall the fire which caused the explosion of the barges laden with ammunition along the New Jersey shore. To one who pays attention to the events of life; who realizes that every great national event, such as the erection of a great statue which symbolizes the ideals of the

⁷ Curtiss, *Letters from the Teacher*, Volume II, pp49,50

⁸ Curtiss, *The Message of Aquaria*, pp386,388-389

⁹ Curtiss, *Personal Survival*, Chapter XIV

¹⁰ Curtiss, *Realms of the Living Dead*, pp263-268

nation, marks an epoch in its history, such an accident has a profound significance. For all the forces of the air, of the elements and of nature combine to respect that symbol and force those who have erected it to live up to its ideals. And when these ideals are belittled the elements combine to show to man that something is vitally wrong. Therefore this bombardment and damage to the Statue of Liberty should have been a significant omen of that which occurred in the higher realms.

“O America! Thou beloved of my soul! Thou for whom the blood of the brave and the true has been shed! Thou for whose ideals great souls have struggled and perished and attained! Where is thy Liberty? Where is thy Freedom? Like the mist upon the harbour such a little thing serves to blot out from your eyes the wonderful Statue of Liberty! O decadent nation, wrapped in thy slumber of sophistry! Lulled into a distracted sleep by man’s greed, dissension and the machinations of thine enemies! How long think you this condition can endure?

“Brave sons are awakening in this great day and are already turning their eyes to your Flag of Freedom, crying out for a leader. Where is the Man of Destiny who shall recognize his right to be the deciding factor in this world’s confused day of reckoning? Where is the brave and great Leader who shall call out the Sons of America to uphold the institutions of Divine Liberty and Protection and Freedom?

“O cringing nation! I know you not. O effeminate and degenerate rulers! I recognize you not! “Souls of America, ARISE! AWAKE! Throw off this slothful death-gripping insomnia of unrest!

“Look into the eyes of the true Statue of Liberty! that which exists in the higher realms; that which is the Mother who gave thee birth and suckled thee at her breasts. Look deep into her eyes. See her gazing far out and away from your own land into the distant corners of the world. Then look around her feet. See the many of her seeming own, the poor, the hungry, the suffering, and the lost of all lands, clinging for protection beneath her skirts!

“How your hearts thrilled when she sheltered in her arms the negro slave and said: ‘He shall be free!’ Yet look yonder. See the slaves! Hear the cries! Listen to the agony of your brothers and sisters across the sea! Where is the strong arm that can protect? Where is the mother-love that can shelter?

“O America! America! No longer, no longer the Land of the Free, but the land of greed and selfishness, of sophistry, of dissension among yourselves. Who shall save you? To whom shall we look for succour? Shall we tear down our Statue of Liberty? Shall we allow the elements to destroy it? Yes. Yes. It cannot stand unless the land it guards be true to its ideals.

“Children of unrest! Children of unrest! Would to God that the cannon’s roar might wake you from your slothful sleep and self-seeking. Would to God some great call should come to you. Yet I would not that the call should be ‘Save yourselves.’ Oh no! Save your brothers, your sisters, the world! Stop this carnage like the strong giant that you are. Take your stand for principle and for right. And strike with the strength of the great Powers that are back of you; the Powers that won freedom for you from the tyranny of the old world. Everywhere you are answered: ‘Know your strength! Win freedom for the world.’

“Can you not see the great forces gathered on the higher planes which are seeking to send into your hearts, Oh children of men, the old-time cry of FREEDOM?

“O God, send us the Man of Destiny! Send us the Man of Destiny!

“Has the scroll been obliterated? the great scroll on which it has been written by the hand of Divine Law that this nation is destined to become the leader of the world! No hand but the hand of its own sons could obliterate it.

“Leaders are not made by money, by greed, avarice, dissension, deception and underhanded dealings.

“The Spirit of America lies crushed and bleeding. The cannons that have roared on the fields of battle have gone through her heart. The torpedoes that have sunk brave ships without warning have entered into her bosom and have sunk her beneath the waves of life. But is there no life left in this corpse? Cry out to the Lord of Battles for strength, for understanding and for truth. Let go the childish cry for Peace, Peace, when there is no peace. Can you be saved and hear the whole world groan? Can you be great and all the rest annihilated? Is this greatness the greatness of saving your own skin? or is it the greatness to Dare, to Do and to Die? And greater still, to come forth in the strength and power of the Lord of Hosts, knowing your destiny; recognizing that for which you were born in blood in a fight for Liberty, and declare yourself for Liberty and the Enlightening of the World!

“O America! America! Thou art the Man! Thou art the Nation of Destiny! Dare you deny it? Dare you hide when cannons roar? Dare you cringe when blood flows? Dare you doubt your high destiny?

“O America! America! Nation of my love! Art thou fallen! Art thou fallen?”

It must have riled the freedom loving spirit of Lincoln to see the apparent cowardice of America in the face of the carnage and heroic bravery of the battles of the First World War. The above prophecy was received on the 27th of February 1917. In April 1917 America entered the war. In May 1918 American soldiers engaged in their first battle on European soil.

Of importance is the reference to the Man of Destiny, who, together with the coming Avatar will usher in a new moral and ethical leadership world-wide.

There are a number of prophecies extant that point to a cataclysmic event for the city of New York. Take note of the barges of ammunition that rained down missiles on the Statue of Liberty on the night of the 30th of July, 1916. In the predictions of Edward Case do we also find references to a devastated New York City. The prophecies of the OCM have the following to say re this event and the spiritual mission and greatness of that city in the future:

This is also one of the occult reasons why New York is the greatest city in the world today, for it is built upon solid rock. Hence, while the lower end may be inundated in the coming cataclysms, the city as a whole will not be destroyed, for it has a great work to do in the world for the coming New Age and a duty to accomplish to the many alien peoples within its gates; and because it is founded on rock it must become the exponent or foundation of American principles to all the children of other Races who contact this country through its doors.¹¹

FREE ENERGY AND ADVANCED FLIGHT

That the Founders were clearly in touch with the destiny of America is without a doubt and the following communication as received by Mrs. Curtiss is informative from a number of points of view. The communication is with a young aviator whose plane was shot down over France by German aircraft during the First World War. In 1918 the first contact was made with said aviator in which it was pointed out to him that he was physically dead and had passed over. The young aviator vigorously denied being ‘dead’ as he was still so full of life vitality, having passed over to the other side while young and in the lust of battle, that he could not distinguish between being alive and dead. No amount of explanation could make him accept that he had indeed passed over to the other side. He was the youngest son, Quentin, of the previous President Theodore Roosevelt, and the initial contact was made on July the 18th, 1918 before his death had been officially corroborated. It was revealed to the Founders that he would more than likely reincarnate in a relatively short period of about twenty to thirty years, to complete his life cycle as this is quite common for those who pass on before their allotted time is up due to war, accident or untimely sudden death. This next life will then of necessity also be relatively short to make up for one full life, after which a normal incarnation life span then again commences of roughly three score and ten.

Of prophetic interest is the fact that he will be instrumental in assisting to develop a free energy machine, punted so much in contemporary literature of our day.

... his one great desire is to perfect the aeroplane for the benefit of his country. Because of his unselfish eagerness to be of use to his country and to mankind, without a thought of benefit to himself, he will soon be led to the Pattern Museum^{12,13} where he will study the perfected aeroplanes of the Ancient Atlantean’s, so that when he returns he may help to perfect the dynaspheric motor¹⁴ which will draw continuous and unlimited power directly from the etheric forces of the air.

¹¹ Curtiss, *The Message of Aquaria*, p307

¹² Curtiss, *Realms of the Living Dead*, p105

¹³ Curtiss, *The Voice of Isis*, p388

¹⁴ Curtiss, *Realms of the Living Dead*, pp259-260

For instance, until recently aeroplanes, the wireless apparatus, radium and so on were impossible, not because the laws of aviation and radiant energy did not exist, but because man's consciousness had not reached a point where it could contact, recognize and understand those laws. He had not unfolded into that realm of consciousness. Similarly at present he is not able to understand how to utilize the dynaspheric force and thus draw power for his aeroplanes and other engines directly from the air without the use of fuel, or how to use it to heal his disease and satisfy all his needs, by correlating it with the powers which he will someday awaken within himself, just as Nature manifests all her marvels by utilizing the forces already within her. But this, too, will be grasped and understood in a comparatively short time.¹⁵

The Pattern Museum is a state on the astral plane where can be found the astral manifestations of the thought-forms of all inventions and scientific conceptions as conceived on the mental plane waiting for physical manifestation and expression. Contact was established with the same aviator some time later. Of note here are a number of prophecies, one being the development of advanced aircraft and commonplace passenger travel. Note the crudeness of aerial flight as developed by 1918, the time of the communication. The aviator mentions meeting HPB in the after world. He also predicts the death of his father, President Roosevelt whom he states was an incarnation of Julius Caesar. He also mentions attending lectures given by Dr. Curtiss, both on the physical and astral plane, a fact quite common but unknown to most seekers that much spiritual instruction is given to all whilst 'apparently' asleep. The message will also be of much interest from the point of view of Occult Psychology, for it is explained in very clear and simple terms how the 'dead' impress their thoughts and ideas on to the minds of the living,^{16, 17} who then take up such impressions believing them to be their own.

During our interview with the Young Aviator which was published in AZOTH for September, 1918, he promised to play fair, and if he found we were correct in telling him that there was no death to the immortal Soul and that the change called death is but the taking off of a dense outer garment of flesh, he would return and admit that we were right. And he has kept his word.

Although that article was not presented as being evidential from the strictly scientific standpoint, but merely as an amusing and interesting incident, it was nevertheless severely criticized in a certain little sheet because it contained nothing but its own internal evidence as to being veridical. The criticism was unfair and bitter in its sarcasm and ridicule, especially in reference to the statement that the Young Aviator expected to study the models of the ancient Atlantean aeroplanes in the "Pattern Museum of the astral world" and endeavour through this study to help his country (USA) to win the supremacy of the air. (Which they hold to this day world-wide. Ed.) Although this statement was ridiculed as the raving of unbalanced imagination on the part of the authors we had not deemed it worthy of reply, but on Sunday afternoon, January 5th, 1919, the Young Aviator again appeared to Mrs. Curtiss, this time in a highly indignant frame of mind. He insisted that he was the one whose veracity had been impugned and whose powers of accurate observation had been slurred, hence he wished to vindicate the criticized statement. We therefore give herewith the substance of our talk with him, lasting from 5 p.m. until nearly 6 p.m., as reported by Mrs. Curtiss while in full waking consciousness according to the Independent or Telepathic method. It is not presented as scientifically evidential, but it was intensely interesting to us and we think it will be to most readers of AZOTH. They are at perfect liberty not to take our word as to its source, if the message itself is not sufficient evidence, and we will not be offended if those who cannot respond to its truth lay it to our disordered imagination. We simply comply with the Young Aviator's request to transmit the message as he gave it to us.

"How do you do, Dr. Curtiss? I have been to see you a number of times, but you have always been in such a rush of work that I didn't like to butt in. I have also attended a number of your lectures and have also studied over here and have learned a lot since I first met you. My, but I was ignorant then! But I'm glad you have time to listen now because this is important. I especially want you to tell that Critic that all you said in that last article is true; for I have not only been admitted to that Pattern Museum and have studied the Atlantean aeroplane models,

¹⁵ Curtiss, *The Message of Aquaria*, pp62,63

¹⁶ Curtiss, *For Young Souls*, p43

¹⁷ Curtiss, *Realms of the Living Dead*, pp105,106

but I have come back and 'put across' what I have learned, although not in the way I then expected. And the U. S. Government is to-day building new types of aeroplanes embodying the new ideas I've been able to grasp and transmit. Already a plane has been announced that made 145 miles an hour on its trial flight, and another that carries sixty people. A Thanksgiving dinner was served to five people on another while 2,000 feet up. And soon you will hear of improvements far beyond anything known when I was down there, both as regards war-planes and especially planes which will make regular passenger travel as safe and commonplace as Pullman cars.

"You see, I've found out that when a man thinks definitely along a certain line there's a stream of force goes out from his brain that makes a pathway out into space. If he thinks clearly the path leads up through the realms and world, for I've found that there are many worlds over here beside the astral world in which I'm working, up to the ideal or pattern that his thought is reaching out toward. I've followed up lots of these paths since I've been over here just to see where they would lead, and although many of them start out bright and clear, nearly all just end in a jungle or are only blind alleys that get you nowhere. But the paths that go out from the minds of trained thinkers do lead to definite ends and bring back to those minds definite realizations or attainments. Once in a while I've found a mind like. . . whose path seems to go straight on upward, on and on through all the worlds as far as I can see, and in each world it seems to spread out and make connections and make itself at home. Such a mind can bring back to its brain truth from every world it contacts, for I've followed it far enough to know that what you've said about life over here is true.

"My father's got a mind like that, too. Oh, the path that goes out from his brain is big and broad and clear and light. I certainly have a wonderful Dad! It's not occupied with philosophy and symbols and religious things like yours, but it's full of wonderful ways of helping humanity, of uplifting the people and improving conditions so they'll be better citizens. And he's got wonderful plans for our country too; for making it the greatest and best and most helpful and wonderful country in the whole world. These paths are all bright and clear, but they only go a little ways, for back of each one there seems to stand a shrouded figure with a sickle in its hand and it cuts them off before they're finished. Poor Dad! I'm afraid he'll not last to see his great ideas fulfilled, for he's a broken man. He's like a great lion that's been put in a cage and beaten and prodded and half starved. His spirit is not broken, but his body is, so all he can do is to roar defiance. The fact is that Dad spends almost as much time over here with me now as he does with you down there, and every time I can get off from my work I go to him and tell him all about it.

"You said, Doctor, that more than a year ago your Teacher - O, yes, I've met your Teacher over here, but I don't get much time to study those things just now, told you that my Dad was going to sit with the Peace Council and have great influence in shaping its policies. When he wasn't appointed you thought perhaps you'd got things twisted or there had been some mistake. But you were told then that even though he wasn't officially appointed they couldn't keep him away, and it did look like it when he planned to visit the place where they buried my body over in France. But I want to tell you that your Teacher was right after all. He'll be at the Peace Conference all right! But he may not be there in just the way you thought! I can see that he's not going to be with you long,^a but I don't want you to mention this as long as he is there, for that thought in the minds of a lot of people would tend to push him over here a little sooner. And when he comes over here. . .

"But I started out to tell that Critic how I 'put across' the new ideas I get from my studies up here in the Museum. In the first place everyone is not admitted to it, any more than everyone is admitted to the Masonic Library in Washington; only those qualified. The Boche aviators over here want to get in too, but as they never invented much of anything, only copied others, and as they are still working for 'Deutschland uber Alles' they are not permitted near the place. Also, those who are merely curious are barred. In fact there's just two classes who are admitted, those of us over here who are interested in making flying safer and more useful for mankind and those on earth whose thought-stream makes a straight clear path right up to those patterns. And I'm told, although I don't know this myself, that even so they would be prevented from entering until the hour had struck when human evolution had reached a point where it would be best for it to have such inventions, and many more wonderful things are waiting for the years to come.

This message was received about 5 P. M. on Sunday, the 5th of January. Colonel Roosevelt died about twelve hours later.

Until then Those Who Have Charge up here keep the doors closed.

"Now there's a bunch of us boys up here who've given up our lives to the perfecting of flying, not merely given them up down there, but up here too; for we are devoting ourselves to it for the good of mankind. And having lost our lives in your world because of their deficiencies, we're going to find out how to make them safer. So when we learn something new about them we have to go to some of the inventors whose minds are sending out steady streams of thought toward flying. You see, I couldn't explain an improvement in the engine to Mrs. Curtiss. Even if I showed her every part and exactly how they worked she couldn't explain to a machinist how to make it. She hasn't that kind of mind; her pathways of light don't run toward the idea of flying.

"So we have to find those who are studying flying, and if they're sensitive enough we suggest the new improvement to them by impressing our idea upon them. And some of them get the idea more or less clearly, at least they make some changes in the old type. Of course they don't know they are being given the idea by us. They just think they 'thought it out' by themselves or they say 'It suddenly came to me,' etc., although some are conscious that they got help from somewhere in some way. With others we just put a picture or a model of the improvement in their thought pathway and let their thought-stream play all over it, and pretty soon they say, 'I see it! I've got the idea now.' And so they have. Some of them see it while over here in sleep and think they dreamed it all, but anyway we are getting the improvements 'over' as fast as the minds of the inventors can grasp them. Tell the Critic that I haven't been able to understand the engine that gets its power from the air yet, but I'm studying it, and when I get it I'll 'put that over' too.

"By the way, Doctor, I may not be telling you anything new, but I've found that there are places over here where they keep other kinds of ideas. There's one where they keep all the laws man has ever made and where all the plans of the great statesmen for the betterment of humanity and the improvement of its institutions and conditions are perfected and then stored up until some mind can reach up and grasp them, and the time is ripe to bring them down to earth. I don't know as you would call this a Museum, but it's some kind of a place like a State House or Forum or Academy or something like that. And only the great statesmen and rulers of the past can go in there, also the minds of the great statesmen on earth today which make straight paths into it.

"You know when my Dad comes over here he'll walk right in. Because he belongs there. My Dad certainly is a wonder! You know he used to be Julius Caesar in a past life, but when he comes over here they're not going to call him that any more. They're going to call him . . . as he's called on earth now, because they say over here that his present incarnation is a greater one than that as Caesar, so they are going to call him. . . . Who was I in those days? Well, I'm ashamed to tell you. Just call me my father's son. . . . But since Mrs. Curtiss has guessed it, you can see that what I did to him in that life, that I might rule in his stead, has prevented me from succeeding him in this life, and I thought I was doing the right thing then too. It was not that I 'loved Caesar less, but that I loved Rome more.'

"And as he knows all the great statesmen on earth to-day, when he gets over here, just as he could hammer home fundamental truths and principles and 'put them over' on earth, so when he gets here he will be able to hammer into the minds of all the living statesmen, whose minds are all open to his suggestions, the perfected ideas for the good of mankind which he will find ready in this Statesmen's Hall. So you see he may be a powerful influence at the Peace Conference after all!

"Well, so long. I must run over and see how Dad is getting along, but be sure to tell that Critic that we are 'putting across' things of practical value to mankind all the time. The trouble with him is that he's not able to recognize them or understand where they come from, because his mind-path doesn't run in the right direction."¹⁸

THE THIRD WOE

The following prophecy, given in June 1914 can be said to refer to the First World War soon to follow, as given by an elemental. This war was already predicted by the Founders in 1912.¹⁹ The elementals are mainly astral beings operating from that plane. On the astral plane there is neither time as we know it, nor distance and space. Therefore it is far easier for any being on the astral plane to foresee what will happen in the near future compared to those beings on the physical plane as

¹⁸ Curtiss, *Realms of the Living Dead*, pp291-298

¹⁹ Curtiss, *Coming World Changes*, xiii

any event on the physical plane is preceded by that same event on the astral plane. This explains why the discarnate spirits in séances sometimes are quite capable of predicting the future. All of this is but a low form of prediction as compared with prophecy originating from the mental plane (akashic records) or from higher up in the Divine.

This prophecy also relates to the expected third world war and refers to a further devastating set of events centred in Europe, its utter desolation and that after many years of being unpeopled, pioneers will once more find there a pristine and beautiful land. It may also point to the raising of a New Continent that has lain buried beneath the waves since the Atlantean disaster.

AN UNDINE'S PROPHECY²⁰

The waters shall cleanse the earth! The dead and dying both alike are carried by the beautiful clear waters of the ocean. The implements of death, misery and suffering are all washed away and the beautiful waters of the ocean with the sunlight on them are moving, moving, so calm and sweet and clean. Breathe in the air, the salt, salt air of the ocean.

What is this putrid smell of unburied thousands? Of earth saturated with blood? What is this death that man has made? It is hideous. It smells aloud to heaven. How horrible! Then the beautiful clear waters come with their sweet breath of purity and life, the salt of purity and sweetness. Smell the air! How sweet it is. This is not death, for there is no death, it is only the Divine Law which goes forth and says: "Go back and be washed by the ocean, be covered up; when purified let the dry land appear." All this land will be filled with forces, little seeds of love and life that have been purified by the waters. And they draw to themselves other forces and out of these little flames of life try to embody themselves in trees and grass and flowers. Then they grow stronger and embody themselves into something else. And after a long, long time God says to man: "Go and dwell on the new land I have made for you." Then man comes and finds all things growing. Then God says: "These are the things you have made. I have sent my ocean to wash away the wickedness you created by your thoughts. But in your spirit the Divine Life centred and has brought forth."

The Founders clearly expected the Second World War and even a Third as can be seen from the following prophecies:

"... Yet the Elect, or every ear attuned to the overtones of life, can discern beneath the great unrest of the peoples of all lands the rhythmic beat of angel's wings; can feel as never man has felt before the urge to gather together, to stand shoulder to shoulder, sinking all differences of opinion, creed and politics in a united effort to prepare for the second woe, the second phase of the great war drama which closes this cycle, the first phase of which was the World War (1st) which has been fought out on the physical plane. "One woe is past; behold, there come *two* woes more hereafter." Revelation, ix, 12.

"The second woe will just as surely come as did the first; in fact it is now upon us. And if we are to learn wisdom from the bitter experiences of the past years it behoves us to preach continually the "doctrine of preparedness" for that which is sure to follow. This second woe will be the testing, cleansing and proving of the ideals and teachings of the religious and moral world and their natural consequences in the industrial, political and social fabric of the nations (written in 1921)."²¹

"For it has been revealed to us that unless this principle can be put into operation, among both classes and nations, Europe will soon see another universal maelstrom of war in which the horrors and miseries of the late Great War will be repeated on an even more far-reaching scale (written in 1922)."²²

"... be not dismayed if in the next few years (written in 1935) we see even more extraordinary changes and revolutions, both in the Earth itself and *in all conditions of life* ... if we witness revolutions, new wars and what appears to be the world gone mad, turned upside down."²³

²⁰ Curtiss, *Realms of the Living Dead*, pp174-175, The Fairies

²¹ Curtiss, *The Message of Aquaria*, p235, The Second Woe

²² Curtiss, *Letters from the Teacher*, Volume II, p57

²³ Curtiss, *The Inner Radiance*, p26

We have had the woes of the two World Wars and a third is expected. It is often pointed out that the world as we know it today is at war, the Third World War, for we have more military conflicts raging today, including civil and economic wars, pestilence, hunger, epidemic diseases, over-population, human trafficking, large scale corruption, global pollution, nature gone awry and poverty, than at any other time in given history. From *St. Matthew*, xxiv, 6-8. "And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows."

Therefore, well may it be said that we are technically at war, even though undeclared.

There are a number of prophecies extant pointing to the coming Avatar or Great Teacher who is to appear at the closing stages of a great war. In a personal letter to the Founders from Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, April 18, 1926.

We still get incessant messages of coming trouble, short, sharp and salutary. . . . Always it is to end in a great psychic demonstration corresponding with the second coming which will show the world how mad it has been in its stupid and obstinate rejection of the advances from the higher world. Each nation will suffer according to the extent of that rejection. . . .²⁴

It is believed that this great psychic demonstration will be the open declaration of the coming Avatar to the world at large. And all eyes shall see Him descend through the clouds, as He was taken up through the clouds during His Ascension. In our day and age with our global news coverage such an event will indeed be seen "by all eyes."

A prophetess of Boston, Mary Forbes who accurately predicted the First World War two years before it happened predicts on 25 November 1922:

A great war by the Orient against the Occident. The East will win. Violent earthquakes will destroy most of Europe, except parts of France and Russia. A new continent will arise in the Pacific.

The following prophecy (given prior to 1926) refers to the Second World War, the development of aerial warfare and the development of nuclear weapons during this war. Again we have reference to great cataclysms or to the coming Third Woe by the Australian seer, Victor E. Cromer who states:

The next seven years are to be the most awe-inspiring that the world has ever seen. On the one hand we are to have a series of mighty cataclysms, and on the other hand events leading up to the revealing of the World Teacher and the organization of the New Age. . . . These three countries (Germany, Russia, Turkey) will league themselves into an unholy alliance about July, 1926, and shortly afterwards a new world war will begin. . . . This will last about four years, and will be the most terrible war in the history of the world (WWII Ed.). . . . Germany is now perfecting the 'death ray,' so that she 'maketh fire (Nuclear? Ed.) to come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men,' indicating the nature of the next war, an aerial campaign. . . .²⁵

In the *Kalpaka Magazine*, January and February 1926.

The means by which the World teacher will be revealed to the world will be by a remarkable outpouring of spiritual magnetism which will surround Him with a pranic sea which will appear like a flaming fire to the vision of those who look upon Him. From the moment that this remarkable and wonderful manifestation takes place the organisation of the New Age will go on by leaps and bounds. The whole world will be astounded at the mighty series of events which will take place. On the one hand there will be a mighty war raging, and on the other hand the events leading to the organization of the New Age.

²⁴ Curtiss, *Coming World Changes*, p19

²⁵ Curtiss, *Coming World Changes*, pp21-22

Another *independent communication* from an air elemental also points to a major upheaval in earth life after which will descend a new day of peace and light. It gives forth a promise that all strife, upheaval and discord but ends in peace, to the start of a glorious new day.

THE FAIRIES ENCOURAGEMENT²⁶

Beloved of Christ keep your Star shining bright
 Out through the darkness of earth's dreary night.
 Mid toil and confusion of battle and strife,
 Send out your message of Love. It is life.
 O souls who are patiently waiting for day,
 Be not discouraged; turn not away;
 For the day that is dawning is gloriously bright;
 The dreams so appalling will flee with the night.
 Press on, my warriors, fear not the fray.
 We are the Conquerors; our Voice obey.
 Sound loud the trumpet blast, happy and free,
 To tell of the Day Star that is destined to be.
 Oh! earth that is sobbing, like a child in its sleep.
 Oh! Brothers who suffer with pain fierce and deep.
 Stand still in the ruin your passions have wrought.
 Take count of the guerdon greed and sorrow have brought.
 If your heart sinks despairing in the mystical calm,
 List to God's choir; its echoes bring balm.
 The fire but purifies; strife ends in peace.
 Hosanna! Hosanna! the carnage must cease.
 Lift up your voices, the day is at hand.
 No more of sorrow to this happy land.

Most strikingly and in corroboration of all the above are the so-called prophecies given by the King of the World. The following prophecy was given to the Hutuktu (Abbott) of the Narabanchi Monastery in Mongolia. Throughout Asia he is called the King of the World or the Great Unknown. This prophecy would be a description of what humanity would be going through from the period of its giving in 1890 over the next 50 years. This would encompass both the World Wars but more than likely includes a period extending into the future. Take note of all the kingdoms and dynasties that were swept away with the period of the First World War. Take note of the many crimes unknown to law that have taken place in Europe, Africa and elsewhere in the last hundred years. Also the huge displacement of hundreds of millions worldwide due to civil wars. Has graft, political deceit and corruption ever reached a peak as it is found today even in our greatest 'free' nations? What amount of time, money and effort is not spent today on our physical bodies instead of our Soul development?

More and more people will forget their souls and care about their bodies. The greatest sin and corruption will reign on earth. The crowns of kings, great and small, will fall one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight. . . . There will be a terrible battle among all peoples. (The World Wars. Ed.) The seas will become red . . . the earth and the bottom of the sea will be strewn with bones . . . kingdoms will be scattered . . . whole peoples will die . . . hunger, disease, crimes unknown to law, never before seen in the world . . . the ancient roads will be covered with crowds wandering from one place to another. . . . All the earth will be emptied. God will turn away from it and over it there will be only night and death. Then I shall send a people, now unknown, which shall tear out the weeds of madness and vice with a strong hand, and I will lead those who still remain faithful to the spirit of man in the fight against Evil. They will found a new life on the earth purified by the death of nations. . . . The King of the World will appear before all people when the time shall have arrived for him to lead

²⁶ Curtiss, *Realms of the Living Dead*, pp176-177, The Fairies

all the good people of the world against all the bad; but this time has not yet come. The most evil among mankind have not yet been born.²⁷

The reference to the unknown people that will set things aright are generally thought to be the intervention of our alien progenitors, who will save this world from certain nuclear destruction. This King of the World has not as yet appeared before the world as far as we know. "The most evil among mankind have as yet not been born" can but be referenced to the historical events of utter dictatorships in Europe, Germany, Russia the Middle East, China and Africa and the massacres of multitudes thereby. These may well be referenced to the re-incarnation of the "so-called fallen angels"²⁸ who became the terrible sorcerers and black magicians whose monstrous iniquities caused the sinking of the continent of Atlantis. Many of these evil beings are still living in and teaching and exercising their powers from the astral world and well can we see their influence even in our own day.

The above prophecy was first penned down by Dr Ferdinand Ossendowski, and in a further article he has the following to say about the possible coming Asiatic war.

... that among various Asiatic peoples there exists a watchword proclaiming the superiority of the spiritual strength of the East, and affirming the necessity of forcing all humanity to accept its will and its world-outlook, even at the cost of general blood-spilling, even by hurling Asiatic multitudes upon the nations rotting in the bog of European civilization.

"Accordingly, at the fires of the nomad shepherds of the prairies, in the Tzaidam marshes in northern Thibet, in the Himalayas, on the banks of the Hind and the Ganges, in Asia Minor, in Iran, in the valleys of the Yang-tse and the Hwang-po, people of different colours, tribes, races and creeds, but united by the common bond of Asiatic ideology, talk, discuss, sing, and dream about the approaching hour, when the hand of the Asiatic will be the hand of karma and will execute the decrees of fate . . . to an attack against the white race, an attack which is the dream of some Asiatic circles. . . . At all events, it is more than probable that the white race will be obliged to reckon with the influence of the now only legendary King of the World."^{29 30}

The above prophecy points to a final confrontation focused once more in and at Europe, for her karma has as yet not been fully wiped clean. During the last two world wars Europe has been the focal point for Armageddon because it was in Europe that the greater part of the Race Karma was engendered, through the many bitter political wars which drenched its soil in blood; through the sectarian wars carried on in the name of the Church, but which perverted religion and made priestcraft a curse; and through the intolerance, selfishness and mental and spiritual blindness of the religious leaders which manifested in the mental war which finally culminated in the most inhuman persecutions the civilized world has ever known, that religious frenzy known as the Inquisition.³¹

The Founders were fortunate in that they were graced by a visit of this mysterious 'King of the World' and so could ascertain who and what he was. It came to light as explained by the King himself that he was a great Atlantean Master who had passed through the process of physical regeneration and so was able to retain and renew his physical body indefinitely. During the ensuing ages he had developed greater and greater powers and had been entrusted with greater and greater tasks until he became the chief representative on Earth of the Celestial ruler of our Globe.

In our lesson³² for December, 1922, we gave out a prophecy given to The Order of Christian Mystics by this same mysterious King of the World which read as follows:

²⁷ Curtiss, *Coming World Changes*, p54-55

²⁸ Curtiss, *The Inner Radiancy*, p31, 32

²⁹ Curtiss, *Coming World Changes*, p55-56

³⁰ Curtiss, *Coming World Changes*, p50

³¹ Curtiss, *Coming World Changes*, pp83,84

³² Curtiss, *Coming World Changes*, pp57-59

"I see a great and devastating Flame sweeping the World from East to West; a Flame of fire; a Flame of sword and famine and murder and bitterness and death. I see the peoples of the Earth, each one with its hand lifted against its brother; each country seeking for its own; men dying, dying and cursing God with every dying breath, and sowing the seed of new and more frightful Flames.

"I see descending from on high the mighty Angel with the Flaming Sword; for only fire can purify hate. I see this Flame of Purification sweeping the Earth from East to West, from the rising of the Sun to the going down of the Sun.

"Five countries are left. The rest sink beneath the seas. Five countries! Five lands like fingers on a man's hand! Four shall be great and one small, but out of the smallest there grows the greatest Light. Then comes redemption. Then comes that which alone can make this world to be reborn, once more human, like a babe laid in a manger, cradled in its mother's arms.

"I see a great mountain lifted up in the midst of the countries which are left, and from its top there radiates the Light of the Spiritual Sun. And I see the remnants of mankind bathed in its Radiance.

"Think not that any country in this broad world can escape. The Flame sweeps onward and over. Only those who have the Flame of the Living Christ in their hearts shall survive.

"I speak, for this is my world. Into my hands it has been given. I stretch out my hand and each finger represents a point of force, a place where the great living Power of the Sun has breathed into it the life (fire) which is immortal.

"Where are my children? They are dying. They are being murdered and starved. They are being scattered like sheep on the cold bare mountain tops, homeless and friendless. For a time I bow to the inevitable. I wait. I wait that a Greater than I may read you the riddle of this Dark Star."^a

(a) The vision that came with the prophecy was that of an immense hand with the wrist to the North, the thumb to the East, the little finger to the extreme West and all the fingers widely spread. On the little finger a light seemed to be glowing under ashes. This light slowly spread and grew brighter until finally a hill rose up in the middle of the back of the hand and when the light from the little finger reached it it broke out into a radiant shining which covered the Whole Earth. No limit as to time was given in this prophecy, both the time and the degree of the changes depending largely upon the character of the forces engendered by humanity.

Since the publication of this Prophecy, in December, 1922, we have had many inquiries for further details as to this Prophecy, but few further details can be given. Remember that the Prophecy did not come from the Teacher of The Order of Christian Mystics nor from the Coming Avatar, but from the representative of the Planetary Ruler of this globe, the Earth, and those few who heard it were too greatly awed to ask for details during that brief visit.

Of further interest this King is known to have appeared in certain sacred monasteries in Asia where He has given personal instruction.

It may therefore seem that the third woe will be precipitated by an event or war starting in the East and precipitating on the West. Together with this final woe there are great changes expected to incur in the geology of the planet, with the emergence of the ancient continent of Lemuria, rising up from the ocean bed in the Pacific. There is also evidence that the Atlantic sea-bed is slowly rising. All of these will add significant portions of landmass to the Australian and American continents over a length of time. Due to age-long volcanic activity eating away at the roots of large landmasses, up to a third of current landmass is expected to be inundated by coming cataclysms, areas such as Italy, Eastern Europe, Western Asia and Iceland being singled out.³³ It is after these cataclysmic events that the Avatar is expected to appear publicly and to start His work.

CENTRAL AMERICA

A further prophecy concerning that spiritual cradle which is Central America, fascinating in its detail, is given in the beautiful booklet by the title *The Love*

³³ Curtiss, *Coming World Changes*, Chapters II and III

of *Rabiacca*. It is a tale of a prehistoric race recovered psychically as per the *Independent Method*³⁴ as described elsewhere and is related to us as follows:

Having read of the wonderful psychic power of concentrated thought, a small company of friends decided to experiment with it. Mrs. C., being the most sensitive member of the party, was selected as the subject of the experiment. With the light turned low Mrs. C. lay down upon a couch, while the others formed a circle around her and crooned a soft melody. Soon a slight spasmodic twitching of Mrs. C. showed that she had contacted super-physical forces. Her hand was gradually raised and remained fixed. The authors (Curtiss' Ed.), in trying to replace the arm, discovered to their amazement that her whole body had become rigid and that she was pointing in horror to a sight presented to her inner vision. Soon she began to talk, and calling each of the party by strange names, she described and seemed actually to experience and to live the events related. From notes taken at the time, the authors have arranged the following short narrative of the events as they were described, and those present at the time have since vouched for their accuracy. Mrs. C. is not a subjective medium nor a spiritualist, and at no time did she pass into a state of trance, but retained her consciousness throughout the experience.³⁵

The tale is written down in the form of a play in five acts and centres around the era and time of Quetzacoatl and the majestic Temple of the Sun in the city of Iztamal, Teotihuacan of that bygone era. It was in this time that they found wandering on their mountain side a small girl with "... white skin and yellow hair, great blue eyes and a strange sounding voice" This white skinned girl grew up to become the Priestess-Queen of the royal court amongst the dark skinned people of that time, and she worked marvels. She communed with the very Highest on their Sacred Mountain and brought down inspiration to their Priests and men of learning. Never before had they experienced such progress, peace and bliss since the arrival of their Priestess-Queen. With her coming she had raised their people to the status of rulers of the then known world, brought success to all their ventures of arms, art and knowledge. She who came from the Land-Beyond-The-Mountains.

The last lingering note of the sunset bell was dying on the evening breeze. Near a shrine upon the sacred Mountain-of-the Gods stood the Priestess-Queen, Tishana. Her face was turned toward the setting sun, her arms outstretched, and there was a look of far-off glory in the depths of her great blue eyes. Over her white robe, her yellow hair, illumined by the tints of red and gold, flashed from the sinking sun, enveloped her like a fleecy cloud of shimmering light. Seen at such a moment, well might the people think she had descended from the sun to teach her chosen people how to rule the world, as indeed the priests had said.

As the last lingering beams of light disappeared behind the mountain peaks, the Priestess' lips murmured a farewell prayer to the departing god of day. Dropping her arms, a faint sigh caught her ear, and turning, she beheld her favourite waiting woman and companion, Rabiacca, kneeling at her feet.

"What is it, Rabiacca, my "loved sister," she said with a smile of welcome, "that makes thee venture on the sacred mountain past the Stone-of-the-Sun that marks the usual boundaries of approach?"³⁶

As the story progresses the King dies of old age, one of the Princesses of the court, in league with dark forces, plots the end of the white Priestess-Queen Tishana, who is murdered ignobly by the Prince Zanzibaris in the Sanctum Sanctorum of the Temple. Zanzibaris, after realising what he has done takes his own life by command of the High Priest. Rabiacca, before ascending the funeral pyre together with her betrothed Zanzibaris, utters a prophecy as given by the departed Priestess-Queen Tishana that she will return one day to again lead her people to greatness.

Raised by the strength of her emotions to a divine frenzy, she cried out as if inspired: "Hear ye my prophecy, O ye priests and men of Tulapan! Our Queen shall come again! She is not dead! Even now she bids me tell thee that the third stone from the altar's top ye will find

³⁴ Curtiss, *Realms of the Living Dead*, Chapter XVI, Independent Methods of Communication

³⁵ Curtiss, *The Love of Rabiacca*, iii, iv

³⁶ Curtiss, *The Love of Rabiacca*, pp16-17

unloosed, and behind it is a scroll on which is written what ye shall do to keep her earthly form yet living until the time of her return. Seek ye it out and follow well its commands! But the others must with me still follow her into the shades and serve her there through many lives until our task is done. Then will she return to you and bring again her own. So reap we all what we have sown. . . .”³⁷

The body of the white Priestess-Queen Tishana miraculously healed itself of the sword thrust through her heart, and her body remained warm to the touch, in suspended animation until her soul one day returns to take up again this physical body. So her body is kept somewhere to this day, attended by priests who know the art of physical preservation, not unheard of in the realm of the occult.

But the priests (of this region. Ed.) still declare that the Priestess-queen will some day return and restore the glory of the nation. The legend further states that through caring for the body of the Priestess, the attendant priests have learned certain secrets of regeneration by which they utilize the planetary and zodiacal forces to renew their bodies continually, just as the same forces renew the life of the earth each season. It is said that they have thus been enabled to prolong life in the same bodies to an unbelievable length of time, although their bodies are gaunt, and shrivelled. If there is any truth in this legend it is indeed a sad one. No doubt their Priestess-queen will return, but in a new incarnation in a new body, again to lift up the nation through the light of her inspiration. Hence all the magical forces used to keep her old form from disintegration³⁸ but hamper the work which only the reincarnated Soul of the Priestess can complete.

Time will tell whether Central America will one day again be uplifted spiritually as it was of old, before it fell into evil and state-sanctioned human sacrifice as in the days of Atlantis. It may well be that Central America is to be one of the five surviving countries or areas after the great expected world war. In another part of the work of the Order the Founders ask their students world-wide for any and all information that can be gathered historically as to this Priestess-Queen. The vision, story and prophecy was important and significant enough to the work of the Order to issue such in booklet form for posterity. We will have to wait and see if the Priestess-Queen will one day return. It is interesting to note that during the ‘vision’ the other members of the party, being the Founders, were called by strange names. HPB, during her travels, also visited a number of temples and pyramids in Central America. We can only speculate as to the connection of the Founders and HPB to the characters in this play.

The story mainly takes place in The Temple of the Sun. Very little other detail is given. The sanctum sanctorum or crypt underneath the Temple is described beautifully. It is interesting to note that most of the underground chambers and crypts of the area were only discovered in the last half of the previous century and many remain undiscovered to this day. *The Love of Rabiacca* was published in 1934. If any of our readers can identify the following description of the crypt with one of the existing Temples or pyramids of Central America, this would be most significant from a prophetic and predictive point of view.

This chamber, hewn from the living rock, was necessarily small, not over seven paces in diameter, with a bell-shaped dome some three spans in height at the centre. At equal distances around the walls stood twelve pillars of pure, white marble, around each of which there twined a large serpent of solid gold, in whose eyes were set a rose-pink gem. Around a smaller circle within these pillars stood seven others, six of which were each of different coloured onyx, and one pure gold, studded with immense jewels. At the side, opposite the golden pillar, upon a small pyramid reached by seven steps, stood a block of clear, translucent stone resembling crystal, an arm’s length in each dimension. A thin, pale flame rose from a bowl-shaped depression cut in its top, and was reflected from a symbol of the sun emblazoned in solid gold upon the centre of a great balanced cross of white marble which stood close

³⁷ Curtiss, *The Love of Rabiacca*, p59

³⁸ Curtiss, *The Key of Destiny*, p138

behind the altar. Just above the cross, apparently floating in the air, was a white swan with outstretched wings, also having jewels for its eyes.³⁹

THE SUN AND 12 PLANETS

At the time that the Order started its work, science new of the existence of the sun together with 8 planets. Yet in our zodiac we have twelve sun signs and the sun. This is a most Divine dispensation that plays itself out throughout our systems of mysticism. Jesus (The Sun) had 12 Disciples. King Arthur (The Sun) had 12 knights at the round table etc. Many other such instances can be given (See The Number 12 in *The Key of Destiny*). As it is above, so it is below. We would therefore expect our solar system to also comprise of a sun and 12 planets to follow the Divine pattern of the Universal Solar Myth.

The Order correctly predicted the discovery of the planet Pluto^{40, 41} already in 1925, which science discovered in 1930 but two other planets still remain. It is today widely expected in astronomy that a giant gas planet lurks somewhere outside the orbit of Pluto in the Oort Cloud. In the teachings of the OCM it is referred to as the mystery Orange planet.^{42, 43, 44} The next planet to be discovered is expected to be the planet Vulcan, inside the orbit of Mercury. Astrologers already claim to know about and to have seen this planet.⁴⁵ In occult tradition, garnered from Sumerian records of the Annunaki, remains of one of the 12 planets are to be found as the asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter.

“ . . . when the Moon is full-orbed it not only reflects the light of the Sun to the earth, but back of the Moon as well as back of the Sun are situated two of the three Sacred orbs or Secret Planets, known to the Masters from all time, yet absolutely unknown as yet to modern science.”⁴⁶

The above is a very clear indication of how the realm of the esoteric and occult narrows as science widens its findings and scope. Yet it is said that there is nothing new under the sun. And the Masters of Wisdom reveal certain information from generation to generation to prepare us for new conditions in order to assist us in our spiritual understanding.

ANCIENT ARCHIVES

The Gobi desert, with its fine and dry sand, has been used for centuries to preserve many wonderful treasures, known to contain the Gobi desert archives, a vast collection of texts, scrolls, books and religious artefacts. These are destined to become known in the not so near future.⁴⁷

The above prophecies are but those as put forth in *The Teachings of the Order* and then only a few selected ones at that. These but represent a superficial overview of the general trend of prophecies that are extant from hundreds of contemporary sources. To summarize we can say that a great series of events are expected that will culminate in a Great War, the size and scope of which has been unheard of in our history. This will be coupled with great planetary cataclysms, a devastating war in Europe, the inundation of many coastal cities world-wide by flooding, the sinking of islands such as Japan and the west coast of the USA, a great war starting in the East and precipitating on the West and the emergence of a new continent from

³⁹ Curtiss, *The Love of Rabiacca*, pp27-28

⁴⁰ Curtiss, *The Inner Radianc*e, p346

⁴¹ Curtiss, *The Pattern Life*, p63

⁴² Curtiss, *The Voice of Isis*, p364

⁴³ Curtiss, *The Message of Aquaria*, p53, 77

⁴⁴ Curtiss, *Coming World Changes*, pp92

⁴⁵ Weston, L.H., *The Planet Vulcan, History, Nature, Tables*. American Federation of Astrologers Inc.

⁴⁶ Curtiss, *The Message of Aquaria*, p271

⁴⁷ Curtiss, *The Key of Destiny*, pp59,60

out of the ocean floor. The dominance of the northern hemisphere will end and the southern hemisphere will arise in greatness. Five nations will come to dominance. These are indeed most terrible prophecies, but is there a remedy?

“The vital point is that while these changes are ultimately inevitable, they can take place gradually and harmoniously, giving mankind time to adapt itself to them without too great loss if they will obey their Seers, or they can take place rapidly and destructively, according to the vibration of harmony and co-operation or, the vibration of inharmony, antagonism and evil is the keynote sounded by mankind as a whole.”⁴⁸

There have already been four such. . . . disturbances. . . . The face of the Globe was completely changed each time; the ‘survival of the fittest’ nations and races was secured *through timely help*; and the unfit ones, the failures, were disposed of by being swept off the face of the Earth.⁴⁹

It is therefore up to us, individually and collectively, as to the outcome of present world conditions. The ‘King of the World’ has this to say:

“But the All-Powerful One never meant it to be thus. The changes we must have, but they should come like the changes between day and night; like the coming of the gentle dawn as the stars one by one withdraw their light as they draw back the curtains of the night and say a beautiful and smiling adieu to the Earth. And those who are watching the tides of the ocean hear them lap soft sentences and whisper murmuringly in the ear gentle blessings for what the night has brought forth. Then the Sun comes up out of the ocean where it has hidden its face and looks upon his handiwork. This is the way the changes should come. This is the Law of God Almighty. The All-Powerful One has willed it so, and all creation should go on in rhythmic harmony and beauty, one day after another as the mystery of understanding is brought forth. But, alas, humanity’s consciousness has stopped this; for it cannot understand the words and sounds. The tones of their words may fly up to the throne of the Eternal Ever-Living One, but their hearts, which gave utterance to them, are like locked doors. O ye men of Earth! O ye women of Earth! Why are ye like dumb driven cattle, seeking for your sustenance by ravening one another? baying at the moon; huddling together in the darkness of the night; seeking in the caverns and crevices of the Earth for treasure, only physical treasure! The only treasure that God, the Almighty Ever-Lasting One, has given to man is the treasure of His words. Can ye wonder then if the changes from one great Cosmic Day to another come like crashes? come like the dissolution of the foundations of the Earth?”⁵⁰

Yet in such an expected great cleansing of the peoples of the earth, we need not feel sorrow or grief for the individuals that are to be taken out of incarnation, for they will be kept safe in the spirit world or astral plane, and by their suffering will have paid much of their karmic debts and so be ready to be born again, relatively karma free, in the new Golden Age, where great spiritual development will be the norm of the day. Feel rather sorry for those of us who stay behind to usher in this new Golden Age, for upon the living will fall the greatest and most difficult burden to bear during this expected time period. There must come an era however, even as prophesied by Isaiah, when “He shall judge among the people and they shall beat their swords into ploughshares; and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.” This is the inevitable result of evolution. First one here and there grasps the idea that war is unnecessary, then gradually a mighty current of thought-force embodying that idea sweeps around the world and, appealing to and fostered by woman, is impressed upon the consciousness of the unborn children which will make up the future humanity.⁵¹

⁴⁸ Curtiss, *Coming World Changes*, p31

⁴⁹ Blavatsky, *The Secret Doctrine*, ii, 344

⁵⁰ Curtiss, *Coming World Changes*, pp46,47

⁵¹ Curtiss, *The Key to the Universe*, p297

Victory! Victory! children of Earth
Something immortal in thee has had birth.
The gods of the storm-winds have taken their flight
And the angels of mercy are bringing thee Light.
Anguish and sorrow no more shall depress.
The forces of heaven have brought thee success.

Harriette Augusta Curtiss

CHAPTER VI

THE MESSAGE OF THE SPHINX¹

The whole essence of truth cannot be transmitted from mouth to ear. Nor can any pen describe it, not even that of the Recording Angel, unless man finds the answer in the sanctuary of his own heart, in the innermost depths of his divine intuition. It is the great Seventh Mystery of Creation, the first and the last. . . . It can be represented only in its apparent objective form, like the eternal riddle of the Sphinx.

The Secret Doctrine, Blavatsky, II, 543.

As it has been, so is it; and so shall it be forever more. Far back in the beginning of recorded history the same world-old truths that this present Aquarian Age must express were symbolized in imperishable stone. This New Age was alluded to later by Jesus as “the Sign of the Son of Man in heaven.” The Age when a new manifestation of the “Lord of Light” should again “declare the things which are hidden” was symbolized and foretold in the majestic image of the Sphinx. This image was carved during an age when our solar system was passing through the same zodiacal conditions it is now facing, although at that time on a lower arc of the Spiral of Evolution. Age after age has rolled by. Race after race has come and gazed and gone, ever seeking to answer the mysterious questions expressed in that mighty recumbent figure. Yet the great riddle of the Sphinx is still mutely propounded: “Man, whence? Why? Whither? What is the meaning of evolution? What the promise of the Great Day to come? What wait I for?”

The true Sphinx is double-sexed and has wings, either folded or raised, although in some cases and for special reasons the sexes are separated. In such case the two images, male and female, usually face each other with a growing tree between them, the male being bearded and the female having wings. They thus point out the eternal truth that it is only through the combined power of the two, the mother-love fructified by the wisdom of the father, that the Tree of Life can bring forth its fruit or that humanity can learn to spread its wings and lift up the Scorpion into the Bird of Life.

But the characteristic Sphinx is double-sexed just as is Aquarius, in which the Man falls on his knees in his ardent desire to pour out the Water of Life (feminine) to quicken the seeds of future powers and faculties in man. As the Egyptian Ritual describes it: “Praise be to thee, O Ra (the Sun-god). Thou art the two bodies of the Double Sphinx god.”

Although at present buried so deeply in the sand that little more than its head and fore paws are visible, the Great Sphinx of Giza at one time stood upon a high hill and formed the roof of a sacred temple. Even today, between its paws, a shrine has been found dedicated to the Sun-god Harmachis (Horus), the “Great Light of the World.” But ere the Aquarian Age has entered upon its second decanate, the sand that now so nearly buries it will be removed and many wonders and facts confirming the truths destined to be brought to light in this New Age will be found, as predicted by Madame Blavatsky in *The Secret Doctrine*² many years ago.

What then is the fundamental idea symbolized by that mighty image? What but the dawn of the new Age of Light, the great Aquarian Age, when the Sign of the Son of Man shall reign in heaven; when the ancient priesthood shall be gathered

¹ Curtiss, *The Message of Aquaria*, Chapter XVIII, The Message of the Sphinx

² Blavatsky, *The Secret Doctrine*, Vol. III, 95.

from the Four Winds again to receive the ancient wisdom of the Spiritual Sun direct from its Infinite Source and give it forth that its rays of Divine Truth may again illumine the minds and warm the hearts of mankind. The very name of the Sphinx identifies it as a Bearer of Light, for in the Egyptian tongue its name is Hu or Hupiter, meaning the Hu-father, or Father of Light, being identical with the Greek Hu, or Ju-piter, the Father of the Gods. As the Ritual says, “Hu-iti, Thou art the Lord of Light, and declarest the things which are hidden.”

In this mighty figure we see symbolized the Foundation Stone of the Universe, the cosmic cross, composed of the four signs of the zodiac of which Aquarius the Man is the head and ruler, i.e., its hind quarters are those of the Ox (Taurus); its fore quarters those of the Lion (Leo); its head and breasts those of a human being (Aquarius); its wings those of the Eagle, and its tail that of the Scorpion.³

That this figure was meant to prophesy an Age when these four zodiacal signs should occupy the place they do in the heavens today and point to the true man, the Aquarian, as the one who could read the riddle of the Sphinx, is indicated in the many little comprehended legends of the Sphinx in which it is represented as devouring men, and in many examples of Egyptian and Greek art, in which the Sphinx is seen either seizing, standing upon or tearing man to pieces. For so must these eternal truths seize man and through the ages tear from him his lower propensities that the true Man may come forth. The reply of Edipus to the riddle of the Sphinx, “What animal is it that walks on four legs in the morning, on two at noon and on three in the evening?” shows that only man can solve the riddle; for his reply was that man crawls upon all fours in his childhood, walks upright during maturity and with a cane in old age. Thus ever does the riddle of the Sphinx have man for its solution.

In the Egyptian Sphinx the wings are folded, for the learned priests knew well the length of time that must elapse ere humanity as a whole could open the dense elytra which encased its wings, unfold the wings and rise into the higher realms of consciousness. Similarly in another favourite Egyptian symbol, the scarab, the folded wing-cases indicate the dense covering that has been placed over all that is symbolized by the uplifting and transmuting of the Scorpion into the Eagle. They also signified that mankind must pass through its beetle stage, during which, while possessing wings with which to soar, he is still slowly crawling upon the Earth and bringing forth through the lower aspect of his creative powers, verily a scorpion biting the heel of the Rider.

This stupendous symbol of the Sphinx was carved out of a single rock 189 feet long, at a time so remote that in an inscription of the Fourth Dynasty (4700 B.C.), it is mentioned as a monument that was only “found by chance” during that reign, and whose origin was even then lost in the night of time, although it is usually assigned to Cheops by exoteric scholars. It rises out of the pyramid field and faces due East, gazing steadfastly through the ages out over the Nile valley toward the Source of Light.

In those long past ages *The Order of Christian Mystics*⁴ had its birth. It was then that the mighty mystic teachings were given to the Race and the meaning of the symbol foretold to those Souls who were entrusted with its manifestation in that Age; for it was then as now an expression of the Great Work for the enlightenment of humanity founded on definite lines by those Divine Masters whose work throughout the ages is to unfold to man the sacredness of all that this mighty image of the Sphinx symbolizes.

³ Curtiss, *The Message of Aquaria*, pp26, 90

⁴ Curtiss, *The Key of Destiny*, pp202-5.

And the seed of those teachings then sown in mystery and secrecy has been watered and nurtured through the ages until they are now beginning to blossom forth in the sunlight for all who are attracted to them. For in every Age at least some few have incarnated who in those early days had been taught these Mysteries and vowed themselves to their promulgation. Even during the darkest days of ignorance and persecution the Light of these Great Truths has been cherished by the few, for the Masters of Wisdom have never lost their touch with mankind nor been without their illumined disciples on Earth. *The Order of Christian Mystics* is again put forth in this present Age as one more link in the golden chain of truth which connects mankind with the Divine Teachers.

And today, as this great Aquarian Age begins its cycle, those same Souls must once more gather together their reincarnated students and followers that that which was symbolized in stone may be manifested in the world today in living flesh, this time erected in the hearts and lives of men. But in that far off time, seeing the end from the beginning and knowing the impossibility of preserving unmixed with error and misconception the mighty esoteric truths for which this Order stands, they were preserved for those who knew, for those who could understand, in the majestic figure of the Sphinx. Therefore, each one who is today strongly drawn in heart and mind to *The Teachings of The Order of Christian Mystics* was no doubt a follower of these mystical truths in those ancient days, when the Celestial Teachers descended and gave directions how this sacred Order and its principles should forever be preserved intact until the day of their complete manifestation.

As the new Aquarian Age dawns, the Great Teachers realize only too well that it is not sufficiently helpful to force mankind to delve into the musty records of the past for its spiritual food, for in those past ages of general ignorance and intellectual darkness many vital truths had to be hidden or at least veiled from the ignorant which today, at the dawn of the day of fulfilment, must be revealed. For Their teachings form a living philosophy which will always be expressed in every age in a way to meet the needs of each age. They are eternally old yet, like the Sun which remains the same, yet rises anew for each new day, they are forever new. For they contain the Wisdom of Life, symbolized by the Tree of Life which grows by the River of Life and bears its fruit each month for the healing of the nations.

Hence it is fitting, as the Great Day draws near when the many scattered ones are to be assembled, that there should be at least a few gathered together whose hearts and minds are attuned in perfect harmony, united in love and illumined by understanding, and once more have the Riddle of the Sphinx in its spiritual aspect elucidated for the betterment of mankind.⁵

Just as that stony figure, with its imperishable message to humanity, has stood upon the border of the desert, enduring the fierce heat, the storms and the forces of the ages without disintegration, so has this Order endured throughout the ages and its message been given to man in each succeeding cycle, under various names suited to the times. Again and again have the terrific sand storms of worldly criticism and opposition beat upon it until it seemed almost extinct and its message distorted and lost to sight. Yet as its day dawns in each cycle the winds of heaven blow away the accumulated sand and those who belong to its tribe are gathered under its banner and are once more thrilled and enlightened and fed by its mystic message, presenting the world-old truths in language suited to the age. For no movement that is under the active present-day inspiration of the Great Ones will attempt to present the great truths of life in the obscure jargon which may have been necessary in the Dark Ages of physical persecution and possible physical

⁵ Curtiss, *Realms of the Living Dead*, p283.

death. For Their object now is not to obscure truth, but to reveal it in such a way as to help present-day humanity.

And just as none can look into the eyes of that great stone image, with their human gaze piercing the desert depths, without feeling a thrill of awakened inner sight, so today none who were once its followers can look into the Eye of the Order (the centre of its symbol)⁶ without feeling a thrill as its rays pierce the darkness of their understanding and bring to them the Light of their ancient wisdom.

As we stand upon the threshold of this New Age, the cruel blasts of sand and the hot scorching winds of the desert may sweep over us. Yet we wait, resting like the Sphinx in powerful strength. The patient endurance of the Sphinx is needed to win the crown. Many hearts have cried out in the agony of their waiting, "How long, O Lord? How long?" Many little ones have groped their blind way through the things of the outer life, seeking Truth. To all these we bring the message of the Sphinx. The storms of ignorance, sectarianism and priest craft have piled the sands of misconception up around the Mystery of Truth until it seems to stand today with but its head above the sands. And yet its countenance is filled with unutterable longing, love and patience.

Like the Sphinx, deep in our hearts we know that the incarnation has never dawned when we have not stood in the midst of life; when our hearts have not beat in response to the roll call of the living, even though we have forgotten whence we came and whither we are going. We, too, have stood on Egypt's sands; have given up our life for this Great Cause. We, too, have been born again and again; have struggled and hoped and despaired and laid down our lives with trust in the Great Law. Yet always, as life departed, the vision of the Reality has been held before us.

We know that incarnation after incarnation the misinterpretation of divine symbols and scriptures has erected dense, heavy slabs of misconception around our mind and heart, so that forgetfulness, the price of Earth existence, has covered over or blotted out the memory of the past. Yet, as in the carvings of the Sphinx, there has been impressed upon our Soul-consciousness a dim understanding of the mystery concealed within our heart, in which we will find the answer to the riddle of our life and the work we must perform. Many put their hands to the plough, yet look back and are fixed to the spot until a new incarnation. But there are a few who never can go back, because the look in their eyes is compounded of the imperishable qualities of the four signs composing the Sphinx, to Know; to Dare; to Do and to Keep Silent.

Let us for a moment disregard the passage of time and once more see ourselves assembled in that ancient Egyptian crypt beneath the Sphinx. Let us once more hear the thunderous tones of the Celestial Teacher as He comes again to tell us that the task then outlined is now almost accomplished; that the thing then symbolized in stone is almost ready to be expressed by a statue of living flesh and blood; in a united body of faithful followers of the Law, which shall fulfil in its every detail that which was foreshadowed then in stone. Let us examine this mighty symbol and see the message it holds for us.

The flanks of the Ox give us the power to Do. Is not this Order resting upon those flanks, its power to Do? Has it not toiled and laboured through the ages? Has it not been bowed with burdens to the Earth, the burdens of the hearts of its children? Has it not crouched on the edge of the desert of life, buffeted by storms, ignored by the multitude, almost buried in the sands of outer conditions, as it bore the burdens of the many who look to it for help? Yet through it all never has it forgotten that even though a very Ox indeed, it is nevertheless yoked with the Divine Christ, whose

⁶ Curtiss, *The Voice of Isis*, Chapter XXXIV.

command ever is, "Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

Its fore quarters give us the power to Love and to Dare. Are they not those of the Lion? Has it not had the courage to use its fore quarters to seek out Wisdom and tear the acquired knowledge of the ages to shreds that it might feed on its inner meaning? Has not the Lion aspect of the Order manifested itself? Has not the great and powerful Love the support and balance that has made this Order endure, that is symbolized by the higher aspects of the Lion been resting in powerful strength? Has not this Love emanated from the very heart of the Order since its beginning, as the perfume emanates from the Rose?

Has not the eternal stillness in which the Eagle soars given it the power to Keep Silent? Humanity has for ages looked with wonder upon that which is symbolized by the wings, i.e., the transmutation of the Scorpion into the Eagle. Too long in past ages has the Order kept its wings closely folded, veiling the mysteries of the creative life-force. Too long has it struggled to teach mankind obscurely how to unfold its wings, how to spread and rely upon them to soar into the higher realms with the power and freedom of the Eagle, far above the sting of the Scorpion. But today its wings are lifted up from its shoulders. Are not its mighty talons conquering the force of the Scorpion, heeding not its sting, and crying aloud for the breath of the New Age to bear it into the higher realms? Again and again have the cutting sand-storms beaten down these wings until they seemed almost broken, yet today we see them lifted with the power of the Aquarian, the Man Who Conquers.

The world has brought accusation after accusation and sting after sting, saying: "How dare this Order unveil the Mystery of the Ages and show mankind how to open its wings through the power of sex uplifted, teaching that it must be pure and holy and used as a manifestation of the Christ-life!" Yet these storms have rolled from it, as the feathers of the Eagle shed the raindrops as it flies fearlessly through the passing storms, and have left it unscathed. Is it any wonder then that today we see the question of sex being lifted up throughout the world as the ideas concerning its innate purity and holiness gradually spread and permeate all classes of thought and all advanced teachings?

Its human head gives us the power of the Aquarian to Know. See how the normal human liveable aspect of the Teachings it promulgates are always presented to the world. See how the breasts of the Mother are always filled with nourishment for her children, always giving, giving, giving of her spiritual food to all. And look you! Upon her brow sits the kingly cap, the Uraeus, which vandal hands have tried to tear from her,⁷ the crown of Man triumphant. It crowns only the Man Who Conquers, the Knower, the Aquarian, who is (a) Lord of the beast, (b) Tamer of the Lion, (c) Ruler of the Ox, (d) Transmuter and Uplifter of the Scorpion.

Thus is the Sphinx a symbol of this Order. And although the desert of the outer life and its materialistic conceptions and consciousness seems barren and forbidding, and the scorching sands still whirl about it in fitful gusts at times, as we are passing through the reconstruction period of the ages, let us nevertheless realize how many ages we have waited for this day of freedom and upliftment, and not grow weary.

Try to understand the symbol of the Order.⁸ Meditate upon it and realize the greatness of the work, the greatness of our privilege. For the time is at hand when it will be necessary for us to know and understand what is symbolized and what is meant by this Great Work. And it will not be many years, as Earth counts time,

⁷ Although the stones that complete the upper part of the *pallā* have been pried off, the forehead still shows part of the *Uraeus*, the king's sign of Divine Wisdom, the Serpent (Wisdom), coming from out the Head.

⁸ Curtiss, *The Voice of Isis*, Chapter XXXIV.

ere we will realize why we are connected with the great Celestial Hierarchy that is manifesting through this Order of Christian Mystics. Therefore, help spread its Teachings, so that they will no longer be merely symbolized by an image of stone, but shall be a living, vital factor in the upliftment of the race. We must Know, we must experience, we must Dare and we must Labour that the Silence of the ages may be broken and the Truth be revealed to the children of men.

Do not be impatient if the world does not respond at once; if it runs after other gods or congregates where the drums beat loudest. Do not blame it if at first it is afraid of the heights to which the wings of the Sphinx can bear it.

It takes time to learn spiritual aviation just as it does its physical counterpart. Wait patiently. Rest in peace, relying upon the imperishable foundation, the Temple of Truth that supports the Sphinx; for it is carved out of the solid "Rock of Ages."

Let us learn from our symbol the attitude of mind that shall give us endurance. Like the Sphinx, we will patiently bide our time. Let not despair or even impatience appear in the steady look of our eyes, no servility in our attitude, no droop to our uplifted wings. Rest in the infinite knowledge and calm confidence that though nations rise and fall the Great Law moves ever on toward its fulfilment. Trust in the power of our symbol, for it has the brain that Knows, and within it is beating as one heart the hearts of all its children. In its nostrils is the breath of the Life Everlasting.



CHAPTER VII

SPIRITUAL HYGIENE AND OCCULT PSYCHOLOGY

“All diseases, except such as come from mechanical causes, have an invisible origin, and of such sources popular medicine knows very little. There is a great difference between the power that removes the invisible causes of disease, and which is Magic, and that which causes merely external effects to disappear, and which is psychic, sorcery, and quackery.”

Paracelsus

“Not only did God make this Earth a garden full of beauty, but filled with all things needed by man for his growth and happiness and unfoldment. Even when man and woman shut themselves out of Eden and went forth to till the earth that it might bring forth just what they desired or thought they wanted, even then did the all-knowing and all-loving Father-Mother provide for them, in the herbs of the field and in the minerals and forces of the earth, a balm for every wound, an antidote for every poison and a cure for every ill that man was destined to bring upon himself in his God-foreseen pilgrimage through ages of darkness after he had turned his back upon the Tree of Life in the midst of the Garden.”

Curtiss, *The Inner Radiancy*, p239

For all who are interested in, or make use of occult healing and psychology in one or another form, the words of Paracelsus, grand-master of the esoteric healing arts, centuries old, remain as true as ever. It is heart warming to note that in our day and age, esoteric, spiritual or occult healing, by whatever name it is called, and in whatever science it is applied, is being taken up more and more by all and most notably by professionals in every field, so that today, in the spiritual Age of Aquarius, the subtle healing arts are truly coming into their own. Only the foresight of Divine Mother-love could have filled the air with vitality to sustain life, and implanted in the minerals of the earth and the herbs of the field the differentiated life-essences which, when properly used under the law of sympathy or affinity, would restore harmony to every inharmony, health to every illness, and meet the needs of every disability which man, during his childhood of ignorance, was apt to bring upon himself.¹ Jesus made a promise to His disciples, that when He was gone, they would have the healing power and do even greater deeds than He, *and this power to heal the sick has never been withdrawn.*

The Teachings of the Order are so all encompassing and all inclusive that, as stated elsewhere, they truly form a *Cosmic Philosophy*, that has an answer for, and can explain, *every phase of life*, and as knowledge is power, the internalisation of its teachings, and the understanding there-of, enables the student to make practical use of its healing and occult psychological doctrines. For if you study that which is hidden, or occult, over and above that which is seen and known, you can master thereby the lower manifestations and be of real use to your fellow man in the healing arts. And as Paracelsus so aptly states, such is true Magic, and white Magic at that, for our world and its people are full of ills and healing is the noble art there-of.

It is a veritable crime that today in our modern and scientific civilisation, our very young children are put on strong drugs by parents and doctors, to make the parents, teachers and children cope with the pressures of life. What has gone wrong? And

¹ Curtiss, *The Divine Mother*, p21

who must bear the brunt of this? For the unenlightened who may happen to see a vision or hear voices, and who seek help from the unenlightened doctors, they too are termed to be 'sick' and are put on strong drugs, lowering their natural vibrations and sensitiveness to the spiritual realms. The visions disappear and the voices are stilled, and they are put on display as 'cured' by modern medicine! Lengthy sessions at a psychologist to treat bereavement, obsessions and other illnesses that are not understood, and these are easily understood by the occult practitioner. Modern textbooks on psychopathology admit in their concluding chapters that they do not really know what they are studying, and much 'research' is still needed! They wander around aimlessly trying to prove through physical science, concepts of the soul or spiritual science and fail dismally. And this is because they have no all-inclusive *Cosmic Soul Science* to guide them and are therefore without any real guiding light. "Their investigations, sincere and honest as they may be, are much like laboriously searching through a plebeian section of a great city for a scientist or professor who could explain the conditions met with, when all that would be necessary would be to take a taxi through the slums, to the University, where hundreds of professors who are authorities on all types of knowledge are to be found." Such investigators do not seek further for higher truth, and we but end up where the blind lead the blind.

The Teachings of the Order are a veritable storehouse of occult knowledge and lore with respect to a whole range of healing practices and use. To condense the essence of these Healing Teachings into one chapter is a hopeless task, and we will but give a brief outline, and site a few pertinent cases and examples, in the hope that the sincere seeker after occult healing knowledge will delve deeper into *The Teachings of the Order*, and thereby find what he seeks, for in the healing arts there is no substitute for deeper knowledge and enlightenment.

As far as the author is concerned, there is little that is really new in these Healing Teachings if compared to the manifold works of others, but they are presented in such simplicity of use, language and application, that they are eminently practical to use and also safe. The *Cosmic Philosophy* of the Order was transmitted to the Agents by Divine Guidance, the medical and healing techniques were further practically expounded by Frank Homer Curtiss, a medical doctor and surgeon with his own practice who healed thousands, combined with the highest mystical *Teachings of the Order*. With such Divine and impeccable credentials we do not doubt that the application of the Teachings given here-in will find suitable soil to grow and flower. We also wish to bring to the readers attention that that which is true is also everlasting. The healing methods employed herein were put in print from 60 to 100 years ago. These methods are so widely used today that we hardly realise that such have been pioneered and known by spiritual healers since time immemorial. In presenting this chapter we will follow the general outline as given in *Health Hints for Four-Fold Health*, suitably expanded where appropriate.

PHYSICAL HEALTH

There are three main factors that should be kept in mind when we look at health. "First, it should be understood that since the body is the instrument through which the Soul contacts this earth plane, the Soul is limited in its expression by the kind of body in which it incarnates, and to its health, perfect development, training and its responsiveness to the guidance of the indwelling Soul. Secondly, it should be remembered that perfect health is 100% functioning of all our organs and tissues. Lack of health is merely a deficiency in harmonious bodily function. The way to maintain health is to stop making ourselves sick by wrong habits of thought, emotion, diet and actions. Ill health is but a symptom of a broken law; the inability of

the body to relieve its maladjustments and eliminate its poisons. Most so-called treatment is but the palliation of symptoms without the elimination of their fundamental causes. Health means not merely freedom from disease but freedom from fatigue, from the blues and the negative and destructive emotions as well. Third, we reap the results of all we sow. If we violate the laws of harmony in Nature, whether they be physical, mental, psychic or spiritual laws, we must expect to reap corresponding inharmonious results.”²

Health is therefore fundamentally a spiritual experience and pain, often a necessary evil to force us to change bad habits through self preservation. Through prayer and affirmation, if sincerely believed in and relied upon, temporary relief is possible, but to produce a permanent cure we have to change the habits of life to eliminate the primary cause or causes of the disease, be they mental, emotional or psychic. We are normally immune to all diseases but if we lower our *Inner Radiance* or vital life force through overwork, exposure, wrong diet, inadequate rest, elimination, worry, negative and destructive thoughts and emotions, then our body is weakened and becomes a fertile breeding ground for the lower life forms such as germs, viruses, bacteria and also for obsessing entities and so our bodies become filled with toxins. We normally have the viruses and germs of just about every conceivable disease within our bodies, but it is through lowering our vibrations or our *Inner Radiance* that these gain a foothold and multiply, and rarely by any other means. This is an occult truth unknown to modern science.³

“Normally you should be positive, cheerful, optimistic and happy, and capable of thinking clearly, making your decisions quickly, full of ambition and perseverance.” Restoration of all diseases such as angina, anaemia, goitre, ulcers, tuberculosis, skin, kidney, liver and nervous diseases are possible through elimination of their causes, unless the condition is clearly Karmic. Health is Four-Fold, and holistic treatment must address the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual phases in order to effect a permanent cure.

MECHANICAL FACTORS IN HEALTH

There are very few bodies that are structurally perfect, being a very complicated piece of machinery. For obvious structural defects, these need to be fixed by physical means, such as mending a broken bone, removing a splinter, wearing glasses for far or short sightedness etc. Neither mind nor medicine can be curative if the cause is mechanical. Sciatica is usually always due to pressure on one of the nerve trunks forming the great sciatic nerve. Appendicitis is readily relieved by the adjustment of the second lumbar vertebra, headaches are dispelled by relieving the neck muscles and similar.

The body also needs regular exercise to keep it in good shape, stimulate circulation, respiration as well as elimination of toxins. If weakened by illness, one should generally not exercise and never do so on a full stomach. Outdoor exercise is excellent and all such should be followed by a cool bath or shower. Walking barefoot on dew-strewn grass in the early morning hours is invigorating, as the dew is filled with cosmic energy accumulated high in the atmosphere. Walking barefooted in the dew is practiced by many of the occult schools of the East as well as by the Barefoot Friars of the Christian era.⁴ “. . . exposure to sun and air is stimulating to the mentally depressed, to the neurotic, the anaemic and those suffering from melancholia, worry, lassitude and insomnia. It not only increases bodily tone and energy, but mental responses are brisker and mental activities are

² Curtiss, Four-Fold Health, pp1-2

³ Curtiss, The Voice of Isis, p220

⁴ Curtiss, The Voice of Isis, Chapter XXIII, Earths Finer Forces

more pronounced.” In today’s high radiation sunshine we do not recommend more than ten to fifteen minutes direct exposure to the sun at any given time.

At noon all the forces of nature and man are focused on the earth-plane, therefore it is wisest to have the principal meal of the day at noon, for then the physical forces can best transmute the food with the least drain upon or disturbance of the higher forces.

BREATHING

The pupil is warned that there is a definite science to the breath and that specific breathing exercises and techniques should not be taken unless under the guidance of a competent and knowledgeable teacher. Nevertheless a number of breathing techniques are given that are safe to use for all. It is further stated that deep breathing is vital for good health, to remove the dead air that accumulates in the lungs. Also, when we do breathing exercises it is important to hold in the mind constructive thoughts or ideas, for during breathing such thoughts lodge their vibrations in the newly formed cells of the physical body and we find here a key to the use of breath for regeneration and inner alchemy.⁵

The following is a most potent breathing technique to use when mentally or emotionally excited, disturbed, worried, fatigued or unsettled and will calm and ground the user. Its effects are immediate and are attested to by many who make use of it on a daily basis.

The Calming Breath: Assume the posture for meditation as follows: Sit in as quiet a place as possible where you can be free from interruption. Sit on a straight-backed chair, always in the same place and chair, facing the East in the morning and the North in the evening. Allow the hands to rest comfortably on the thighs with the palms up and with the thumbs touching the tips of the first fingers. Have the feet flat on the floor a few inches apart. Sit with the head erect, the chin in and the spine straight. Do not let the back touch the chair. The position is exactly that in which the Egyptian statues are seated (The Pharaoh’s Position). The position should not be stiff or rigid, but comfortably erect and well poised and with the clothing loose.

Inhale slowly and quietly through both nostrils a comfortably deep, steady breath, with the mouth closed. First fill out the abdomen and then slowly fill up the lungs comfortably full, yet without tension or straining. Be careful that the muscles of the neck and throat are not tense or rigid. To be sure of this, turn and bend the head from side to side for a moment to remove all strain and rigidity.

Pulse Rate: Use your normal pulse-rate to give your rhythm. Inhale quietly for 6, 8 or 10 heart-beats. Hold the breath for half the number of intake counts, 3, 4 or 5, then completely empty the lungs during the same number of counts as used during the intake. Hold the breath out and the lungs empty for half the exhalation counts, then slowly and rhythmically begin to inhale again. After you have learned your rhythm, you will not need to distract your attention from the object of the breath by counting. When you exhale, relax completely and let go all tension of body and mind.

What to Think: During the inhalation hold the thought that you are breathing in the forces of love, strength, courage and purity or any other virtue you desire; that during the pause they are filling you full to overflowing and that during the out breathing you are breathing out all your troubles, anxieties and cares, and dissipating them like exhaust steam. Repeat this from seven to fifteen times or until you feel relaxed and calm. At any time of day or night when you find yourself hurried, worried or under a nervous strain, sit down quietly and practice this relaxation and quietness. The power of this simple exercise to calm and restore the normal rhythm to both body and mind will scarcely be believed by those who have not tried it. It alone can calm an agitated mind or cheer a sad heart and restore one to peace and harmony with the world.⁵

⁵ Curtiss, Four-Fold Health, Ch II

A number of other breathing exercises are given for cleansing, for vitalising with pranic energy, and for the upliftment and transmutation of sexual energy⁶. It is a central *Teaching of the Order* that we must uplift the base sexual energy or Kundalini force which has its base in the lower mystical centre or Muladhara chakra. This Divine Creative Force must be channelled into constructive spiritual growth ere we can make true spiritual progress. We refer the reader to the main work. Breathing has a very specific place in occult development for the breathing function can be controlled by both the conscious and sub-conscious mind. Therefore it is a gateway for unifying or linking the conscious with the sub-conscious and is also used to achieve access to the Higher worlds and consciousness.⁷ We close of this section on breathing with the following invocative prayer.

PRAYER FOR REALIZATION⁸

O Eternal Being! Thou ever Living One!
 Thou loving I Am Presence, whose I Am and whom I serve!
 Thou art anchored in me and I in Thee.
 Thou art mine and I am Thine.
 Thou art my eternal pattern.
 Make me more and more like Thee.

Then breathe rhythmically. As you inhale draw down a ray of brilliant white light from your radiant I Am Presence, or Higher Self, through the top of the head (Sahasrara). Hold it in the centre of your brain during the pause, and as you exhale focus it in your heart until it becomes a glowing ball of dazzling white light whose radiance fills your whole body. Repeat seven to twenty-one times or until thoroughly charged with the warm glow of the spiritual fire.

CONSTIPATION

Auto-toxemia.⁹ One vitally important and almost universal factor in ill health is constipation. This permits continuous absorption of poisons from the intestines and produces auto-toxaemia which is the greatest underlying cause of all diseases.

Today this is such a well known fact amongst alternative healing practitioners that we shall but mention it briefly. Proper bowel movements are essential to avoid putrefaction which in turn leads to bad breath or halitosis as well as the poisoning of all bodily tissues including the brain. Foods containing lactic acid are recommended as these destroy putrefying bacteria, as well as bulk roughage, sufficient fluid intake and foods promoting laxative action. A number of methods are also given to clean the bowels such as enemas, prevention of constipation and accumulations, purges, fasting and proper diet. "Since acidosis and toxemia are present to some extent in all diseased conditions, their elimination is the first step towards a cure. Therefore, in practically all cases, except appendicitis, stomach or intestinal ulcers, cancers etc., the saline purge is of primary importance and should be the first thing to start."

ACUTE DISEASES

A number of excellent guidelines are given to effectively treat specific acute diseases. In general, whenever we are ill we should fast or stop all food intake, and drink only liquids. This helps the body to eliminate toxins in every single way, and can prevent the need for surgery and operations. If some of these techniques are followed, the removal of the appendix and of tonsils are eliminated. Tonsils are removed without due cause and but opens the way for all sorts of infections later on in life.

⁵ Curtiss, *Four-Fold Health*, pp16-17

⁶ Curtiss, *Four-Fold Health*, pp20-21

⁷ Curtiss, *The Voice of Isis*, p166, 167

⁸ Curtiss, *Four-Fold Health*, pp21-22

⁹ Curtiss, *Four-Fold Health*, Ch III

FOOD COMBINATIONS AND FOOD IN GENERAL

It can be safely stated that if we eat the right foods and in the right combinations we will eliminate a whole variety of illness and discomforts from our lives. "Faulty diet and improper elimination are probably the most prolific physiological causes of lack of health. . . ." This is well known today and dieticians are more and more becoming a part of modern holistic medical treatment. In *The Teachings of the Order*, food and its right combinations are dealt with extensively and we can but refer the reader for further study. Briefly stated, foods causing acidoses should be minimised, live foods such as fruit and vegetables should form the main part of our diet, and processed foods should be kept to a minimum. This is common sense and nothing new, but in our western lifestyle today, even such a simple regime is difficult to follow in our hurried life. If we but take proper care to eat only live and wholesome foods, the scourge of our times being the unending allergies and food irritations which is al but endemic, will more than likely be eliminated.

Acid forming foods such as proteins should form less than 20% of our diet. Refined and bleached white flour and white sugar products are the main culprits of acidosis and should be eliminated from our diets completely. Eliminating such foods from our diet that cause mucous excretions almost invariably clears up all nose, ear and throat infections which but lead to more severe lung conditions.

It has been proven that we eat far too much protein and can do with up to a tenth of the normal protein intake. Low-protein (not elimination) diets decrease blood pressure, reduce sexual desire and assist with female periodic functions. It increases mental concentration as well as endurance.

Do not compel children to eat all their food, but only enough until satisfied. Overeating bloats the system and but produces unwanted toxins. Eat only when your hunger demands, and drink lots of liquids in between.

A good purge and a fast from a few days to a week whereby only liquids are taken has cured many a functional disease. "Epileptics have fasted for a month and never again suffered a return of convulsions. Nephritis, diabetes, skin diseases, asthma, all recover in the absence of all food; also all other diseases resulting from wrong chemistry will readjust themselves when the body is free to give all its attention to cleaning house."

Eat and drink slowly and relish the experience, enjoy your food, give grace at table and do not argue or discuss unpleasantness in any form when eating, for the subtle vibrations enter the food and then has to be transmuted by your body.

As to meat eating or not, spiritual development is not dependant on what we eat,¹⁰ otherwise we would be able to diet our way to heaven, but we should become more discriminating as to what we eat and why as we advance on the spiritual path. Vegetarianism for many is the end-product as it were of spiritual discrimination. "*Not that which goeth into the mouth defileth a man; but that which cometh out of the mouth, this defileth a man*", Matthew xv, 11. In Eastern philosophy we refer to three classes of people. The ignorant (Tamasic), the passionate (Rajasic) and the spiritual (Sattvic). The ignorant have little power of discrimination in choosing from those foods that are desirable or undesirable and will tend to gluttony and eating unclean foods. "The spiritual (Sattvic) types possess an innate discrimination in everything pertaining to their lives, not only thoughts and emotions, but also foods, naturally tending to choose that which is pure and healthful and conducive to peace, harmony and health. Those who are consciously seeking their spiritual unfoldment should choose largely from the Sattvic foods. . . . as eating does affect your mental and emotional states. . . .".

¹⁰ Curtiss, *The Voice of Isis*, Chapter XXXII, Thou Shalt Not Kill

In *Four-Fold Health*, much attention is given to proper food combinations and compatibility, how to prepare and cook food and various menus are given. If these are followed, within a few days, symptoms such as fatigue and tiredness, listlessness on awakening, tiring easily, catching colds, shortness of breath, skin eruptions, mild eye troubles, pyorrhoea, sinus conditions and many other mild and irritable conditions literally disappear overnight. All the above is based on the pioneering work of Dr William Howard Hay, and a bibliography is given for further reading. Today, the blood group diets which have proven so effective, are an offshoot on the pioneering work done in the early parts of the previous century.

To end this section, a brief mention of some other most interesting techniques and facts as stated in *Four-Fold Health*. A method is given to strengthen and eliminate almost all eye problems and complaints. Vaccinations and the use of serums are discouraged. The removal of tonsils is discouraged and should only be done in severe cases. Alcohol, tobacco and other habit forming substances are discussed.

Insomnia, in most cases is put down to acid fermentation in the small intestine. The treatment is therefore to counteract this acidity. If nervous, wakeful and sleepless, take a full glass of grapefruit juice, do the calming breath exercise and repeat some prayer such as the *Prayer to the Divine Indweller*¹¹ and let Him bear all your burdens and anxieties. Then drop off to sleep in calm confidence in His love.

SPIRITUAL HYGIENE AND OCCULT PSYCHOLOGY

The above brief examples are mainly concerned with the physical body and have their place in the general wellbeing of man, but we are also interested in those aspects of occult healing and psychology which have to do with more subtle and spiritual influences as per the caption given by Paracelsus. *The Order of Christian Mystics* had at its disposal a sophisticated system of healing and help and with the few examples we give we will try to show that such systems may be employed by any sincere seeker who wishes to make use of such techniques. In order to ensure the efficacy of any of the following methods and techniques, a well grounded training in the esoteric sciences is required, typically as put forth by *The Teachings of the Order*. For these methods work in an almost miraculous manner if the practitioner *understands* what he is doing, is strong *willed* in doing so, and sincerely *believes* that his technique will work. It is therefore of utmost importance to study the teachings of as many sources as possible to gain an enlightened understanding of matters esoteric, and then to diligently apply yourself in living and implementing such teachings into your life. To be an armchair occultist is one thing, but to 'live the spiritual or occult life' is quite another. In any case, the dabbler is soon discouraged, leaving the real work to the sincere at heart.

SYMPATHETIC HEALING

As our physical globe is held in the matrix of the astral plane, which in turn is held in the matrix of the mental plane, everything is directly connected to everything else on one of the subtle planes, if not physically. This makes distance healing possible as well as healing by sympathy, between two or more objects, focuses or substances.

Dr Curtiss made extensive use of radionics in his medical practice. Today most homeopathic practises include such instruments. "The instruments . . . are able to diagnose the condition by its vibratory wave-length which will neutralize the diseased condition and cause complete recovery in an amazingly short time. But to remain relieved or cured, the patient must, of course, *change his habits of life*. . . . It is not necessary for the patient to be present to receive an accurate diagnosis,

¹¹ Curtiss, Message of Aquaria, p479

for with this instrument a complete diagnosis can be made from a few drops of the patient's blood sent on a piece of clean white blotter or cotton wool.¹² If the reality of the astral plane is grasped and understood, distance healing and the efficacy of invocative prayer in a variety of matters becomes possible.

MENTAL INFLUENCES

"As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he. Your health results from a divine harmony of body, mind and spirit, i.e., a pure body, a tranquil mind and a Soul stayed on God." Our mind and thoughts are not generated inside of our physical bodies, but the physical body is the instrument through which the mind manifests and therefore slow thinking, poor reasoning power, loss of memory and lack of power to concentrate is the product of toxæmia in the blood, which affects the brain and the whole organism. Mental health is the result of right thinking and we must order our thoughts in such a fashion and manner that they are directed to constructive ends.

According to the law of sympathy and resonance, negative thoughts draw to us even more negative thoughts. And even though these negative thoughts are not our own but are generated by others, if we allow them into our mind, *and entertain them*, we make them our own and have to take responsibility for them. It is therefore imperative for the Initiate to guard his thoughts, and not to let the gypsy thoughts of the mental sphere influence him. But do not fight such mental influences, as this but gives them power. Think constructively in the opposite direction to so counteract these gypsy thoughts.

The Bible tells us not to resist evil, but to overcome evil with good. It is our age-long fear of and belief in evil, or a personal devil, that has created untold negative thoughts and thinking from individuals to the entire race. Recognizing as we do today that many diseases with the exceptions of accidents (trauma), external poisonings, etc. are the result of thought, it is not a wild supposition to believe that it is this fear-thought of a monstrous personification of evil, the belief in a personal devil instilled into the mind of man for ages, coupled with the thought that every child is born in sin, which has peopled the astral and psychic worlds with terrible antagonistic and vile forces that are the cause of many nervous and nearly all psychic diseases, especially that terrible scourge of mankind, cancer.¹³

Be aware of suggestions, your own as well as those from others, for these act most powerfully on the subconscious mind. If you tell yourself you are ill and look ill, then this is what your body will manifest for the subconscious mind listens to the rational conscious mind as does a slave to its master. Through suggestion, we also come to believe what others tell us, whether good or bad, and we must be discriminating as to who and what we will listen to and let into our being. Our flesh responds to our thoughts, and that is why our face takes on the appearance of that which we think about the most such as gluttonous, selfish, vain, crafty, cruel, cunning or pure, frank, kind and sympathetic.¹⁴

"All the cells of every tissue and organ of the body are continually dividing and growing and producing new cells to replace the cells that are worn out by each day's activities. Some tissues are replaced more rapidly than other more dense ones, such as the bones, but science estimates that at the end of every seven years we have an entirely new body which contains not a single cell we had seven years before. And it is upon these sensitive new cells thus constantly formed that the subconscious mind impresses the characteristics of the thoughts we habitually hold or hold temporarily but under great emotional stress or concentration. Thus we are

¹² Curtiss, *Four-Fold Health*, p76

¹³ Curtiss, *The Key of Destiny*, The Devil, Chapter XXV

¹⁴ Curtiss, *The Inner Radiancy*, p75

constantly changing the make-up of our body by the character of the thoughts we hold. *This Law is the key-note of regeneration.*” Through repeated incarnations we so perfect our thoughts that eventually we fully manifest the Divine within us, and not the personality, which is but transitory. Therefore we should focus with intense concentration upon the manifestation of the Divine Life, health, love, power and happiness, of the Divine Indweller, if we will only strive to live in His consciousness and in the realization of His indwelling presence. While we cannot shut out every undesirable thought, *we can refuse to dwell upon* a thought and can determinately think some constructive thought. We must be the Chooser, the Willer and thereby the Master of our thoughts.

Keep your mental attitude positive and never give up. Defeat is deadly. *Never accept it.* (See the lesson on Purity, *The Voice of Isis*)

EMOTIONS

“Your emotions have an even more powerful immediate effect upon the physical body than do your thoughts, as they act directly upon the emotional or astral body and thus repercus or react upon the physical. Joy and happiness bring smiles and stimulate all the bodily functions and give a general sense of well-being. Love suffuses the body with a warm constructive glow, while prayer and spiritual aspiration tune your mind into the uplifting vibrations of the spiritual world, and your body responds in harmony and health.”

It has been scientifically proven many times over that negative emotions such as hatred and anger poison the body and make it ill. Fear and uncertainty destroys your natural immunity and causes weakness and disintegration. Look at those who welcome old age and the grace and wisdom it brings. See the peace and tranquillity in their faces. Those that fear old age and fight it with everything at their disposal cannot fail to hide that they are losing the battle. More than 95% of all fears never materialise and therefore are groundless.

“Jealousy and envy are acidifying and corroding forces similar to rust, but more virulent. Our bodies react to our destructive emotions and thought-forces producing sickness and disease. If we analyse our motives when inclined to speak critically of others, we will usually find an element of pride, envy, jealousy, fear or a desire to triumph or feel superior to the one criticized. The Real Self of us is never critical, is never envious of the possessions of others; for we have incarnated with possessions of our own. The things in our environment are just those needed for our training and unfoldment. . . . Our Real Self is never jealous of the attainments of others, for we incarnated to manifest our own attainments, faculties and qualities which we gained in the past. Hence, instead of resenting the success of others we should rejoice in it, as they should in ours.”

Determine to be happy and optimistic, it is your birthright and your duty towards others. Be accepting of change, for it is inevitable and without we would stagnate and die. Things, people and conditions do not make us suffer, but rather our reaction to them. Greet every person and condition with a smile. It is your choice.

God spake the word and the world was created. Man speaks one little word and a new world of gladness is created in his brother's life, or man speaks a word and a brother is disheartened and gives up the fight, or a sister's good name is taken from her and she is pushed out into the darkness, is pushed down under the feet of the multitude. Think what one kind word can do! How it can bring sunshine and peace and courage into your own life and the lives of others! Waste no force in frivolous or negative chatter, speak only positive words, words of love, words of power. If your brother offend you, speak words of love that your heart may send back nothing but love. Never withhold a sincere word of love or endearment or a

word of help, encouragement or health. A kind word spoken even to a stray dog will not return to you void.¹⁵

“The sun will rise every day, whether you see it or not, and it will continue to do so every day until the end of time. Each day is a new day, a new incarnation. The old is past and gone and need not be lived over, even in thought. Each day is a new opportunity for you to demonstrate the degree of your growth, the degree of your realisation of the law, and the amount of your courage and determination.”

THE HEALING PRAYER¹⁶

“The Order of Christian Mystics has a daily prayer service, at which time the names of all those desiring special help, especially for their health, or while undergoing an operation, are relayed to the Invisible Helpers.

When the author’s (F Homer Curtiss, Ed.) mother (Sarah D Curtiss, Ed.) was asked how such cases were handled in the invisible, her reply was:

“The Christ force would find its way to the students requiring help, even without the names being given. The condition of those needing help calls for it, as we might say, automatically. The entire class is looked over and the bare spots discerned.” She also said that when prayers are said for her they invoke forces of inspiring, joyous, spiritual forces from the higher realms, all of which help her to progress.

That such attention to the needs of our students produces beneficial results is evidenced by the fact that, for more than thirty years, when students’ need for help during operations is mentioned no operation has been unsuccessful, and no post operative infection or haemorrhage has developed. Often such cases are the ‘miracle cases’ because they usually recover so rapidly that they are out of the hospital in half the usual time.”^{17, 18} Where-ever blood is shed a certain class of elementals is attracted, seeking to imbibe the higher vibrations of life-force from the blood. Hence all surgical operations should be preceded by prayer or invocation.

If one understands the reality and power of invocation, or the asking of help from the higher ones, such help is freely available to all, not only to the card-carrying members of occult fraternities, for we are all part of the great *Cosmic Order of Melchisedec*, and none stand outside it. As to *The Teachings of the Order* such statement is corroborated. “Students of the Order who are about to undergo serious operations can be met in the Astral World, as they pass out of the body under the anaesthetic, by a special band of trained workers and nurses who will take care of them and protect their physical body while it is operated on, if they will notify the Secretary of the Order in time. . . . and at the same time send out a mental call for the Teacher and helpers of the Order in the higher Realms. If there is no time to notify the Secretary the mental call for help and protection will bring it. Of course such help and protection are not confined to members of the Order but the Order has a special organisation for that purpose. . . .”¹⁹ (See also the chapters on Prayer in *Letters from the Teacher*).

¹⁵ Curtiss, *The Voice of Isis*, pp175,176

¹⁶ Curtiss, *The Voice of Isis*, Chapter XXVI, Healing Prayer

¹⁷ Curtiss, *Personal Survival*, pp64

¹⁸ Curtiss, *Letters from the Teacher*, Vol. II, p8,9

¹⁹ Curtiss, *Realms of the Living Dead*, pp79-80

HEALING PRAYER²⁰

O thou loving and helpful Master Jesus!
 Thou who gavest to Thy disciples power to heal the sick!
 We, recognizing Thee,
 and realizing Thy divine Presence with us,
 Ask Thee to lay Thy hands (powers) upon
 us in healing Love.
 Cleanse US from all OUR sins, and by the divine power of Omnipotent Life,
 Drive out the atoms of inharmony and disease,
 And fill our bodies full to overflowing
 With Life and Love and Purity.

SAY AFTER HEALING PRAYER

I am not this body.
 I am a free Soul, and I will dwell with my Christ
 In the eternal joy of the higher life.

HOW TO USE THE HEALING PRAYER

In the practical use of this prayer, after repeating it, mention the names or initials of those whom you desire to have helped, and visualize their faces as clearly as possible. See the Divine Christ-light streaming down upon and penetrating into their whole bodies as though from a powerful searchlight from above. Or you may visualize them as stepping into the great pool of Divine Light which has resulted from your invocation, and see them submerged in and filled with it. It is important not to set up your human judgment or will as to what the result shall be. Therefore, do not demand health or any other specific result. Allow the Christ-light to take its own course and bring about the results that are best for the Soul's unfoldment and advance. In other words, leave the result to the Christ and the Divine Law, your attitude being, "Not my will, but Thine be done."

The use of the above prayer, as a ritual, is indeed very powerful and its effects are readily to be noted. Prayers and rituals are divine invocations, and being purely spiritual in nature, are enhanced by their frequent use, especially if more and more people make use of it. The above prayer, as are all the prayers of *The Order of Christian Mystics*, was directly formulated from the Higher Realms, and therefore human personality and ego is totally absent from its formulation. If possible, such a prayer can also be used in a prayer circle, whereby more than one person is in attendance. "Where two or more are gathered in My Name, there I am also. . . ." It is usual to always have an odd number of people in such a circle, with one person reading the prayer out loud, and the rest of the circle assisting with the visualisation and aspiration. Exalt your thoughts and consciousness before starting by repeating the *Prayer for Light*.

It is generally necessary to have the permission of the person who is ill, to perform the above magical operation with such a person at its focus. If you do not have the express permission of the person, and such a prayer is used, however sincere, it falls on the side of black magic.²¹ For realise, that people learn advanced lessons from suffering and pain, and depriving them of this experience may go against their free will. Always ask, and so be sure. (For more information see the chapters on Health and Disease in *Letters from the Teacher, Volumes I and II*.) It also works better to make use of a recent photograph of the person if such is available. This then focuses the energy more clearly. It is interesting to note that when HPB was alive, she insisted in having a photo of every single member that enrolled in her Esoteric School, for just such purposes as stated above. For the best way to make

²⁰ Curtiss, *The Voice of Isis*, pp341-345

²¹ Curtiss, *The Temple of Silence*, p61

contact with a person living in the flesh in order to aid, bless, comfort or heal them is to use a recent photograph of them whereby the eyes look straight out if possible. As you send out your instruction, focus your gaze upon the pupils²² of the eyes until you feel a warm response or return current, by such you know that contact has been made and the magical operation successful. To point out the efficacy and reality of such invocation, these effects can be measured²³ by radionic instruments as outlined in the chapter on Prayers of the Order.

As we have stated earlier in the chapter on Inner Alchemy, after any great spiritual advance there is often a cataclysm of illness during which the body is eliminating atoms and cells which, having served their purpose during the earlier stages of development, cannot respond to the higher currents of life and consciousness which have been set up as our new standard of life. Therefore, we say to those who apply the Order's healing methods that when illness occurs they must hold the thought, and aid it in every possible way, that all atoms and cells that cannot respond to their new key-note of life shall be eliminated from the system and that new and more perfect and health giving cells shall be built in. Then through the power of their spiritual understanding they should correlate with this incoming rush of atoms and thus more quickly bring about the healing.²⁴

THE EFFECTS OF SLEEP

When we fall asleep our astral body departs from the physical body and is charged up with pranic vitality in the astral plane. When we once again enter our physical body, the charged up astral body brings its vitality to the physical body and we wake up feeling well rested and refreshed. Such plane is also often called the vital plane and the astral body the vital body. Without this bathing in the astral or divine light our physical bodies would soon wither and die. As mentioned elsewhere in this work, during deep sleep we touch the very highest realm, even the Divine, and this is a great mystery.

Some sensitives wake up in the morning feeling tired and depleted. This is because they engage in too strenuous activities in the astral world and therefore do not rest. Before you go to sleep, make up your mind that this night you will rest and abstain from being too busy with your astral activities.

It is stated that the average healthy body needs upwards of five to six hours of sleep, and those who engage more in mental activities need a few hours more.

If disturbed during night hours by astral influences repeat the *Protecting Invocation* as given in the chapter on prayer. If such psychic disturbances occur frequently, it sometimes helps to crush some gum camphor and cloves together and let these odours escape into your room. Lowly entities and discarnate souls do not like such odours and are easily driven off by them.

The above mentioned prayer works wonders with children who have bad dreams and are fearful at night.

SPIRITUAL OR SUBTLE INFLUENCES

In order to delve into the deeper aspects of human drives, thoughts, actions and emotions we need to have a deeper understanding of the *Cosmic Concept* of life. Once such a depth of understanding has been grasped and internalised through many years of esoteric study it is exponentially easier to assist your fellow man with guidance, healing and spiritual instruction. For as we climb up the pyramid of spiritual attainment, and as we rise above the lower steps we see further and further, and start to see the wood for the trees. It is thus that for all students of spiritual

²² Curtiss, *Personal Survival*, p89

²³ Curtiss, *Why Are We Here?*, p126

²⁴ Curtiss, *Letters from the Teacher*, Vol. II, p11,12

science, a well grounded philosophy is required that will form the foundation as it were for all future work in their present and future incarnations. *The Teachings of the Order* form such a well grounded philosophy, and the student cannot but help to grasp the higher understanding of life if the aspirant studies such teachings. In this section we will look however briefly at what we term occult psychology in contrast to the psychology that is offered by the materialistic school.

“When it comes to explaining the reason for, and the *object of life*, the materialist holds that it is merely for the organism to maintain itself, and reproduce its kind. If that idea were true there would be no incentive, or even impulse, to strive for progress or any higher attainment. . . . it is also disproved by the fact we find mankind hungering for the immaterial things of the Spirit, such as freedom, justice, wisdom and love. Man is also altruistically willing to sacrifice his life for his country, for a cause in which he believes, or for one whom he loves. Such qualities cannot be produced, either by chemical activity or by mere organic functioning. Since a stream cannot rise higher than *its source*, such high ideals must have their origin in a source far higher than the physical. . . . In man this ideal is the pre-existing, super-physical and super-mortal Spiritual Self. The object of life is to respond to, and express more and more of this Spiritual Self.”²⁵

The above premise forms the basis of any occult or subtle understanding of man, henceforth called occult psychology. For materialistic man fears death, but when “properly understood death can be a victorious experience in life everlasting, a joyous dropping-off of all the limitations and bondages of the flesh. It can be a triumphant entrance into a greater realisation of life eternal in the heavenly realms; the consummation of a long awaited, universal and inevitable experience in immortal life.”²⁵

In order therefore to understand life and to be able to effectively intervene in life, it is imperative that we also understand death, or the full cycle of re-incarnation. The following sections are mainly taken from the works *Realms of the Living Dead*, *Personal Survival* and *Reincarnation*. These works, together with the full *Teachings of the Order*, provide a wealth of information and understanding, in simple language, of subtle or occult psychology. We need to stress however, that even though a thorough understanding of life conditions in the spiritual realms is imperative, we should not strive *to live for or in the afterlife*. For our lessons are those of the physical realm, and as we see too often with spiritualists, they concentrate their life energies to contact the spiritual realm, and forget to live a productive life here on the physical!

DEVELOPMENTAL STAGES IN CHILDREN

The incoming soul takes *possession* of the foetus that the mother produces at the moment of birth. Prior to this there is mainly an overshadowing presence of that Soul wishing to incarnate. For when the child takes its first breath we have a re-enactment of the passage in Genesis where it states that “He blew the breath of life into the nostrils of man, and man became a living soul.” With the first breath the consciousness of the incarnating Soul dies to the higher realms, the first breath in this world following the last gasp in the higher; just as the last gasp in the physical world is the first breath of the Soul’s return to the higher world from whence it came. The child at the stage of birth has almost no faculties in his possession and it will take a period of more or less twelve years before his full faculties have been transferred from the astral and mental plane into his brain consciousness, or put in other words, his brain as an instrument can only then more or less fully respond to the finer vibrations of his other subtle bodies. For man does not think with the brain,

²⁵ Curtiss, *Personal Survival*, pp19-21

which forms but the link or instrument between the mind (higher manas) and the physical body. At the age of 12, more or less, a marked change is to be noted in the child, for he now reaches puberty and the ability to procreate manifests only now and not before.²⁶ Often in homes where we find poltergeist type activity we also find children, especially girls, at this age. If we are aware of such phases, and are enlightened enough to understand its importance, much profit can be gained thereby in guiding the child to productive ends. According to *The Teachings of the Order*:

“At this period the child usually has dreams, visions or memories of the last incarnation, and sometimes there is a morbid depression as though from a Soul-memory of some great mistake or failure in the past. Usually, however, there is a great confidence and a realization of an inexhaustible power to accomplish, as though from a memory of what the Soul has already accomplished and the great lessons learned, together with a more or less conscious impression of its mission in this incarnation. This might be called a Soul-memory of its “manifested universe,” or that which the Soul has manifested in the past and a prophetic vision of that which it hopes to manifest in this life. At this time children frequently make decided changes in their disposition and character, and often make a definite choice of their life work. They realize, even if but vaguely, that they must be about their Father’s (The Souls) business. This is a period of inspiring idealism. The child is full of zeal and takes pleasure in studying the highest ideals he hears or reads about. If this idealism is *encouraged and wisely guided* at this time, a strong character, based upon spiritual principles and realization, can be formed which will withstand the shock of disillusion which comes later in life as the selfishness and sordid materialism of the average unenlightened person becomes evident.”²⁷

The ancient Egyptians attached great importance to the sayings of children after they had reached the age of 12 because they believed that since in the solar system 12 marks the completion of the zodiac, so in the cycle of the child’s life the twelfth year marked the complete incarnation of the Higher Self. The incarnation was believed to bring to the child many memories of the higher realms, glimpses of the future and in some cases the power of prophecy to which wise men should give heed. In modern life, altho children continually astonish their parents with visions, prophetic utterances and wisdom far beyond their years, such remarks are often ridiculed and their significance is lost sight of, hence much wisdom is left ungarnered. The truth is that a Soul which has just completed its full incarnation is quite likely to impress upon the plastic and receptive brain of its new body many profound conceptions which neither the child nor its parents can account for, but which are the result of the mighty inrush of the Soul’s consciousness as it leaves the higher realms to enter earth conditions. This is especially true of those of advanced spiritual development. Especially are many memories of the last incarnation brought over, and often a conception of the Soul’s life-work and the vital reason for its present incarnation.

The child naturally follows its impulse to speak these things, but if it finds its parents and friends inattentive or filled with ridicule, its sensitive nature is hurt and humiliated and it soon learns to cover up and stifle those impressions until they are obliterated and lost. If more serious attention were paid to the unusual utterances of children, especially during the twelfth and following years when the child is formulating its ideas as to its work in life, there would be fewer “square pegs in round holes,” hence less inefficiency and misdirected lives.²⁸

OBSESSING ENTITIES

As has been stated previously, when man finally blows out the last breath commonly called death or transition, he does not cease to exist, neither is he miraculously transformed into some angelic figure or saint. For all intents and purposes he stays exactly the same, both in thought and emotion, but having shed his outer physical garment, he is now exponentially more free to move in and roam through the astral plane or realm. Common man therefore, is still bound by the same thoughts, emotions and ties as what he was during physical life. If he loved his partner deeply, he will remain interested in the welfare of his partner and so will ‘stick around’ for awhile. If he had anger in his heart to a certain person, this anger will cause him

²⁶ Curtiss, *The Key of Destiny*, pp56, 57

²⁷ Curtiss, *The Pattern Life*, pp120-121

²⁸ Curtiss, *The Key of Destiny*, pp58,59

likewise to remain in the earth's lower aura until such time as he has worked through his issues of anger before he can be released to the higher realms. This reality of those passing over *remaining the same*, is *the root cause* of many a malady, especially emotional and mental trauma for those left behind on the physical plane. The remainder of this chapter is devoted to the influences of the 'dead' on the living. We but touch on these aspects briefly and the reader is referred to the full works of the Order, especially *Realms of the Living Dead*, and the chapters The Desire Realm and Obsessing Entities. A number of real life examples are given from the book *Personal Survival* and the chapter on Spiritual Contacts.

When undeveloped Souls pass on from the physical into the astral world they find themselves surrounded by the corresponding fires of the lower regions of that world. From those regions many such persons strive to quench the torch of Spiritual Light which the more advanced Souls are seeking to light and keep burning in the hearts of mankind.

For that Spiritual Light illumines and reveals in all its hideousness the wickedness and evil with which such undeveloped ones are surrounded. That is one reason why they strive so hard to influence the sensitive followers of the Light, to stimulate their selfishness and their lower fires of passion and desire and subject them to those fires of dissolution which to those in the lower astral realms seem to be life, but which to those who are striving to light the Buddhic Fire would be death or a spiritual darkness worse than death.

Therefore, in this Aquarian Age when the veil between the astral and the physical worlds is becoming thinner and thinner, there is a mighty struggle taking place. The dark, lurid fires of the lower astral, or what is commonly called the fires of hell, are burning fiercely. And *every mortal who opens his aura to them* by giving way to inharmony, anger, lust or selfishness *allows those astral fires to rush in and sweep him away far beyond anything he had intended*, just as the tiny, seemingly insignificant dead leaves in a forest are capable of starting a disastrous forest fire.

But all who are lighting the Buddhic Fire are generating that which will consume the lower fires, both in themselves and in humanity as a whole. They are like forest Rangers who start back-fires, across which the lower fires cannot reach them. Therefore, in using such invocations to the Divine Light as our "Prayer for Light" or the "Protecting Invocation" we invoke the descent of the Buddhic Fire and put around ourselves the Ring-pass-not, the Ring of Flame, *within which no inharmonious or evil thing can penetrate* without being consumed by that Divine Fire. For it will consume all that cannot respond to its spiritual rate of vibration; all the inharmonious conditions it touches in our bodies, in our minds and in our lives, and extract from them their essence of good which has been perverted into evil.

Sudden, unusual and unaccountable bursts of anger, antagonism, lust or destructiveness are in reality astral attacks from those evil ones who have seen the Light of the Torch of Spirituality which we have lighted and who seek to invade our minds, our auras and our lives with the lower fires of their burning hell-like astral conditions so as to make us like unto themselves and, therefore, avenues for their expression on Earth. Everyone who responds to them becomes a fire-brand in every walk of life; in the social, religious, industrial or political life of humanity. On the other hand, all who are striving to light the Buddhic Fire of love and spiritual illumination also become fire-brands to spread the Fire of Divine Love and Life: become torch-bearers for the Christ whose radio-active Light will consume all evil and stimulate all good.

The first class of influences from the departed dead are what we call the obsessing entities, and can under certain conditions also be called possessions. For possession is far more common than normally to be expected, for we all have an

indwelling spirit which ‘possesses’ our body. This is the only legitimate form of possession to our knowledge, except for very special exceptions and cases. We must not think of possessions or obsessing entities as evil spirits or demons, for they are but discarnate human souls, generally of the unrefined (unclean) type, with whom we rub shoulders in daily life on the physical plane, and therefore they exist too on the astral plane. Such influences are also quoted extensively in the Bible and our caption to this chapter by Paracelsus refers to all such influences.

“And there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit. . . . And Jesus rebuked him, saying: ‘Hold thy peace, and come out of him.’ And when the unclean spirit had torn him, and cried out with a loud voice, he came out of him.” *St. Mark*, i, 23-5.

The departed soul at transition enters the lower astral plane commonly called purgatory, for ere he can move to the higher spiritual worlds, heavens and realms of light, all his base earthly tendencies have to be worked out and transmuted, before further progress is possible. For the average person passing on, this stage is of small account, but for the depraved soul, much ‘time’ is spent on the lower astral. The first class of obsessing entity are those whom in physical life we would call the criminals, the crude, the brutes and the unrefined. As they inflict their hatred on others and society in the physical, once departed they naturally continue with their ways in the astral, for death has not changed them one bit.

A knowledge of the conditions obtaining in this Realm of the Astral World offers a powerful argument against capital punishment; for the execution of a murderer or other criminal merely removes his hampering physical body, which at least limited his evil activities to the Physical World. Executing or destroying the physical body sets him free in the Astral World, embittered against society because of the experiences he has passed through, his heart filled with hatred and revenge, and able to throw his force over any mind which is open to such thoughts. He therefore seeks to wreak his vengeance upon society and gratify his desires by controlling and obsessing as many sensitive persons as possible; those whose auras are sufficiently open to his influence to permit his entrance into their consciousness. For instance, a sensitive once picked up and handled an axe in a museum and at once came into rapport with the ancient savage who had fashioned and used it. With such contact came the almost overwhelming desire to experience the sensation of delight felt by the savage as his axe crushed through the skull of his enemy.

But unless sensitives harbor some thought or trait corresponding to that of the astral entity, which forms a line of affinity over which he can enter their auras, he cannot control them. Once an opening is made, an entrance gained and his influence or control established, he gradually forces his victim to carry out his ideas of revenge, taking as many lives as possible to pay up for society’s having taken his life. Thus, while in the physical body he could commit but comparatively few crimes, when set free in the Astral World he can influence dozens or hundreds to commit similar crimes.

Murders committed under such obsessions are those concerning which the mortal executing the crime either remembers nothing about or can give no reason for, except that he acted under an “irresistible impulse” or perhaps says that “God” or a “Voice” told and impelled him to do the deed. Such cases are usually pronounced insane. These are crimes committed under some form of mania, paranoia, etc. While medical science says that such a person is not responsible for his acts, occult science says that *he is*: for he is responsible for opening his mind to such thoughts as will permit the entrance of the obsessing entity; he is responsible for every act, word and deed committed by him, whether willed by him or not, and must pay the karmic penalty. It is true that many who become criminals under such conditions are not inherently criminal nor viciously wicked, but are simply sensitives whose astral centers have been more or less broken down and whose weak wills, negative mental states, and lack of spiritual development makes them an easy prey to obsession. But even for this condition they are strictly responsible, for ignorance of the law is no excuse for its violation.

Remember, therefore, that harbouring thoughts of anger, hatred, revenge or any form of “getting even” with some one whom you feel has wronged you, opens your aura to those in the Astral World who harbour similar thoughts and who will strive to enter your consciousness over the avenue thus opened and stir up and *augment* your hatred and urge you to execute a far more terrible form of “getting even” than you would entertain or even think of by yourself.

The practice of forgiving others is therefore enjoined on all occult and spiritual students, for as long as you hold antagonism toward any one *you bind yourself to that one* with a powerful tie and also open yourself to obsessing forces along that line.²⁹

The next class of obsessing entities are those who pass on with serious addictions to narcotics, alcohol and any other obsessing habit to which they have become enslaved during earth life such as gambling and over-eating. When they pass on, they but cast off their outer limiting garment and continue in their debauched ways. They seek to continue to gratify their unfulfilled desires and this can only be done through people who are more or less sensitive to their obsessing influence. As spiritual healers and workers we need to be able to identify whether our patients can be classified as sensitives. For we do not mean emotionally sensitive, but sensitive to the more subtle vibrations of the higher planes. Generally speaking, sensitives can be classified as those who have some or other psychic ability, such as clairvoyance, clairaudience, psychometric abilities, mediums, overtly intuitive people and the like. Such sensitives are adequately described in *Realms of the Living Dead* in the chapter on *Independent Methods of Communion*. If we are working with such people we need to be aware that they are far more likely to be influenced by such obsessions, than would be the materialistic earthy person who lives in 'ignorant bliss' to such influences. Such obsessions, as will be shown later, are generally quite easy to deal with.

The drunkards (and users of narcotics, Ed.) who have left the Physical World also form a large and important class in the Realm, for they, too, seek to gratify their desires through sensitive mortals. In fact, our long experience with cases of this kind leads us to the conclusion that nearly every case of confirmed and habitual or periodic drunkenness is the result of an obsession.

"The human body is the Temple of the Living God. Within it are certain vital centers comparable to doors which open into inner shrines. Using these centres as points of contact, the life forces from the higher planes flow into the physical body through them as an electrical current flows through a wire. . . . These centres or doors are normally protected by nature with oily coverings or sheaths (composed of both astral and physical matter) which permit the flow of the normal life-forces and protect them from all others. These doors should be opened only by a gradual purification and development of the protecting sheaths. Normally this takes place as a natural growth resulting from a life of mental and bodily purity, and intense spiritual aspiration. It should not be a forced or hothouse growth, for each door must be opened and closed under the absolute control of the will. . . .

Once these sheaths are destroyed, the person is no longer able to close the doors and so becomes an easy prey to the denizens of the astral. Such an one becomes a helpless victim to *any* and *all* sorts of psychic imposition and deception. . . . There are several abnormal ways in which the oily protecting sheaths can be broken down and the doors thrown open, chief among which are the use of alcohol and narcotic drugs. Chemically speaking, ordinary alcohol is ethyl-hydroxide. The ethyl (the spirit) vibrates to the highest rate reached by mere physical matter, the point where matter transcends the physical and enters the astral, the ethyl actually functioning on both planes. Narcotic drugs also contain an ethyl element. The ethyl when taken into the body immediately seeks to escape into the astral, and it naturally follows the usual avenues of communication between the two planes. But in escaping it passes through the centers in a reverse direction to the normal currents and gradually burns off the insulating sheaths until in time they are utterly destroyed, just as an electrical insulation might be burned off by interference with the normal flow of the current. . . .

Another most remarkable case of successive obsession was brought to our attention in Chicago. Mr. X. was ordinarily a man of much firmness, determination and strength of will, and while a moderate drinker, had never allowed liquor to overcome him until some four years ago, when he had a long spree. He soon got himself under control again and solemnly promised himself and wife that he would never thenceforth allow himself to become enslaved by his desire for drink. However, he still continued to drink moderately. He was a house painter and was closely associated with three other painters employed by the same firm, all of

²⁹ Curtiss, *Realms of the Living Dead*, pp111-113

the other three being hard drinkers. Three years ago one of these three died from alcoholism, and a year later, almost on the same day, another died. Last January, the third and last of the three, after a long debauch, committed suicide on the anniversary of the second one's death. This last man was the foreman of the gang in which Mr. X. and the others worked, and had devoted all his spare time to drink and the pursuit of women. Mr. X. had been a close friend of his and upon his death was appointed to his position as foreman. Now the direct evidence of the obsession of Mr. X. begins with the death of his friend, the foreman, last January. Mrs. X. states that since that time her husband seems utterly unable to control his desire for liquor and has been getting steadily worse. He has experienced periods of great remorse, during which he would swear never to drink again, but would then go out and drink until his money was gone, being absent from home several days and leaving his family without money for a week at a time. During these sprees he would also visit the same class of women as did his dead foreman and former companion, although previous to this time he had never been a licentious man. Both Mr. X. and his wife are somewhat psychic, and both have seen the departed foreman enter their flat as a dark and chilling spectre, especially one night when they saw him come in from a narrow hall that led to a room in which they knew a drunken man was sleeping off his debauch.

Here we have a series of obsessions which gradually killed off one after the other of the original group of four, until now only Mr. X. is left. Each *departed* one naturally returned to the group with which he had been so closely associated and *added his craving* for drink to that of the ones left behind, driving them to still further excesses. This accumulated force so overwhelmed the foreman that he was driven to suicide to get rid of the obsessing demons, and it bids fair to overwhelm his successor Mr. X., unless he takes most energetic steps to rid himself of their influence.³⁰

The above type of obsession is usually easy to discern as the patient with the malady will give ample clues in his or her spoken language indicating that something else is in control. They will make statements such as "I feel compelled to take another drink. . . ." or "The desire to drink is overwhelming. . . ." Yet if one closely asks the addicted person whether they themselves would want to stop the habit, they usually wish to stop with all sincerity. It is here that the cure is to be found, for we must engage their free will to overcome the habit as will be seen later on.

SUICIDES

The third class of such obsessing entities are the cases of the suicides. They bring with them to the living an even more appalling psychic condition due to the nature of their emotional and mental state upon passing over. It is important when dealing with patients to find out whether there have been any deaths due to drugs or alcoholism and suicides in their intimate circle, or from normal death, for these influences are very real and are relatively easy to deal with if properly diagnosed.

Although they find themselves in this region of the soulless the case of suicides is quite different from that of the entities described above, although they are in a most pitiable condition and suffer most terribly. They pass out in such a depressed, despondent or insane state of mind that the terrible thoughts, gnawing sorrow and despair which caused the deed surround them like a shell or pall of black horror. This envelopes them so completely and is so dense that neither their spirit friends nor the spiritual helpers can reach them with their help until they make an opening in this black aura, either by sincere repentance or a definite aspiration for the Christ-light. Had they resisted the impulse to suicide and remained in the body the black mood and darkest despair would have passed away in a few hours or at least in a few days and been outlived and new conditions would have presented themselves, but now since they are continually surrounded by the same black thoughts which prompted the deed, they are impelled to re-enact the scene over and over again, for they continue to live in the moment at which the deed was done.

Since there is no division of time in this region, as we have it on earth, the duration of time is marked only by sensation and so long as these sensations endure time stands still and their despair seems endless, for no other moment can be experienced until the old sensations are worked out and exhausted and new sensations can be experienced.

³⁰ Curtiss, *Realms of the Living Dead*, pp113-123

Since they have refused to be comforted by time's healing hand, and as the allotted amount of life-force they were originally able to bring with them into incarnation has not been exhausted either by living or used up by sickness, they are not ready to enter the normal astral life. And since they have refused to go on with life in the Physical World they find the door is shut in both directions. And like a child who has run away from its tasks and shut itself in a dark closet, they realize that they are absolutely and terribly alone; that they are not in the Realms with their departed friends, neither can they return to earth, but are shut in with only the memory of their despair and the dreadful deed they have committed. This, however, is not a cruel punishment, for only as they realize to its bitterest extreme what it means to take their own lives, can it be so deeply imprinted on their consciousness that in no future life will they repeat the deed, for when the similar impulse comes at a corresponding period in the next life, for come it must since the experiences leading up to the deed must be met again and again until conquered, there will be such an inward horror that they will have gained (except in extreme cases) the strength of character to face conditions, resist the impulse and conquer it. But, unlike the case of soulless entities, there is hope; for as soon as the Soul really repents, which is quite different from merely being sorry, a ray of Light will be shown him, and if he follows this it will lead him out of this "outer darkness" into the region of the Astral World to which he is otherwise affinitized. There are organized bands of nurses in the lower Realms who are especially trained to help such cases, for they are too dangerous for the ordinary dweller in the astral to have anything to do with, even if such should penetrate into this outer darkness.

Suicides realize that they are absolutely and terribly alone and so seek the companionship of those left behind and naturally throw over them the same pall of depression which overwhelmed them, so that the one whom they approach feels impelled to commit suicide in the same way, although the mere approach of the suicide to his friends tends to throw his condition over them quite unconsciously to himself. We have had several students corroborate this teaching from their own experience. In some cases the loneliness and remorse of the suicide is so terrible that he deliberately obsesses some mortal and tries to get him to commit suicide, usually in the same manner, hoping thereby to gain his companionship. But even if such an obsession is successful, as it frequently is, the suicide is still disappointed and alone, for he is shut away from his victim more than before. The main thing to be remembered about suicide is that it never relieves the victim from the mental depression and suffering which he seeks to escape, but prolongs and increases it a thousandfold.³¹

The following is an example of how a person becomes entrapped by an obsessing entity and is literally driven to suicide there-by, and finding himself in such a negative state, he but naturally seeks to live out his former desires through others. We see here how this lady, being sensitive to the more subtle vibrations, comes *en rapport* with the obsessing entity, where-as the person by the desk, not being sensitive, is more than likely blissfully unaware of the suicides attempt at communication.

An instance of an unsuccessful attack of a similar kind is the case of a student of this Order, this time a woman, a psychic who had been trained according to these teachings and who understood how to maintain her self-control and protect herself. She was entering the elevator of a large office building when she felt her feather neck-scarf pulled from her neck. But the elevator door had closed ere she could turn around, and she was obliged to go on up to the office where her business errand called her. In the office, while standing near a certain desk, a feeling of intense depression and horror came over her, which made her fear that the man at the desk was contemplating suicide. On descending to the street entrance she asked the elevator starter if he had seen anything of her neck-scarf. "Yes," he said, "I saw you drop it. You will find it back there in the corner." As she walked back to the darker part of the hallway, a man presented himself to her psychic vision and accosted her. When she asked what he wanted, he said that it was he who caused her scarf to drop off in an effort to attract her attention, as he knew she could communicate with him and he wished her to do him a great favor. He told her that he formerly had the desk near which she had stood in the office she had visited, and a few months ago had committed suicide in his chair at the desk, following a prolonged spree. He said he had not had a drink since passing out, and as he was suffering intensely for one, he begged her to go and take a drink for him so he could get the stimulation of the alcohol by contact with her aura. He even offered to guide her to the "ladies entrance" of a certain high-class cafe of which he knew, where she could drink quite unobserved. This

³¹ Curtiss, *Realms of the Living Dead*, pp152-155

she, of course, refused to do, but said as she was thirsty herself she would go and get a glass of ice cream soda, if that would do him any good. He said he did not want a soda, and grew quite angry and abusive and tried to force her to enter the cafe as she passed by. She resisted, however, but told us that she had never so wanted a drink of whiskey in her life, in fact, never knew before what the craving was. When she bought her soda and tried to drink it, he threw his resentment and disgust over her so strongly that the very sight of the soda nauseated her and she had to leave it untouched. The fact of the suicide having been committed at the desk this lady visited was afterward verified by us.³²

The inspired writing *Towards the Light* by Princess Mary Karadjia most poignantly describes the after-life conditions of a suicide, and is filled with occult truth. We can strongly recommend this writing to all who have an interest in after-life conditions on occult psychology or who know of anyone contemplating suicide, this book may well save their lives.

SCHIZOPHRENIA AND MULTIPLE PERSONALITIES

By a proper understanding of the above processes at work, many cases of schizophrenia and multiple personality disorder may effectively be diagnosed and treated. It is here of fundamental significance that people who have a strong spiritual aspiration, or who are emotionally stable, have never used drugs or have never been severely traumatised, rarely if ever, suffer from the above conditions. We again have to look at the influences of the 'dead' on the living to find an answer to most of these cases.

The so-called cases of dual and multiple personalities which so greatly puzzle our modern day psychologists, *in most cases* are simply temporary obsessions by various disembodied personalities, although there are certain exceptions too technical to be described here. Rather than admit this simple and almost self-evident fact, recognized throughout the ages, even by Jesus and all the Great Teachers, our modern psychologists, few if any of whom are psychic, have developed any psychic powers or have any *personal knowledge* of psychic experiences, although they still *claim* to be psychologists!, have concocted the most elaborate imaginings as to the splitting up of the one personality into various secondary selves, etc., which require a far greater demand upon the credulity than to admit the simple fact of obsession and control by an astral entity. As St. John tells us: "We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places (astral world)."³³

BANISHMENT

In order to effectively deal with the above few typical cases, as well as the many others as given throughout the *Teachings of the Order*, a proper understanding of the processes at work is required. Once the condition has been diagnosed the method for removal is mainly dependant on the belief and will of the operator. In brief, we need to exalt our consciousness as high as possible, ask for help from the Higher Ones through invocative prayer, and then perform a banishment ritual. This will take care of any unwanted influences from both the dead and the living. The more often such rituals are performed, the more powerful and effective they become. This is why spiritual practitioners who have been 'at it' for a long time generally have a good reputation. But remember, you have to start somewhere. The following ritual as supplied by *The Teacher of the Order*, shows all the required steps for a successful banishment. These methods can be attested to by the author.

The following directions, quoted from a letter written by the Teacher of the Order to such a victim, and whose faithful following has entirely cured him and many others, may prove helpful here.

³² Curtiss, *Realms of the Living Dead*, pp123-125

³³ Curtiss, *Realms of the Living Dead*, pp138-140

“The real cause of your trouble is not with your desire alone, but because you permit a discarnate drinker to enter your aura and create within you an excessive desire for liquor, that he may satisfy his craving at the expense of your body and your life-forces. If you will earnestly take yourself in hand and *follow out our directions exactly*, you can drive this influence away and free yourself from the habit. Repeat to yourself again and again that the desire for drink *is not your desire*, and that you will not permit anyone to rule and ruin your life. Dwell on this idea continually. Keep saying that you will permit no drunkard thus to obsess and control you. Fix that idea firmly in mind. Repeat the *Morning Prayer* as soon as you awake every morning, and mentally see the Light of the Christ pouring down over you in a flood of pure, white light that shall penetrate every cell of your being and drive out every evil thing as light drives out darkness, and shall then surround you with a wall of living fire, like the shell of an egg, into which no discarnate entity or evil thing can penetrate. Also repeat the *Prayer for Light* and recall the vision again and again during the day, especially whenever you feel tempted.

Also when you feel the old desire coming over you, say to yourself: ‘In the name of the Living Christ *I demand* that you leave me and keep away. I will not yield *myself to you*, and I demand that you be gone.’ Talk just as earnestly and determinedly as though some old drunkard was before you in the flesh and trying to force you to drink with him. Do not get excited or have the least fear, but talk calmly and with absolute confidence in your power thus to protect yourself and conquer. No matter how hard he pleads, or what plausible arguments he may present, which may at first seem to be your own thoughts, but which will merely be his desire thrown upon your consciousness, as to why you should take ‘just one more drink,’ absolutely refuse, and keep saying: ‘In the name of the Living Christ be gone!’ In the Astral World the Christ-force is a consuming fire, and if you sincerely and earnestly invoke it with all your heart and determination, any obsessing entity must depart or be consumed. Get this fact firmly fixed in mind, that *the desire for drink is not yours*, but that of a departed drunkard. Also that you have the power to protect yourself *if you will*.

In reply from the student:

“I think it is a part of my duty to write on behalf of the Christian Mystics, telling the good I have derived from them, both physically and spiritually. In plain words I had tried all sources physically for health, and to stop my vice, drunkenness. And when all others failed me the only place I got relief was the Christian Mystics, as by following their teachings I have completely conquered the drink habit.” From a pupil in Kingston, Jamaica. The same rules apply to discarnate narcotic drug addicts.³⁴

Once you realise that the desire to drink (or most bad habits such as over-eating, indulgences etc) is not yours, that it is in fact going against your free will to drink, the battle is already being won. Believe in your power. Fight it, and conquer. As a spiritual aspirant you need to find within yourself the belief, light and courage, in order to effect magical cures. And every time you do so, you make yourself stronger and so become more useful to yourself and your fellow man. Visualising strongly this radiant white light into your whole being (or into that of another, with their permission) is a very effective source of magic.

The Astral Light, being the radiance of the Spiritual Sun which, like the Physical sun, while in the heavens yet pervades all forms of life and fills all space, is the one medium of Spirit and Life in all. Hence the art of Divine or White Magic consists in the ability to find this Light, first within yourself, then in all mankind, in all nature and in all substances, and correlate your consciousness with it. Since it is the inner essence of all things it is possible to perceive the essence of all things in this Light, which is therefore sometimes called the Light of Nature. But this can be done only through the use of the Soul powers. No being, astral, or otherwise, can do this for you. Your Teacher may point out the way and lay down the rules, but your own consciousness must dwell in the Light and be one with this great and magic Agent. Then all Divine Magic is possible.³⁵

Remember that the radiance of the Christ-light will neutralize all antagonism, wither, shrivel and consume all lust-forms that remain in it, will dissolve all impurities and clarify your

³⁴ Curtiss, *Realms of the Living Dead*, pp126-128

³⁵ Curtiss, *Realms of the Living Dead*, pp251-252

whole aura The Christ-light will also drive away all entities who cannot withstand the purity of its radiance.³⁶

TRANSITION

Another two forms of the influence of the 'dead' on the living which we will describe in this chapter, although by no means the only ones, as many more such influences are described throughout the *Teachings of the Order*, are those of our loved ones who pass on or who are already in the spirit world.

It is so well known that those who are close to death are visited by their loved ones from the spiritual realms and these come and sit by the dying on their beds and talk to, appear to and comfort them. Many a person, close to death, is seen or heard speaking to unknowns, and this is usually put down to senility or madness. Yet it is nothing but a loving welcoming of loved ones from the astral, who can see that death is not far away, and already form a welcoming party for the expected new spirit that is to join them. It can also be a great comfort to those close to death to read to them encouraging depictions of what to expect at transition such as given in *Letters from Heaven*.³⁷

We should also be aware of the influences of our loved ones that pass on, for they stay close to earth on average for a number of weeks ere they ascend to the higher realms. During this time, they visit all their places of youth, see what they have always wanted to see, and they stay and watch their loved ones and family and so unwittingly throw their loves, longings and desires over their family members who stay behind. During this period, communication is usually quite easy with the departed soul. "Often, while you are busy and thinking of other things, the picture, voice or thought of the loved one will suddenly enter your consciousness in a particularly vivid way. When this occurs at once speak to the one who is thus presented to you and establish communication." If such things bother you, then firmly but lovingly speak to the departed influence, as though he or she was standing right in front of you, and ask them not to enter your aura, but to rather seek the light and ask for help from the higher teachers who will take them on into the higher realms.

One feature of such help should receive special mention. There is an organisation in the higher Realms similar to the Red Cross Society which has workers whose duty it is to descend into this lower Realm to aid, care for, comfort and instruct those who are passing out, especially those who know something about the change and are willing to listen and receive instruction. This organisation is specially equipped to watch over, help and instruct those who are passing out. . . . Those who know of these helpers can therefore be met and taken care of, students of this Order being met by members of the Order over there acting under the direction of the Teacher of the Order. They can also arrange for their loved ones to be met by a reception committee which will include the dear ones who have gone before, provided they are still interested in those left behind and naturally wish to welcome them. Such a reception is by no means confined to members of the Order of Christian Mystics, for all that is necessary for anyone in any part of the world is to send out a mental wireless call for the invisible helpers and the loved ones will be gathered to welcome the newcomer. These facts are the basis for the belief in the efficacy of prayers for the dead. . . . for not only do such prayers surround the loved one with comforting, helpful and protective thought forces, but they also serve to call the attention of the invisible helpers to their needs.³⁸

Therefore, whenever a loved one, or anyone for that matter, passes on, we should direct our thought in prayer and ask that the departed person be welcomed in the after-life.

Another influence of the recently departed is that they unwittingly and unknowingly throw their conditions of suffering with which they have passed on over those

³⁶ Curtiss, *Realms of the Living Dead*, p143

³⁷ Curtiss, *Personal Survival*, Letters from Heaven

³⁸ Curtiss, *Realms of the Living Dead*, pp48-49

who are still living. This explains why many sensitive persons soon develop the symptoms of the malady with which a deceased loved one passed out. Such persons then suffer just as acutely as though they really had such a physical disease, yet a careful physical examination reveals all the vital organs in a normal condition. These are often diagnosed as imagination, neurosis or even hysteria and insanity by physicians who are not familiar with the results of psychic research or the laws of occultism. Such patients are simply suffering from the astral conditions unwittingly thrown over them by the deceased loved one who is trying to make them recognize him; and the stronger the tie was between them the greater the influence and consequent suffering. This frequently ceases or is "cured" when they recognize its source. If it is not it should be stopped by repeatedly challenging the departed one and demanding that he withdraw from their aura and remain outside it in the future; for such psychic conditions if long continued may act reflexly and set up the actual disease in its physical form. These are the stubborn cases which have "been given up by all doctors," yet are so frequently cured by Christian Science, affirmations, etc., the study, instruction and personal magnetism of the healer and the resulting discussions, making the departed one more or less aware of his responsibility for the conditions and inducing him to withdraw.³⁹

The recently deceased are often strongly and even morbidly attracted to the physical body for obvious reasons. Cremation is always desirable, more sanitary and less revolting to think of, but more importantly it consumes and releases the physical magnetism and the source of attraction of the Soul to the physical world.⁴⁰ We can do no better than to reproduce here, yet another beautiful Prayer of *The Order of Christian Mystics*, to be performed immediately after, or at any other convenient time, once transition has taken place.

A PRAYER FOR THE DEAD⁴¹

O Thou Great Almighty One! from whose heart all mankind has sprung!
 We pray that Thou wilt focus the Rays of Thy Love,
 Light and Life, upon those loved ones of ours,
 who have graduated from this school of earth life, into Thy higher school of the Soul.
 Send to them, we pray, the hosts of Thy angelic workers,
 that they may welcome, guide, and teach our
 loved ones the ways of the higher life.
 Teach them how to live in ever greater consciousness
 of Thine all-encompassing love.
 Teach them how to realize, imbibe and
 assimilate Thy Power,
 that they may transmute, and be purged from,
 all Earth conditions that hold them back
 from their continued progress, into ever higher
 realms of Thy spirit-world.
 Banish all fear and sorrow, with the joy of
 a new and more Spiritual life.
 Teach them how to purge themselves of all that might affinitize them to those unhappy souls,
 who are still in the regions of darkness, either on
 earth or in the after-life,
 who would seek to drag them down to that level.
 Teach them to right the wrongs they have
 done on earth, as much as possible.
 Teach them how to comfort and inspire
 those they have left behind, that they too,

³⁹ Curtiss, *Realms of the Living Dead*, pp89,90

⁴⁰ Curtiss, *Realms of the Living Dead*, pp65,66,84

⁴¹ Curtiss, *Personal Survival*, p74

may seek to press ever forward in the Spiritual life,
 under Thy guidance.
 Thus may all in the two worlds be drawn
 closer to one another, and to Thee,
 in the oneness of Thy divine Light, Life, and Love.

REINCARNATION, PECULIARITIES EXPLAINED

For the serious student of occult psychology, a thorough and well grounded belief and understanding of the doctrines of karma and reincarnation are essential, as an enlightened understanding of these cosmic concepts will explain and help to alleviate many a strange case that presents itself to the healer. For man as he is now in this life, in looks, temperament, capacity and powers, is but a mathematical result of all that has gone before.⁴² He is the result of the causes that his Soul has set up in previous lives. And these results, the good, the bad and the indifferent, and all his inborn qualities, but come to him in this life to be reaped. For what one sows in one field cannot be harvested in another, and needs to be dealt with in the here and now as these issues present themselves. We cannot but do more than refer the reader to that most beautiful treatise by Dr. Curtiss, *Reincarnation*, for further elaboration on this subject. We include a few cases from this work, which is written in such simple and concise language that it is accessible and understandable by all.⁴³

AS TO YOUR PARENTS AND CHILDREN. . . .

If no strong ties have been set up, almost any parents in the general environment with the needed unfoldment would do. Parents who strongly object to having children cannot expect a very advanced Soul to come in where it was not wanted, so they often have to put up with an undeveloped Soul who wants a body so badly that it is willing to push in where it is not wanted. And this resentment or even antagonism is often plainly exhibited by the child after birth. If the parents, especially the mother, are indifferent or resentful there may be a fight between several low-type entities to get possession of the body. This struggle may be so great as to affect the mother's mind and cause "puerperal insanity" until the child is born.

A child born from a true love union is usually quite superior to one born of either mere passion or when one parent is indifferent or especially if filled with resentment, disgust or loathing. On the other hand, by holding high ideals the parents can draw to them the highest type or most advanced Soul to which they can affinitize and attract to their environment. If at the time of the creative act the thoughts are kept pure and exalted, and the creative energy is permitted to function through its normal and natural channel, there will be upon the spiritual plane a creation which will correlate with the Divine Creative Force and draw to the participants a wonderful blessing and help, while upon the mental-plane thought-forms of purity will gather as a protecting band around the unborn child to ward off all inimical and evil influences, and a perfect body should result. Also, through the spiritual force drawn upon, an advanced Soul may be attracted to the body.⁴⁴

Often, however, they may have to give a body to some less advanced Soul with whom they have made strong karmic ties in the past. And this may be a cripple or mental defective or even an imbecile. . .

Within the environment to which you are thus drawn you are then attracted to the parents whose characteristics and heredity will give you the type of body and environment you desire. Usually the parents are those with whom you have set up strong ties in the past. For your further growth and unfoldment must progress from the point where it left off. Thus you choose your parents, not for an easy life, but from the Soul standpoint of love, justice and spiritual progress.

The more advanced Souls, under the guidance of their Mentor or Guardian Angel, and within the limits imposed by their Karma, choose the parents they wish, well knowing the Karma of the past and also the limitations their heredity and environment will impose. But in spite of any such drawbacks they choose that avenue of incarnation as the best one through which to work out their problems, make their desired advance and attain the destined position in life to which their Karma entitles them.

⁴² Curtiss, *The Inner Radiancy*, p88

⁴³ Curtiss, *Reincarnation*, pp25-27.

⁴⁴ Curtiss, *The Voice of Isis*, p224

If the parents chosen fail to give them a body they have to take the next best body they can find. This accounts for one member of a family's being so entirely different from the rest, in both looks, tastes, disposition and habits. If these differences are of a negative character such a one may be a "black sheep" and often without any affection for his parents or brothers and sisters. Often such a one may find greater friendships, love and closer ties with the members of another family in which it should have incarnated, were it not prevented by karmic or other reasons. Such a one simply did not belong to the first family group in the past and so does not "fit in" to it now.

CHANGELINGS

A change in the Soul incarnating may also take place after birth, usually before seven years of age. Thus the Soul who gains ultimate possession of the body may, in rare cases, be quite different from the one who was born in it. This second Soul is called a "changeling." This usually takes place when the family conditions are so inharmonious that the advanced Soul which had incarnated could not stand those conditions and so withdrew and allowed a lower type to take its place. This sometimes happens over night. In the case of the suicide, since the Soul has neither finished out its cycle of life nor prepared to progress in the higher realms, it remains earth-bound until its cycle is up and death would have occurred normally.

LAW OF SEX

. . . . our teaching is that the masculine ray of the Spiritual Self, "male and female created He them" (Genesis i, 27), always incarnates in a male body and the feminine ray in a female body, with certain exceptions. Since by their union on Earth, "the twain shall be one flesh" (Genesis ii, 24, Matthew xix, 5), each learns the lessons of the other by this intimate contact. The man must develop the feminine qualities of love, compassion, tenderness, sympathy and intuition, while the woman must develop the masculine qualities of courage, will-power, reason, logic and executive ability.

The exception occurs when one refuses to learn the lessons of the other, violates their sacred relationship or so mistreats the other that a negative Karma is created which necessitates an incarnation in the body of the opposite sex to learn its lessons by experience instead of by the normal way of association. In these exceptional cases of "misfit sexes" the difference between the sex of the incarnating Ray and the sex of its body is so marked that it can be recognized at a glance. Often as far as across the street. The "sissy" or effeminate man, and the domineering, masculine type of women, often with a distinct moustache and masculine hands and feet, are examples. Such men prefer foppish dress, have effeminate voices and ways, while such women prefer mannish clothes, we know one who has for years had a police license to wear entire male clothing and pass as a man, and usually have masculine voices, ways, etc. (See also *The Voice of Isis*, pp160,161)

MISFIT MATES

Such "misfit incarnations" are usually very unhappy, as no one seems to understand them and they cannot understand themselves. They often meet their true mates and fall deeply in love, but find themselves tragically in bodies of the same sex. This explains why two women fall in love with each other or two men are inseparably attached. This often leads to a beautiful life-long relationship. But if sex relations are attempted perversion naturally results. Our explanation also shows why perverts are homosexual. A number of our students in misfit bodies have come to us in despair, one on the verge of suicide, over their strange and unhappy condition, only to have things happily straightened out by our almost obvious explanation which they had been unable to find elsewhere.

As long as modern medicine refuses to accept the higher and more subtle planes, it will forever but grope around in the dark, running after effects and never studying the ultimate causes of that which presents to their senses. The next time a physical heart produces and expresses an emotion of love, or if a physical organ such as a brain generates even one single thought, it will be the very first time. Accepting the subtle planes, and working with them in understanding, can only increase the success rate of modern psychology a thousand-fold.

We close of this chapter with a few words on the ultimate healing agent, and that is a firm belief in, and conviction of, mans spiritual destiny. For an enlightened mind and a positive striving for spiritual development cannot but help to lead to steadfastness, strength of character and a disciplined life, and a by-product of such striving is true health and happiness. Therefore we can but ask: Try out the Spirit of Teachings such as put forth by this Order. Prove all things, hold fast to that which is good. For if such Teachings bring forth an inner conviction to our Souls, put them into practice. If they be of God they will bless our lives and assist us in our spiritual evolution. Know the Truth and follow the Spirit upwards into the higher realms and therefore to its very Source.

CHAPTER VIII

GEMS OF MYSTICISM¹²

“Golden in their wisdom and luminous with love, the treasured thoughts grouped herein have been to me as life itself. Meditate on them in gratitude and they shall give you Light in the hour of darkness, Courage in defeat, Faith in time of trial, Patience in adversity, Love when beset by hate, Wisdom in the midst of error, and the Key to find the Master whom you seek. Where your secret thought is, there are you. Let this little book guide you into the Gates of Wisdom—aye, to the Heart of Love itself.”

Forest K. Davis

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

It is not what your hands are doing, but *what your heart is worshiping* that determines your growth.

The Voice of Isis, p33

In every heart there is a well so deep and still that it can reflect only one star at a time, and this star, whatever it be, is, for the time it is reflected there, the guiding star of your destiny.

The Voice of Isis, p36

To think much about your shortcomings and limitations is but to give them life and force, for thoughts are things and create after their kind. Determine to think strength, love and confidence until you draw them to you and build them into your life.

Letters from the Teacher Vol I, p108

If you stumble, do not waste a moment's thought over it, but remember the lesson from it and say: "I must be up and doing. That is past and gone and it shall not hold me back." Truly nothing can hold you back unless you hold to it. If you were running a race and tripped and fell, would you waste time carefully inspecting the spot where you fell and wondering how it happened? No! You would be up and on, intent only on reaching the goal, not even conscious of the bruises you had received. Thus must you run the race which ends in Mastery.

The Voice of Isis, p133

To reach Mastery each Soul must live up to the light and the conceptions of Truth as revealed to him in his own religion, nation and environment.

The Voice of Isis, p399

The Path (to Mastery) is the Path of Renunciation; it is also a path of glorious achievement. Upon it you will find many things to comfort you during the long nights of darkness and the days of combat, many resting places, many joys. . . . The renunciation must be the renunciation of the dominion of the lower self and the discipline and training of its desires and appetites.

The Voice of Isis, p296

¹ Curtiss, *Gems of Mysticism*

² Many of these quotations are from lessons which have never been published and are at time of this publishing, unavailable.

No one can claim to give spiritual development. Only the Soul itself can earn it.

Letters from the Teacher Vol I, p10

Spiritual growth is not a matter of what goes into the stomach, but of the devotion with which you live out the ideals of your heart. Each one, however, is responsible for the condition of all his bodies and must give them due attention, the attention necessary to keep any high-bred animal, of which high-grade work is expected, in good physical condition.

The Voice of Isis, p397

Just go about your Father's business each day accomplishing the tasks that are yours. . . . each day doing the little things, bright-eyed, clear-visioned, and with a cheerful countenance, seeing the stones and ruts in your path, but able to see how to step over or around them because the Light within your heart has become the light of your world, combining Love and Wisdom.

The Inner Radiance, pp185-186

Every positive stand you take builds character, increases your strength, lifts you out of your negative state, gives you power to conquer your weaknesses and tends to make promptness, courage, resolution and trust habits which will replace the negative habit of making excuses.

The Key of Destiny, p242

Seek earnestly for the particular line of teaching which most appeals to you and which proves most helpful to your spiritual growth, then, while recognizing the good in all others and being tolerant of all divergent views, be well-grounded in your chosen teaching, so that you cannot be misled or carried away by sophistry, but will remain unmoved as long as the teaching feeds your spiritual hunger.

The Voice of Isis, p298

If you bask in the Sun of Righteousness to keep from growing normally would be impossible. Learn to love, and forget. Become so interested in works of mercy and helpfulness that you will know that you are growing only by the perfume of good that surrounds you and by your increased ability to help others.

Letters from the Teacher Vol I, p106

Your life must be an unfolding of that which you, and no one else, are intended to be. Hence you cannot judge or lay down laws for another. Never seek merely to copy another or to gather the forces which belong to another, but recognize and build into your character the germs of good to be found in every thing, within yourself and within your environment. Without the perfection of your character the whole plan of the Universe would lack. If you consciously redeem and uplift every mistake, fault or experience, your life will be a continual unfolding from within by a utilization of that which is without, rather than a vain striving to copy or be something which you are not. But in this unfoldment seek diligently to find the germs of that which the Real Self is trying to manifest, else you will be but building up a mental conception of what you think you should be and ignoring those characteristics which are really you.

The Lord Jesus Christ, II, p3

There is no royal road to Divine Wisdom. There is, however, a straight and narrow path to spiritual unfoldment. It is found only by wedding Knowledge

to Understanding and Love to Wisdom. It must be trodden step by step, often in weariness and with bleeding feet.

The Voice of Isis, p280

If we control one selfish trait which before held us captive, we may know that we have taken a real step upward. And the first and greatest of all magical powers to be attained by the pupil is the magical power of controlling himself; of day after day mastering the little things, with no heroics, perhaps with no one to commend him or realize that he is making any effort, yet still controlling his little tempers, his little impatience's, little acts of selfishness, his tendency to criticize, and all the little, trifling things he knows are wrong, but which seem too petty to be worth mentioning. . . . The building of these little lessons into his life is the most "practical" formula that can be given him.

The Voice of Isis, pp382-383

Victory over discouragement is one of the greatest victories man can win.

The Voice of Isis, p45

Have you no confidence in the love and power of the great Masters of Wisdom to protect and sustain you when you study Their teachings or would be about Their business?

The Key of Destiny, p242

Words are sacred things though few there be who realize it. Words should be to thought what steam is to the engine; if directed to the cylinder and flywheel the engine does perfect work, but if the steam escapes through many tiny holes and cracks, the power available for real work is diminished and wasted steam, like idle words, is an indication of dissipated power. . . . Do not consider them idle, however, even if apparently trifling and foolish, provided they bring cheer and comfort into the life of some other. They are only idle when wasted in mere talking instead of doing.

Letters from the Teacher Vol I, p108

Think what one kind word can do! How it can bring sunshine and peace and courage into your own life and the lives of others! Waste no force in frivolous or negative chatter; speak only positive words, words of love, words of power. If your brother offend you, speak words of love that your heart may send back nothing but love. Never withhold a sincere word of love or endearment, or a word of help, encouragement or health. A kind word spoken even to a stray dog will not return to you void. We cannot emphasize too strongly this fact: "That every idle word (either spoken or written) that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment."

The Voice of Isis, pp175-176

Do not criticize others, even though your criticism seems just, for to do so you must dwell mentally in the conditions you criticize.

The Voice of Isis, p385

Shut out destructive, disintegrating thoughts; refuse to give them added life and power. Think only vital, helpful, cheerful, constructive thoughts. Speak only wise, loving, cheerful, helpful words.

The Great Book, p2

To control sensation is the first step toward Mastery. Until this step has been taken all others are barred by the very laws of Nature, for the seat of sensation is in the astral body, which is the path of communication between the physical and the spiritual.

Letters from the Teacher Vol I, p124

If you go through life with desire instead of Will for motive power, spiritually you are drifting aimlessly with the tide. And there is no more hopeless person than one who merely desires to be good, desires to be liberal, to be happy, to be thought well of, yet who makes no definite effort of Will to attain his ideal. . . . Make your life forceful, with Will standing back of everything you do or think. But at the same time draw close and let the mother-love pervade and bring forth the Christ in you, so that all who meet you will recognize that while you are positive and forceful, you are also loving. Better is he who with an open mind Wills to do and makes a mistake, than he who stands still or drifts along on the exhaust steam of desire. For if he is earnestly pressing forward, the imperfect or mistaken attainment of today will be left behind without a sigh tomorrow, for the advance he has made will give him a fuller understanding and a greater appreciation of what is best for his spiritual unfoldment and he will see his goal draw closer and closer as he draws closer and closer to the perfect manifestation of Divine Will and Love.

The Message of Aquaria, pp70-72

Each can help himself best by helping all humanity; for as Nature abhors a vacuum, the more love and purity you pour out for humanity, the more rushes in to take its place.

The Voice of Isis, p268

Love is the one and only reality which endures from eternity to eternity. . . . In nature, water is the chief factor which makes the earth bring forth, while in man that which is symbolized by water, the Great Mother principle (Love), brings forth spiritual fruits.

The Voice of Isis, pp46-47, 198

All temptations met with on the Path come through various aspects of Love, even Jesus in the wilderness being obliged to face and conquer the love of power, dominion and ambition. On earth we see Love manifesting as love of gold, love of power, love of self, love of pleasure, love of animal gratification and so forth, all perverted or negative polarizations of Divine Love.

The Voice of Isis, p197

When it is once grasped that the working out of a personal salvation is the only way really to help the world, the man who neglects it is a retarder of the public good.

Letters from the Teacher Vol I, p125

Many pupils ask for something practical to do to develop occult powers and manifest the higher life. Noting the effect of your words is practical and most important, and until at least some conception of the power of speaking kindly and lovingly but to some purpose, and some degree of mastery over it has been attained, the development of all other occult powers will be retarded, if not actually prevented.

The Voice of Isis, p175

Since man is the microcosm of the macrocosm, in his spiritual evolution he must pass through stages analogous both to his own physical evolution and that of the planet, just as during his inter-uterine life he passes through the evolutionary stages of the early races, vegetative, animal, human.

The Voice of Isis, p210

Let each Soul take the little grains of experience in his or her nature, learn the lessons from them and build round them layer after layer of love and devotion until they become pearls of Wisdom.

The Message of Aquaria, p261

Many declare they find it impossible to live out their true selves; but the inner development will always manifest, no matter what the environment. If a Soul fails to demonstrate that it is spiritually advanced it simply means that it has not attained to or created the state that it desires to manifest. If one is absorbed in petty cares, to the exclusion of higher aims, it means that he has not outgrown petty conditions; for if he had he would find time to follow the higher leadings and manifest them in his life.

The Voice of Isis, p275-276

The battle is not one-sided. In fact, "He that is with you (your Higher Self) is greater than he (the personality or lower self) that is against you."

The Voice of Isis, p92

He who says he has realized the Divine within himself, yet only as power for his own upliftment, and who uses it only for his own advancement, has never even approached that realization.

The Voice of Isis, p73

The first Gate to be passed is the attainment of Charity and Tolerance for all; a realization of Divine Love, and an earnest desire to become one with The Christ-force which is manifesting in your fellow man. This is the first Gate to be entered because intolerance is a bar to further progress.

The Voice of Isis, p297

An important point to remember, is not to copy the actions of others or try to square your life with the ideals of others, but bravely seek deep within your own being for the germs of action implanted in the personality by the Higher Self and make the personality measure up to the ideal given you by your own Higher Self. In other words, find yourself, do your own thinking, and live true to your own divine guidance.

The Voice of Isis, p132

Before the student can receive spiritual illumination all old conceptions or coverings to his understanding must be put off or laid aside that the understanding may receive the Light direct.

The Voice of Isis, p317

You are often told to live close to Nature, yet very few understand the significance of that injunction. . . . To live close to Nature is to feel your oneness with her; to realize that the same forces are operating in you, in your body, in your mind, in your spiritual life, as in the verdant hills and budding trees. It does not necessarily mean living in a tent or sleeping on the ground, but it does mean correlating your consciousness with Nature, trying through

meditation to enter the phases of natural growth and development, recognizing the similarity and the oneness of all growth.

Letters from the Teacher Vol I, pp112, 113

In Nature you will find an explanation of every experience through which you pass.

Letters from the Teacher Vol I, p112

It is just as selfish to permit your humility to occupy the foreground in your thoughts and continually impose it upon the thoughts of others, as continually to seek your own pleasure.

The Voice of Isis, p132

What would be a slight lapse from virtue in a savage or in the ignorant, becomes a cyclone of iniquity, sweeping many before it, in one who has entered the inner degrees of occultism; for upon each inner step every vibration is multiplied a thousand fold. The disciple should absolutely master (gain perfect control of, not suppress) all life-forces ere he attempts to enter the inner degrees, or his failure is foreordained.

The Voice of Isis, p251

Truth is more than merely refraining from speaking falsely. It means being true in every phase of your thoughts, desires and life, being true to your Divine Self. Let Truth search out every hidden fault and failing that you may recognize and correct it. Have no false conceptions, no veils to hide your real character from you. Above all things be true. Think true. Act true. Live true.

The Key of Destiny, p314

DUTY

The first duty of each student of the higher life is to make a careful analysis and decide what are real and what are superficial duties, then so to order his life that the real, vital and first duty of caring for his Immortal Soul will not be crowded out.

The Voice of Isis, p30

The mustard seed grows into a mustard tree, with all its healing and medicinal qualities; the Rose develops into the queen of all flowers, giving out its refreshing perfume, the symbol of love, to all. The spiritual lesson is that both grow and unfold by merely doing the duty that lies nearest, that which is next at hand. They assimilate the earth-forces, the water, the air and the sun. Go thou and do likewise.

Letters from the Teacher Vol I, p107

It would be impossible for you to take one step onward while you were leaving any real duty undone.

The Voice of Isis, p30

All real duties confront you because in your evolution you have set up conditions which make just such tasks necessary to build into your Soul certain qualities in which you are lacking. . . . and without the lessons they teach your character is incomplete. Hence they are the things which, when they are

performed and the qualities they are meant to develop are incorporated into your being, will give you the strength and ability to take your next step.

The Voice of Isis, pp30-31

If you perform a duty because you are compelled to, and fail to incorporate its lesson in your heart, at your next step you will find yourself confronted by another duty of the same general character but far more difficult of performance, and this will continue until you not only perform the duty, but gain the lacking quality of Soul this duty is intended to inculcate.

The Voice of Isis, p31

Take the little duties as they come, for not one step can be missed.

Letters from the Teacher Vol I, p107

There is no duty higher than the one which lies nearest, provided it be a real one.

The Voice of Isis, p33

Your body is the Temple of the Living God. It is your duty to see that in every way it is kept a fit dwelling place for the God within. The chief requisite for this is absolute purity of body, mind and heart. No natural function of the body but is pure and wholesome when used for its proper purpose. No natural act is, of itself, impure. It becomes impure only through impure thoughts concerning it. Not alone impure acts but also impure thoughts, even if only subconsciously held, are a source of defilement. The whole problem rests upon your ability to purify your thoughts concerning all the forces and functions of your bodies.

The Voice of Isis, p215, 217

It is not a real duty to try to relieve another from doing his plain duty.

The Voice of Isis, p33

Know well the burdens of all Souls are sent in Love. Deprive them not of the strength they bring, lest, alas, for lack of the burdens you would bear they should lose the prize.

The Soundless Sound, p27

Since all real duties are your task, in them lies your opportunity, and in their proper performance lies your victory. Not in the performance merely, but in the attitude of mind you hold toward them and the manner of their performance.

The Voice of Isis, p31

There is one real duty which confronts all students of the higher life that cannot be ignored, i. e., to decide just what avenue of help is most beneficial, not only to their own advancement, but also the one which brings the greatest amount of practical help to humanity. Hence, your first duty is conscientiously, prayerfully and earnestly to seek for the special channel through which you desire to help humanity, and when found throw into that channel all you have to give, whether it be money, the easiest of all things to give, or love, devotion and thought, or service.

The Voice of Isis, p32

KARMA

KARMA is the implacable Law of Cause and Effect, bringing to you in exact justice the net results of your past thoughts, desires and acts, but it does not do so in detail and hence is not the Nemesis it is so frequently represented to be. "For the only decree of Karma, an eternal and immutable decree, is absolute Harmony in the world of Matter as it is in the world of Spirit." It is not your acts that are the cause of your Karma, but the possession or lack of certain Soul-qualities which is the cause of your thoughts, desires and acts, whose effects are brought to you by the great Law of Harmony for readjustment. Disobedience to the Divine Law is not punished but is adjusted, even though the adjustment brings about sorrow and suffering. Everything that comes to you as trouble or sorrow is simply the result of your own shortcomings, your failure to learn the lessons which less painful experiences should have taught you. The main idea of Karma, then, is not one of punishment for past failures, but that you may learn your lesson and gain as quickly as possible the Soul-qualities needed, that you may fulfil your destiny, your special place and work in the Grand Plan.

The Voice of Isis, pp115, 117

Know ye not the conditions of life in which you find yourself are those best fitted for your Soul-growth?

The Soundless Sound, p23

The adjustment of Karma is brought about consciously through spiritual attainment.

Letters from the Teacher Vol I, p42

If you refuse to recognize the lesson, or run away from the conditions ere they are conquered, you will have to meet them again and again in various forms in this and other lives until victory is gained.

The Voice of Isis, p34

The Law works as compensation in that in every experience, be it painful or otherwise, there is a compensating power to be gained or a reward which is well worth the suffering necessary to build it into Soul-growth. Inextricably blended with the Law as Compensation is that aspect known as Karma. That is, effects of causes set up in previous times or former lives are brought to you in orderly sequence to be worked out, and in turn to set up fresh causes. The great point to understand in this manifestation of the Law is that Karma is neither a reward nor a punishment for past deeds, and still less is it an avenging Nemesis remorselessly exacting "an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth", but is the effect of causes in the sense that it brings to the Soul the opportunity to learn certain lessons which it has not learned in a past life, hence which the Law of Love brings to it through this manifestation that it may gain the Soul-quality needed for further progress.

The Voice of Isis, pp194-195

No matter what the burden laid upon you, it is not laid there merely that you may suffer, nor does any God wish you to bear it. It is yours because somewhere, sometime, you missed a lesson in life that only such a burden could teach you. Therefore, conditions worked together and you were brought face to face with your lesson. Try to realize this. Then, if you can admit that what you are forced to bear is meant merely as a lesson to point out some shortcoming

or absolute fault, know well that the moment you learn the lesson or correct the fault the experience will no longer be needed and it will pass away.

Letters from the Teacher Vol I, p111

Whatever the condition that confronts you, know well that it will never leave you until you have gained the Wisdom it is intended to teach.

The Voice of Isis, p34

Do not rail at your experiences or conditions of life, but rather welcome them as opportunities to gain new lessons, experiences whose mastery will give you added strength and understanding. Do not fight or fear conditions but welcome them; for the thing you fear exhausts you, while the thing you welcome yields you its strength and power.

The Christ, p3

There is only one way effectually to bring about a better condition, and that is to recognize that you are where you are because the Soul, or Higher Self, realizes that there is some important lesson to learn which those conditions can teach better than any other, and set to work to learn that lesson. Realize that conditions do not really retard, but are intended to make you think and take account of stock. First, try to determine what lesson you must learn, then take it determinedly to heart until you have conquered. We know that no man has conditions given to him that he does not need, and that the moment he gets out of a condition, its highest good, he is rid of it forever.

Letters from the Teacher Vol I, pp118-119

Try to realize that when bound on the Wheel of Karma, to struggle but makes the cords cut deeper into your quivering flesh. Stop struggling. Lo! I say unto you: Peace, be still. All is well. Learn the lesson of saying, "Thy will be done," knowing that the Will of the Father is victory and that it will and must be done.

Letters from the Teacher Vol I, pp107-108

If the Soul were obliged to reap all the Karma in one life that it had generated in the last preceding life there would be neither time nor opportunity for progress. Therefore, the Lords of Light hold back a certain percentage from each life, and manipulate the currents of force so that a chance is given the Soul to learn the main lesson of the last earth life and at the same time have an opportunity to gain entirely new experiences. But, before final liberation can come, each Soul must, of its own choice, take up all the accumulated odds and ends of Karma and work them out or redeem them.

Letters from the Teacher Vol I, p48

Just as the grosser flame sweeps the forest, so the subtler "fire of the Lord" or the fire of the Law (Karma), before which the earthly man is but chaff, sweeps humanity. The flames that consume the debris, the underbrush and the twining parasites which sap the vitality of the giant trees also cause new vegetation to spring up. Likewise in our hearts after we have passed through a karmic burning we find new and unexpected manifestations of life and growth. Think of the burnings of karmic Law not as something to which you must school yourself, something that will deprive you of every happiness, take from you your cherished ideals and bring naught but desolation, but think of it in its constructive aspect. Realize that just as the heat and life and light of the sun penetrate the earth to bring forth the seeds, so shall these subtle fires of Karma

sink deep into your heart and germinate all the seeds of immortal power which you have stored up in past incarnations and which only await the fire to sweep away old conditions, everything that interferes with your spiritual growth, to germinate and put forth. Declare yourself ready to stand in the burnings of the Law, not passively giving up because it is your Karma, but that your heart and mind and life, all that is manifested on all planes, may be purified and make way for the new spiritual growth.

Fire of the Law, pp2-4

A golden vessel to be placed upon the King's table must pass through a seven-times heated furnace and be hammered and tested and purified until the gold is without a flaw; then it must be fashioned into the shape best adapted to its purpose. So it is with the vessel of clay which we call our personality.

The Voice of Isis, p35

Since all evolution tends to develop more and more perfect organisms through which greater and greater degrees of freedom from the bondage of external conditions can manifest, we can be truly free from the bonds of Karma only as we work with evolution through the seeking of those things which are our own and following those things which will perfect and thus hasten our evolution. This is not attained by selfishly trampling on the freedom or rights of others that we may advance, for to do so is to develop selfishness, but through harmonious co-operation for the good of all.

The Key to the Universe, p305

We do not mind bearing trials when we know that we are merely correcting mistakes made in a past life, or else learning needed lessons in this. Trials are not given as punishments, but as the only means of making us learn the lessons that will fit us to take our real places at the right hand of God-the-Father, and to gain a greater realization of His nearness and help while here below.

Letters from the Teacher Vol I, pp140-141

Understand clearly, whatever sicknesses, troubles or trials come to a person they are either the result of broken law or are conditions given by the Higher Self to teach certain necessary lessons and thus gain the experience needed to take the Soul a step onward. Often by pouring his personal magnetism (prana) into the aura of a patient, or by sheer force of Will, one may so influence another as temporarily to drive away sickness or trouble, but if the real lesson which the sickness or trouble was meant to teach has not been learned by the patient, the moment the will-power is withdrawn the trouble will return. Or, if the will-power has been strong enough, the trouble may be driven back off the physical-plane to appear upon some higher plane, perhaps in a different form such as some form of nervous disorder or mental trouble.

Letters from the Teacher Vol I, p77

All broken contracts and all disobedience to the Law produce inharmony on all planes at the same time. And the persons bringing into action the particular inharmonious note must themselves readjust every wave of inharmony that has been produced by their acts before harmony can be restored in their lives. This is a benign and beneficent law; for it is only by reaping what we have sown, and eating the fruits thereof, that we can ever learn to plant wheat instead of tares. It is not denial of inharmony that settles the score, but a recognition of it and the correction of its cause. If through will-power you push it aside and apparently gain either health, wealth or some other earthly comfort ere the

readjustment is made, the inharmony will gather force by the very pushing back and will sweep over you again and again until it is recognized and adjusted. True healing combines all physical agencies with the psychic and the Divine, for these three are one.

Letters from the Teacher Vol I, pp77-78, 82

The pressure from without cannot harm you, if the within be properly balanced.

The Voice of Isis, p44

Every inharmony is continually working toward readjustment, just as all wounds tend to heal, and all forms of disease to cure themselves.

The Temple of Silence, pp25-26

As the conditions of life flow to it the Soul consciously gathers out of the varied experiences of life just those germs of good (lessons) that are needed to make it grow into the likeness of the perfected Being which that particular individual is destined to become.

The Lord Jesus Christ, II, p3

All seeds are planted in the earth, yet each seed grows into the particular plant whose germ and pattern are within. So each Soul is planted in the soil of its earthly environment, with the pattern of the perfect man to be embodied within the sheath of his personality. That which brings unrest and dissatisfaction is the effort and striving to manifest something that is not within.

The Iron Age, p4

How many would gladly attempt to bear the hardships and sufferings of their loved ones rather than stand aside and permit them to fulfil their karmic destiny in exact justice. But their loved ones cannot be purified and pass on to higher things, if their burdens are borne for them and they are not allowed to meet their tests and stand in the fiery furnace which they in ages past have lighted. Stand aside then, and while giving all love, sympathy and encouragement, allow all to meet their tests and burnings that they may be purified and advance to higher things.

The Voice of Isis, pp82-83

Every word we utter has not only its vibrations, but, together with the form, colour and number of the letters composing it, possesses a potency that will never die, but go on and on through the ages until we, their creator, by the power of The Christ within, shall have redeemed them. Be their power for good or ill, it forms one of the very considerable forces that go to make up the law of Karma. Suffering of itself has no purifying or uplifting power. It is uplifting only when the lesson which necessitated it has been learned and the lacking Soul-quality has been built into the character.

The Voice of Isis, pp39-40

Know absolutely, that the Law is, and that it must work out. If one jot or tittle of the Law could go wrong in your personal affairs, all creation would be thrown out of harmony.

Letters from the Teacher Vol I, p95

As you realize that it is yourself who is responsible for all the disturbing influences which surround you, and that it rests with you to overcome them

by eliminating their causes, you have begun in the right way to work with the Law and gain Self-knowledge and Self-poise. Make yourself one with the Law and all its manifestations will work in harmony.

The Voice of Isis, p119

Bodily weakness should not be looked upon either as a failure or as a karmic debt, although in some cases it might be either or both. However, no matter what its immediate cause, it is a lesson. Often it is a needed lesson in patience and sympathy for suffering that locks the Soul in such a body, but more often it is a lesson that only a great Soul is ready to learn.

Letters from the Teacher Vol I, p74

You who weep; you who feel discouraged; lift up your hearts and know that today, in this very hour, the mighty forces from out the unknown are being poured out upon you. Open your heart and mind and receive them.

The Iron Age, p4

REINCARNATION

No one is ready to learn the truth of reincarnation to whom it does not appeal. Only those who feel an inward urge to know the whole truth need have it given them. The whole object of rebirth is for each Soul to attain all-around Soul-perfection, learn all the lessons life can teach, and thus be prepared to do its work in the Grand Plan. Even if it were possible for a man to gain all knowledge and have all experience in one life, nevertheless the stupendous task of evolution, from an atom to a God, would require incalculable aeons. Comparing our life-period to a day, as well might we expect a child to acquire the experience and wisdom of a life-time between sunrise and sunset. . . . Perfection could not be attained in one life.

The Voice of Isis, p278

If each Soul were required to redeem in one life all its mistakes and spiritualize every atom with which it had been connected in even one life, the Cycle of Necessity would be never-ending. Instead of this all tasks that are beyond the strength of the Soul in any one incarnation are held back until it has grown strong enough little by little to work them out.

The Voice of Isis, p181

Each Soul is judged at the close of each life-cycle by the sum total of how much he has overcome, how much of the lower self he has illumined by the higher spiritual consciousness.

The Philosophy of War, 1st Ed., p24

The "I" is the Higher Self, the overshadowing Father-in-heaven. It is the True Self in that it is the Ego, a Spark of the Infinite, incarnating again and again in an animal body for the purpose of gaining experience in matter and, through its informing of physical atoms in an earthly body, to help redeem (spiritualize) matter. . . . The lower selves are like the outer husks of the seed which are dissolved and their substance indrawn to form nourishment for the seed, to enrich it and enable it to grow and blossom. . . . The body wears out and is cast aside just as a garment is, and a new one put on; but the Self never changes. It gains more experience and needs a better garment from time to time until, finally, it masters the matter which makes up its physical garments and

immortalizes it so that the personality is swallowed up in the Individuality; the mortal puts on immortality and becomes one with its Father-in-heaven.

Letters from the Teacher Vol I, pp113-114, 122

Many ask, "Why is not the memory of past lives more common?" There is a deep reason for this. Most Souls find the memory of the trials of one life as much as the personality can bear, therefore the complete remembrance of all it had endured in its many lives would tend to crush it. It is memory that haunts; that drives to insanity. No one day can hold enough sorrow to dishearten utterly the personality; it is the accumulated burden that overwhelms. . . . therefore we will never be permitted to remember our past lives until we have advanced beyond the point where the grief's, the ills, and the unkindness done us can affect us, make us worry or become discouraged and thus retard our progress. We will not remember until we have gained that poise which nothing can disturb; until we have become centred in the thought that to manifest Divine Love in perfection is all that is worth striving for.

The Voice of Isis, pp270-271

The object of evolution is for mankind to gain Wisdom out of every condition.

The Voice of Isis, p34

THE CHRIST

PRAYER FOR LIGHT

O CHRIST! Light Thou within my Heart the Flame of Divine Love and Wisdom, that I may dwell forever in the Radiance of Thy Countenance, and rest in the Light of Thy Smile!

The Mystic Christ is not a personality, but a Divine Essence. It is a spiritual emanation from the Godhead, the Son of God or the Godhead in its creative aspect; that Mystic Power or Principle which fructifies and animates all manifestations of life. It is the Divine Creative Force, a great stream of life-giving, creative Essence which manifests in all things on all planes as the animating Principle of the One Life.

The Mystic Christ, pp2-3

The Christ-force, therefore, is the animating Power back of all life and evolution, physical, mental, psychic, spiritual. In Nature it is the unquenchable urge toward perfection which adapts the organism to its environment. Among men it is the divine urge toward union with God; the effort "to bring the divine within them into harmony with the divine in the universe," as the mystic philosopher Plotinus expresses it.

The Mystic Christ, p3

It is this mystic, informing, vivifying Principle (The Christ-force), manifesting in and through Him, to which Jesus referred when He said : "I am the living bread which came down from heaven; if any man eat of this bread, he shall live forever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world. . . . Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life." Manifestly such statements could not apply to any human flesh and blood, or even to an historical personality, but were used figuratively for that immortal, universal, mystic Principle which the personality of Jesus embodied. Eternal life cannot be obtained by merely observing or studying spiritual truths,

for they must be eaten and assimilated into the nature, built into the character, made a part of the life, just as physical food must be assimilated to be built into the body, and manifest as love, tolerance, charity, brotherhood and purity, ere you have truly eaten of the body of The Christ.

The Mystic Christ, p4

Only as the Christ-force is embodied in you can you have eternal life. To grow spiritually it is not enough merely to lead ethical and morally blameless lives, but we must also drink of the blood and eat of the flesh of the Christ, i. e., drink in that spiritual creative Power or Divine Life-force which shall re-create us, which shall make our lives not merely automatic moral models, but dynamic, radiant centres of force for good, vibrant with that creativeness whose very emanations shall fructify and awaken in everything we contact an answering vibration and a quickened life. There must be an infusion of the creative life-force of The Christ into the personality until it becomes one with the Mystic Christ.

The Mystic Christ, p4

Difficulty arises through a failure to distinguish between the Mystic Christ-principle, which "hath shined in our hearts to give the knowledge of the glory of God," and the personality of the teacher Jesus who manifested an individualization of this Force to a superlative degree. This distinction is so plainly made throughout the New Testament that only the decadence of knowledge concerning the Mysteries and the lack of training in esoteric philosophy as a requirement for the ministry, can account for the utter ignoring of it and all that it implies.

The Mystic Christ, p1

In one sense the Gospel story of Jesus is meant to inspire those whose spiritual development requires a physical embodiment and a personal, historic example after which to pattern their lives. These are but children in spiritual understanding, to whom the beautiful embodiment of The Christ within the man Jesus, the Man of Sorrows, forms a picture with great emotional appeal. If they stop there, however, and are satisfied with the personality of the human teacher, they never really find The Christ as a personal, religious experience, nor do they even touch the hem of His garment. They worship but a picture and are doomed to disappointment and sorrow, for some day they must see their human Christ-ideal, as it exists today, crucified, cast down and destroyed. (By historical research, higher criticism, etc.) The literal, personal example or letter of the law, is not satisfying to the awakened Soul. The Pauline picture (of The Christ) is for those who need no historic personality as a model; those who open wide the doors of their hearts at the knock of the Mystic Christ; who can respond to the down pouring of Divine Love and through a divine ecstasy can enter into the higher realms of spiritual consciousness where the powers of the human mind are transcended and where they grasp those things which are spiritually discerned; those things which are "revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit."

The Mystic Christ, pp2-3

The story of the life of Jesus is not the personal history of one Great Teacher, but is an allegory of the life of perfected Man, the growth and perfection of the Soul, every incident symbolizing a step upon the Path of Attainment, from the birth of The Christ-consciousness in the heart of the personality, the weary pilgrimage of life, the crucifixion on the cross of matter and desire, to the

glorious resurrection and ascension, when the personality has been perfected and The Christ-man sits at the right hand of the Father-in-heaven. In other words, when the personality of each of us has experienced the ascension and completed the at-one-ment with the Divine we become the right hand of the Father or the instrument through which His work is accomplished on earth. The story of Jesus is the story of evolution. It is not the literal history of any one personality that is thus depicted, but the experiences which each Soul passes through as the Mystic Christ is born within and evolves to perfection or at-one-ment with its Father-in-heaven.

The Lord Jesus Christ, I, p2

When the name (Jesus) is coupled with The Christ (the word “the” having been eliminated as the distinction between the mystic Principle and its embodiment was lost to humanity) it stands for that stage in the growth of the Soul when the personality has made the at-one-ment with the Mystic Christ-principle, or, in theosophical terminology, the stage at which Manas has been blended with the Buddhic principle. For Manas is dual and in most cases the consciousness vacillates between the lower and the higher expression, functioning most of the time in the lower. The Jesus man becomes a Christ only when the human mind (Manas) is uplifted and blended with The Christ-consciousness (Buddhi and Atma, the Father-in-heaven) and the three become one or perfected Man. Hence the name of Jesus stands for the possibility of common, ordinary man, merging his personality into the Divine, entering The Christ-Consciousness and manifesting the Mystic Christ through his Jesus personality.

The Lord Jesus Christ, II, p2

It was expedient for you that your conception of the man Jesus perishing on the cross should go away, should be eliminated from your consciousness, that the Comforter, the Mystic Christ, might come to you, might enter into your heart and abide forever. Only through the Mystic Christ can you enter into a conscious oneness with the great Master Jesus, the guide, friend and Elder Brother of mankind.

The Lord Jesus Christ, II, p4

It makes very little difference, as far as the truth of His teachings is concerned, whether or not such a man as Jesus ever lived. As a matter of esoteric history, there was an Avatar of that name who did pass through the experiences symbolized in the Bible during the pilgrimage of His Soul toward mastery, just as every Soul must pass that way. But the whole story, as it is told, is one grand allegory designed to teach, exoterically, the inner truths of the different steps on the Path. Each step has its trials and sufferings, its mockery of the multitude and the final crucifixion of the lower personality and the glorious resurrection into life immortal, the triumph of the spiritual over the temporal man. The story is woven around this Avatar, Jesus, and events and places are adapted or created to carry out the symbology; but every name used, as well as every incident, has its inner meaning when interpreted kabalistically. This is the style after which all scriptures are written, i. e., The Vedas, Upanishads, etc. It is the method always adopted by Initiates in giving out the great truths so that only those who have developed the qualities necessary to the true understanding can see the inner meaning. The multitude see the beautiful story, which contains a sound moral lesson, and each one gets from it exactly what he is ready to receive.

Letters from the Teacher Vol I, pp12-13

You never know what you really are until the light of The Christ has illumined every corner of your being. Oft-times the unexpected beauty and strength revealed is quite as overwhelming as the shortcomings.

The Voice of Isis, p92

When the light of The Christ has illumined your heart and has awakened a recognition of your divine possibilities, it must also awaken all the latent propensities in your composite personality, for the same sun which causes the good seed to sprout in the garden of your heart will also stimulate in even greater profusion the growth of the weeds which, unless ruthlessly uprooted, will choke out the life of the good seed. Make no compromise. You must conquer or be overcome. For the very recognition of your divine birthright lashes into fury all those forces of your lower self which have held you in bondage so long.

The Voice of Isis, p91

Both intellectual development and heart development are necessary, but if the heart is first developed and a conscious union made with The Christ within, all things are revealed unto you. This is, as it were, the shortcut to Mastery.

The Voice of Isis, p384

The Christ. . . . is more than a Principle; is more than an entity or a force or a power; it is the manifestation of the Godhead. Yet it is entitized in every Master who has trodden the Way, manifested in Truth and discovered in Life. The Christ is a living power, the life of the Soul. It shines from the eyes, it emanates in waves of magnetic force from the fingertips; it shines as an aureole round about. It dwells within; it manifests without. . . . Through your own will and effort you must bring about the Resurrection of The Christ from the tomb of materiality. It is the density of matter that slows down the vibrations of this Principle, making it almost inactive. To you the task is given through the sublimating of the matter of your bodies to accomplish the resurrection of The Christ. . . . The Christ . . . is a manifestation of all that you can picture of a Divine Comforter; of a brother, a sister, a father, a mother. Who will come and stand beside Him upon the Rock of Truth? Who will cast from their lives, from their hearts, their stumbling-blocks? It matters not what the past holds. All that is gone before is like the water that has passed the water-wheel. It has turned it for good or for evil and the grain has been ground by its power. Some day you must come back and eat of its meal, but today you are past it. Therefore make today a day of Truth.

The Truth, pp1-3

The Christ-spirit is the cause of the eternal miracle of springtime, both in nature and in the Soul. It is a universal life-giving, all-powerful force that the human heart, as it lives and breathes and presses on in evolution, must imbibe and express more and more, even as nature imbibes and expresses the same Force in the springtime. It is Life itself, the essence of the Divine One Life. It is the perfume of the rose, the light of the sun, the nourishment of the food, the power of the breath, the sustaining quality of hope, the enduring quality of courage. In fact it is the Divine Spiritual Force that is back of all life, all thought and all experience.

The Christ Seed, p3

The great lesson of Easter is that each heart and life, in spite of all its faults and failings, is an effort of The Christ to manifest; that you are not inherently

wicked or cursed from birth; that it is not a mighty struggle to evolve Godward. It is simply a question of assimilating all the Light and Love poured out upon you and allowing The Christ Seed within to push up through the human personality and manifest its beauty and give its perfume to the world. Remember it will ultimately push up in spite of all you can do to retard it or deflect it, in spite of generations of opposition, in spite of war, in spite of so-called civilization, in spite of humanity's selfishness, self-will and determined perversity. Why not recognize its power now to transform and resurrect your life and help you to reach quickly the unfoldment that ultimately you cannot fail to reach? Why waste precious time and pass through unnecessary suffering when you can grow in peace, harmony and luxuriance if you will?

The Christ Seed, p4

The world is today awaiting the advent of a Divine Teacher or true Priest of the Lord, a personalized embodiment of the great Christos-principle of the universe, the all-pervading, vivifying power which underlies all manifestations of the One Life. As this great spiritual Being approaches the earth-plane each heart who can respond to the vibrations of His message will come more or less consciously into touch with Him, no matter what organization or movement he may be working in. . . .

The Message of Aquaria, p433

The cry of the Great One is now going forth to all who can hear: "Come unto me, my little lambs. The fold is waiting and the heart of the Shepherd yearning. Think of the thoughts that I have shed around you as you journeyed through the wilderness of lives and lives; think of the words that have been spoken through the mouths of my chosen prophets in your ears, life after life, age after age, and will ye still be deaf and dumb to love? To be sheep of my fold means to know your Shepherd, to gladly follow, to hear His voice and obey. Ah, my children, unless the sheep know the voice of the Shepherd they will be blind and will never recognize His face. Unless they learn to love and thus obey unquestioningly the divine message, they will never be ready to take their places in the Great Temple where the True Priesthood must work out the great scheme of salvation, the reflection upon earth of the Hierarchies of Heaven."

The Message of Aquaria, p435-436

THE MASTERS OF WISDOM

The Masters of Wisdom are Great Souls who, through repeated experiences and determined effort through many earth lives, have obtained mastery, firstly, over the passions, appetites and desires of the personal self; and secondly, over the forces of Their bodies and over the life-currents of the Cosmos. Hence They have become one with the Fount of all Wisdom. They and the Father are one. Jesus was such a Master, in fact, was and is a Master of Masters. But there are many more, all banded together in what is known as The Great White Lodge; a lodge in the sense of oneness of aim and motive, for They are all working for the uplifting of humanity. They are divided into certain degrees and subdivided into orders so as to systematically cover all the needs of humanity in its different stages of evolution. You will thus see that there are Masters of all grades; that is, upon all steps of the ladder leading to the point of highest attainment where a Master of Masters stand. Each group and each individual has a certain work to do for the betterment of humanity. These Great Souls are able to function on

all planes, hence They are near to all who really need Their help, for humanity must reach out for help ere it can be given.

Letters from the Teacher Vol I, p6

You can set it down as a positive fact that no Master of Wisdom ever did, ever will, or ever could advertise Himself or give out spiritual teachings at so much per lesson. Nor is there any such thing as an Initiate of the Great White Lodge upon the physical-plane acting in His physical body, and claiming to be such. The Great White Lodge does not work that way.

Letters from the Teacher Vol I, p10

As long as individuals are satisfied with a purely physical existence the Masters know well that they are not yet ready to be helped, for their lessons are those of the physical.

Letters from the Teacher Vol I, p6

The Masters of Wisdom know who need the outer help, and it never fails to present itself. It may seem to come from some natural and ordinary source, but in reality it is from these Watchers and Elder Brothers of humanity who make use of natural channels to answer the cry of the Soul for light and help.

Letters from the Teacher Vol I, p7

The Elder Brothers of humanity, the great Masters of Wisdom, into whose hands the evolution of the Race is entrusted, are continually sending forth the cry for helpers. "The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few," for They can work on the earth-plane only through human agencies. With the cry goes the promise of sure reward for all who hear and obey.

Letters from the Teacher Vol I, p137

The Lodge of Masters is eagerly watching and waiting for the development of every avenue through which They can pour love and wisdom to enlighten the world in this its darkest hour, the hour that precedes the dawn of the coming day. The whole aim and end of this Movement is to help each individual Soul to find, not only The Christ within himself, but also the guiding hand of the Master. We cannot assure you that you will find Him, for many feel around in a darkness created by themselves and never touch the out-stretched hand. We can only say that the Teacher and Guide stands ready, close at hand, to guide and help you through this labyrinth of darkness into the light of the perfect day.

Letters from the Teacher Vol I, p8

Directions for physical exercises are never given by a Master of Wisdom except in a personal way, and in such a case they would be adapted to that pupil's ability and capacity, and to that pupil alone. . . . No Master would ever give to a pupil exercises of a physical nature that would be likely to overtax his capacity. The Masters of Wisdom know well the physical conditions as well as the spiritual development of each pupil, and the Law of Growth is always followed.

Letters from the Teacher Vol I, p16

It will be only through your own individual effort, your attitude of Soul, and the character of your life that will enable you to place yourself in personal, conscious touch with the Masters. It depends upon no personality but your own. Only when this interior communion is established can the pupil come

face to face with his Guru. Of course this will take place upon the inner planes, but long ere this he will be carefully instructed as to the necessary steps, the necessary cautions to be observed; will be told how to recognize and treat false teachers and false teachings. The requisite preparation for such close, personal contact is a sincere and loving heart, a child-like confidence and trust, and a willingness to sit at the Master's feet and be taught. You are ready for personal help when you can recognize and accept the instruction when it comes. . . . This is the Law: Only he who asks can receive, because the asking opens the doors through which help can come.

Letters from the Teacher Vol I, pp20, 22, 26

MISCELLANEOUS

Know well that no matter how lofty a philosophy may be, or how good a lesson, unless it brings to your individual Soul some practical application, something that you can work into your daily life, that philosophy is of no account to you.

Letters from the Teacher Vol I, p136

All teachings that bring to humanity knowledge of the higher truths, and that awaken an interest in spiritual development, are useful, but individual Souls need special lines of instruction. Some find help under one teacher, some under another, and if your Higher Self knows that the one from whom you are striving to learn is not the most helpful one for you, you will be impressed with a feeling of dissatisfaction. Yet this does not mean that the teachings you have been receiving are not excellent for a certain stage of growth, and just what you needed at one time. That which you need will appeal to you. One thing may appeal to you today and in a month or a year you may grow away from it. If you are sincere and earnest, this merely indicates that you have learned one lesson and must look elsewhere for the next. The great lesson to learn is to follow the leadings of your Higher Self and take for yourself what appeals to you and helps you. But be just as ready to concede to others the right to choose for themselves. . . . The oak does not continually reproach the violet because it does not try to be an oak.

Letters from the Teacher Vol I, pp114-115, 25

He who feels another's sorrow, who forgets self for others, has realized, in measure at least, the Divine.

The Voice of Isis, p73

Unless a teaching appeals to the heart and rings true to a Soul, it is not true to that Soul. . . . The fact that a teaching attracts and helps you is evidence that it contains the lessons needed by you for the step you are taking. The fact that a movement no longer appeals to you, no matter how helpful it may be to others, is evidence either that your Soul has learned the lessons that movement had for you, even though not mastered intellectually, or that the movement, no matter how beautifully conceived and launched, has become tainted with something that is not helpful, or is perhaps distinctly injurious to your physical, mental, moral or spiritual growth. To remain connected with an organization to which you no longer feel drawn, or which you have outgrown, is as detrimental to your Soul-growth as it would be for a flower to remain in a pot which had become too small for it, or whose soil had become exhausted or contaminated.

The Voice of Isis, pp424, 426

If you cannot find time to enter the Silence, still no power in heaven or earth can keep the Silence from entering into you if you will let it.

The Voice of Isis, p33

You will never find Truth in any teachings if Truth, to you, depends upon the perfection of the instrument through which that Truth is expressed. You must cultivate the power of spiritual discernment and not allow anything to turn you aside from Truth. Learn to seek Truth for Truth's sake. Look for it among the stubble and muck of life, and in the dark places where humanity crawls in filth; look for it hidden under the mountains of selfishness and self-sufficiency of teachers; seek for it as a Jewel of Great Price that has been lost; for you may find the Jewel where you least expect it. But first rise up and sweep your own house diligently.

Letters from the Teacher Vol I, pp141-142

Every fault is a virtue perverted and every hard circumstance of life is a stimulus to learn a needed lesson.

The Lord Jesus Christ, II, p3

As to failings, we all have them. The greatest example the world can have is to see a brave Soul struggling to do right. It is those who are honest with themselves; who know their own weaknesses, yet are striving to conquer; who recognize that they are not above their fellow men; who are capable of feeling a sympathetic thrill with every failing and can grasp a brother's hand and from the heart encourage him to struggle onward, because they themselves are still struggling, they are the ones who are the real examples.

Letters from the Teacher Vol I, p123

If you have a fault you wish to correct, create its opposite. Think no more about the fault, but put all your thought on its opposite. Put your failures behind you. Give them no more force by thinking of them or worrying about them. Live each day for itself, for if you can conquer one day at a time you conquer all.

Letters from the Teacher Vol I, pp101, 103

If the world's sorrow oppresses you, remember that the very best you can do toward lifting that heavy load is to make a centre of joy and gladness in your own heart. . . . The only way really to help humanity is to take hold of that morsel of humanity over which you have been given command (your various bodies and all pertaining to them, the portion of goods belonging to you, given to you by your Father ere you took your journey into this far country of earth-life) and begin by redeeming it. . . . This is the sure, in fact the only true way, to become an agent of the Masters. . . .

Letters from the Teacher Vol I, pp76, 121-122

If you study Hamlet, you will find that in his attempt to set the world aright he only brought sorrow and suffering to himself and those he loved, and sacrificed not only his own personality but also the personalities of others in his misguided attempt. No person has ever been born to set the world aright except so much of it as he finds expressed in his own personality. If you mind your own business and let the faults of others go, trusting to the Law to straighten them out, and confine yourself to straightening out your own faults, you will realize the joy that comes from such conquering. When you cease to worry over the faults of

others, it will be like a physical burden rolling from your shoulders. If you have never done this, try it merely as a physical experiment for your own happiness and the results will prove its truth.

The Voice of Isis, pp95-96

If you were in a congregation which was singing out of tune, the best way to bring about harmony would be, not to stop the singing and talk about it, but to sing steadily and firmly in perfect tune yourself. Those next to you would catch and spread the harmony until all were singing in tune. It will be only the working out of this law of harmony that will ultimately redeem "the round world and all that dwell thereon."

The Voice of Isis, p97

Every Soul has implanted within it, as an integral principle, the power of intuition, just as every mineral, vegetable and animal has the power of selection or instinct, which leads it to follow the lines of evolution best fitted for its growth and perfection in accordance with its environment.

Letters from the Teacher Vol I, p27

Prayer is the Jacob's ladder, one end resting on earth, the other reaching into heaven. If you ask sincerely, in the Silence, for guidance, and if it is the real, sincere cry of the heart for help and light that goes out, verily your Father-in-heaven who heareth in secret shall reward you openly. Never has a sincere cry for help been sent out in the Silence, where God dwelleth, that was not answered. The thing to do is to recognize the answer when it comes. . . . True prayer or spiritual aspiration is simply a correlating of the brain and physical consciousness with the spiritual, thus creating a natural channel of communication through which the spiritual force can flow. In other words, it is closing the circuit. The Will, a desire for spiritual gifts, and a constant attitude of devotion are the proper channels, but words, meditation and a recognition of the end to be attained, are steps leading to the opening of them. To ask for guidance is but to take hold of the power of Divinity as a little child grasps its father's hand. The child does not say, "Father, give me bread and clothing and house-room"; for all that is its birthright; but it is quite right to come to its father with its difficulties, its lessons and its little tumbles and bruises and ask for sympathy and help.

Letters from the Teacher Vol I, pp29-30, 34-35

During the darkness, while we sleep, all the stored up energies of the invisible rays begin their cycle of activity and our bodies grow and put forth anew, according to the pattern we have set for our physical lives.

The Iron Age, pp3-4

Poise is the result of self-knowledge. . . . It is not stoical indifference to pain and pleasure, but rather rising above it. Poise is the ability to remain calm at the centre, and while recognizing and understanding both the greatest joy and the greatest sorrow, not be carried to either extreme. To enjoy intensely carries with it, as the opposite swing of the pendulum, the power to suffer to a corresponding degree. We never reach a point where the waves of force generated by the opposite poles, pain and pleasure, cannot reach us, but we can rise above them so they cannot sweep us from one extreme to another.

Letters from the Teacher Vol I, p123

Do not accept the teachings of any spiritual or occult movement until through prayerful consideration and meditation you receive the confirmation of your own Divine Guidance that it is the open door for your next step.

The Voice of Isis, p113

Coloured blocks are necessary in the kindergarten, primers for children, textbooks for the training of the mind in school and college; but when the mind has been trained it must then put that training to use in a practical way: in business, under the head of the firm or manager; in art, under a great teacher, in spiritual things, under a Master of Wisdom. But, remember that, because you are no longer interested in the coloured blocks or primers you once thought so beautiful; you are not to despise the children who still cling to them, or find fault with the teachers of the a-b-c's. All have their place, and the children will grow away from the blocks when they have learned their lessons, just as you have grown. The proof that you have outgrown earthly organizations will be the love and tolerance with which you treat all your brothers and sisters who still feel the need of such methods. To rail at organizations, especially one which has helped you to reach your present state, and those who work in them, is proof that you still need their discipline. Every uplifting movement or teaching has its place and has for followers those who need its lessons.

The Voice of Isis, pp426-427

A thing that costs you nothing is valued at nothing. Just in proportion to the real love and sacrifice will be the value to your own Soul. In other words, what we love we work for, sacrifice our time and money for. And out of those things, or their inner force, is our character built up.

Letters from the Teacher Vol I, p31

Under no circumstances can an evil or impure thing upon the earth-plane become anything but evil and impure on the higher planes, for all planes are one, and what is impure on one is impure on all. Under no circumstances can evil or impure acts on the physical-plane cause spiritual growth, for the acts themselves are creating exactly the opposite conditions. Those who are teaching such abominable doctrines under the name of Esoteric Theosophy or under the guise of obtaining some sort of spiritual development, will have a terrible Karma to answer for in the future. We cannot emphasize too strongly the fact that there can be no spiritual teachings, either esoteric or exoteric, that are not spotless in their purity on all planes, for The Christ can dwell only with the pure in heart.

Letters from the Teacher Vol I, p92

There is not a single man or woman who cannot be an active factor in bringing the Golden Age of Love, Peace, Harmony and Brotherhood into manifestation the sooner, through the controlling of thoughts, words, emotions, and by overcoming his or her resistance, and responding more and more understandingly and gladly, to the upward urge of the Divine.

The Philosophy of War, 1st Edition, p25

That which we fail to appreciate, the Great Law removes from us.

Letters from the Teacher Vol I, p72

There is no such thing as death, merely various *changes in form* in the manifestation of the One Life.

The Voice of Isis, p400

As long as there is motion, which is vibration or life, we cannot get away from God, for it is in this God that “we live and move and have our being.” All that exists is substance, but in different rates of vibration.

The Message of Aquaria, p60

Nothing in the nature of man is inherently evil; it is only evil through its misuse and the evils that are attached to it. Determine to deliver it from evil and to find The Christ-force within every temptation and everything that assails you, knowing full well that these things are the portion of goods that have been given you by your Father at your request, your just belongings that you have deserved and out of which you must create your immortal habitation. Not one thing must be lost or wasted or destroyed, but each must be transmuted and its golden potency indrawn and built into the immortal Temple of the Living Christ. This is the meaning of the sentence in the Lord’s Prayer, “Deliver us from evil.”

Letters from the Teacher Vol I, p113

No matter what the apparent source of any teaching and no matter how beautiful the language used, do not accept it unless it meets the test of purity and commonsense, does not violate the moral code, and is confirmed by the intuition of your own Soul.

The Voice of Isis, p265

The greater the work laid out for a neophyte, the greater the necessity for thorough testing. This is a merciful law, for the suffering and the evil Karma would be much worse to bear if you were given a great opportunity and failed for lack of proper training; for, of necessity, you would draw others down with you. Until you have been tried and have proven your strength you cannot bring forth the harvest. . . . The greater the struggle, if persisted in to victory, the stronger and more self-reliant will be the new-born Soul.

Letters from the Teacher Vol I, pp117, 119

The true teacher must have evolved beyond the little personal self and to some extent merged his consciousness into the Divine, hence neither seeks nor permits adulation or worship for himself, but lets the Divine in him speak through his teachings.

The Voice of Isis, p133

The Christian Bible, like all great scriptures, is an inspired setting forth of the one Divine Wisdom in symbolic language. It deals with principles, not things. It describes qualities, forces and spiritual events, not historical men, places or physical events. It is “a repertory of invented personages in its older Jewish portions, and of dark sayings and parables in its later additions, and thus quite misleading to anyone ignorant of its esotericism.” It is less understood than more ancient scriptures, because all so-called study of it has proceeded upon the hypothesis that it is intended to present historical facts. In reality, no great scripture is historically true, nor is it supposed to be by those who, having been initiated into its mysteries, understand something of their inner meaning. All scriptures and myths are collections of allegories and parables, grouped and arranged to illustrate symbolically some feature of the growth of the Soul. Hence, while not historically true, as modern research has abundantly shown, they are universally true, because they illustrate phases of experience through which every Soul passes during its evolution toward conscious union with the Divine. Whenever possible, familiar historical incidents, names and places are

used to illustrate the points more clearly, and also to inculcate a moral lesson for “them that are without,” i.e., not initiated, who are able to grasp only surface truths.

The Voice of Isis, pp75-76

Cultivate love and tolerance for all your brethren and avoid the thought that your way or your view is superior, or in any way better, than another’s, except for yourself.

The Voice of Isis, p406

A hasty temper is like a fire; put it in a furnace and it will generate steam or force that will run machinery and accomplish a great work for the world. A sharp tongue, controlled, will be a weapon that can fearlessly cut the evil from the good; its ruler is love. Intellectual pride is a dangerous master, but a wonderfully efficient servant. Wed it to humility and let love bless the union.

Letters from the Teacher Vol I, p52

Every person belonging to a spiritual movement (as well as its leaders) is absolutely responsible for the force that enters the body of humanity through them, as well as for the force they bring into the movement.

The Voice of Isis, p113

There is no surcease for sorrow except when the heart rests in Divine Love, in the assurance that all is well; that there is no failure; that underneath the stormy waves of life there is a firm foundation; that the deep waters shall not overcome you, for your Loving Father has hold of your hand, and your understanding (feet) finds a sure resting-place on the rock of the Law beneath the waters.

The Fire of Law, p4

The animal nature, to be the servant of the Real Self, must be well taken care of, well fed, well-groomed and comfortable, but not over-fed or indulged. Thus taken care of the animal will do far better work and make far fewer demands than one that is starved or ill-treated. You need the animal for your servant; you need all its powers in their best possible condition. Therefore, treat it as you would any other finely bred animal of which you expected great intelligence and great service. The physical must be conquered and controlled, not killed out. Everything that you crush out and weaken must be taken up again and again until you perfect and do your full duty by it.

Letters from the Teacher Vol I, pp71-72

Nothing will so retard our own evolution as to steal from another that which has been given to him and not to us, be it a thing, a thought, an opportunity, or a life. . . . Evolution is retarded until humanity as a whole awakens to the importance of the fact that every Soul must have freedom of opportunity to find its own place, perfect itself in its work and follow out the inner guidance of its Father-in-heaven.

The Key to the Universe, pp303, 305

It is a mistake that is often made, and one that is fostered by the teachings of all the orthodox churches, as well as by many other organizations, that sorrow is the only road to purification; that to be miserable is meritorious and that only through scourging and suffering can we hope for salvation. The truth is that, when we realize how much sorrow there is in the world and know of a

certainly that thoughts are things and that either joy or sadness has the power to spread over a large area, it becomes our duty to be joyful and happy.

Letters from the Teacher Vol I, p75

All is Law, and all Law is Love. Love in its highest expression is the one power which you possess in common with the gods. It is a divine force of attraction which seeks equilibrium in the union of the masculine and feminine expressions of the Divine.

The Voice of Isis, pp214, 216

Since scriptural stories and events do not agree with the proven facts of history (except incidentally, here and there), the Bible has either been accepted in a literal sense and slavishly followed, even against all common sense and justice, or it has been mutilated and only such parts as can, seemingly, be “proved” accepted, and the rest rejected or discredited. In studying the seemingly preposterous myths and legends of gods and goddesses found in more ancient scriptures, we have no difficulty in understanding that they are not supposed to have an accurate historical basis, even though referring to historical or astronomical events. We do not attempt to pin them down to actual facts, but seek for the hidden meaning pertaining to the spiritual development of mankind which we know they must contain. The Bible, instead of dealing with gods and goddesses, deals in exactly the same way with personages and places, some of which are taken from history, not because their use in this way pretends to be history, but because the historical facts readily lend themselves to the illustration of the lesson intended. Other names and places used are just as fictitious as those used in the ancient myths ; but they all have their inner, occult significance, the numerical value of the very words themselves have a definite meaning, and are purposely selected to indicate steps in the Path of At-one-ment up which each Soul must journey.

The Voice of Isis, pp76-77

Until you recognize Divinity speaking to you from every other atom of humanity; until you have ceased to seek out your brother’s mistakes ; until you have ceased to look for his shortcomings and failings; ceased to measure his corn by your bushel of human frailty and have found how to use God’s measure instead; until you have ceased to listen to the many voices of the world and begun to listen to the one Divine Voice manifesting through all humanity as through Nature, you will never hear the Silent Voice within.

The Soundless Sound, pp18-19

Even though we may be but the humblest of human creatures, still we have our lives to live, our place to fill, our record to make, and our grain of truth to leave behind.

The Message of Aquaria, pp261-262

CHAPTER IX

THE RUSSIAN SPHINX

**“She is the third person of a bewildering triad – St. Germain, Cagliastro,
and Blavatsky.”**

Manly Palmer Hall.¹

The purpose of this work is not to relive the life and times of HPB whilst in the flesh, as today there are more published works on this remarkable woman in the realm of the occult than on any other, but to rather focus on the ‘unknown’ work of that great world Teacher that lived here on this world as HPB. For such teachers do not stop their work at the mere shedding of an outer garment, on the contrary, being less hampered by a physical body, they can do exponentially more work from out the higher and more refined planes.

Many who study the Bible accept that such writings come from some ‘mysterious’ source, which is not the case. All Scriptures are inspired writings, written by the hand and pen of enlightened people who are in more or less direct contact with higher spiritual Teachers. Such was the case with St. John when he wrote *Revelation*. The same applied to HPB with her Teachers, and as we will show further in this work, HPB inspired the writings of the Order of Christian Mystics, *in the same manner*, as has been done since time immemorial by many writers. So do the Higher Teachings filter down to those of us on the lower material plane, for all inspired writings come through similar channels. As above, so below.

To make the connection between HPB and the Order she inspired after her transition, much research had to be conducted by the author as to the modes and methods of other inspired writings, and to present a work such as this as credible, painstaking research has had to be done, making use of “many a hammer and tongs” to make this compilation possible.

Yet, for the more advanced students of occultism, a work such as this will be plain reading where-as for others it may border on astonishment. It will therefore come as quite a revelation to students of HPB to realize that in truth such Teachers continue their work in the higher realms and that such Divine instruction is continuously manifested through capable agents, under our noses as it were, in everyday life. Such Divine instruction is always available to all, right where they live and work, and no pilgrimages to the high mountains of the East are required to find ones guru. For truth is everywhere and available to everyone. When the pupil is ready, the Teacher shall appear. And the Teacher is within, and is brought to light by an ardent aspiration and a life-long devotion to finding truth by the many books, lectures, societies and groups that help each and every soul on its way. Seek and ye shall find, knock and the door shall be opened unto ye.

Having conducted research into the ‘after-life’ of HPB for more than 18 years, to the knowledge of the author no such work or expose exists and this compilation can therefore be classified as being mainly original. Yet it would not be amiss to add a short chapter of anecdotes on her life as seen and interpreted by others, especially for those who have not the inclination to study her remarkable life in detail.

It is a rare privilege to delve into the life and times of advanced spiritual workers and to gain a glimpse of the everyday workings of such workers and their direct contact and inspiration they receive from their Teachers in the higher realms. Such

¹ Manly P. Hall, *The Phoenix*, (Los Angeles, 1968, 5th Ed.)

public accounts, rare as they are, have been given from time to time such as is extant on the life of HPB with her Masters, the life of Ramakrishna and his communication with the Divine Mother, that of Paramahansa Yogananda who maintained direct contact with his Teacher Sri Yukteswar after his transition, to name but a few.

This rendering, however, is between a Teacher and her advanced Disciples, manifesting an occult Order in the Western mystical tradition, expounding a definite system of mysticism through magic, invocation, healing and occult psychology that can be followed by beginners and advanced occultists alike. To the knowledge of the author, no such expose exists in the public domain, which but gives this work a beautiful colouring, having been made accessible to all. For as mentioned, the secret societies of the day guard their knowledge jealously for various reasons, and they shun public works. The works of HPB have at their root always been purposefully made available to all, for the general enlightenment of all who read such works, and *The Teachings of the Order of Christian Mystics* but follows that same path. For never has such a sublime system of teachings been opened and made accessible to general seekers everywhere.

The following are a number of descriptions and anecdotes by people that actually knew and spent time with her and of occult authors that express most vividly the type of character and person that was HPB, including herself. It also presents most vividly in what esteem she was and is held by students and authors from all walks of life over the last hundred years or so. It has been remarked “that one can hardly open a book these days on the occult without a reference in it to HPB and her work.” We have specifically included some anecdotes that are prophetic in nature, as these can but show true Divinity at work. Unlike many of the popular gurus of today, she refused to ever accept money for her teachings, she lived simply and humbly, and died without property. Her work is continued to this day in over sixty countries through the Society she founded and the untold offshoots and sects that make use of her works.

Upon the night of July 30, 1831, at Ekaterinoslav, HP Blavatsky (then Mademoiselle Hahn) “was ushered into the world amidst coffins and desolation,” due to the plague of cholera then raging through Europe. As an omen, this circumstance was further augmented by the strange fact that the robes of the Greek Catholic priest, hastily called for the baptism, caught fire during the ceremony and several persons were more or less seriously burned.¹

Manly Palmer Hall.

In her younger days there was the 100 year old Bouyrak, revered as a holy person, healer and magician, who dwelt close to Saratov. “He was greatly versed in the knowledge of the occult properties of plants and flowers and could apparently read the future. Bouyrak had an irresistible attraction for Helena. She visited the strange old man whenever she could Once there, she would put questions and listen with a passionate earnestness to the old man’s replies and explanations as to how to understand the language of the bees, birds and animals . . . he used to say of her constantly to us: ‘This little lady is quite different from all of you. There are great events lying in wait for her in the future. I feel sorry in thinking that I will not live to see my predictions of her verified; but they will all come to pass!’”²

Vera, HPB’s Sister.

HPB speaks of a library that her grandmother had inherited from her father, Prince Paul. It contained hundreds of books on alchemy, magic and other occult sciences. “I had read them with keenest interest before the age of fifteen. . . . Soon neither Paracelsus, Kunrath, nor Agrippa would have anything to teach me.”³

HPB

“And then there was Madame Blavatsky. Helen Blavatsky, bigger, bolder, brighter than life, isn’t easily caught in a volume. She was a child often found hypnotizing the pigeons in the tower of her

² Cranston, *Helena Blavatsky*, 1993, pp29

³ Cranston, *Helena Blavatsky*, 1993, pp31

country estate and a young medium who almost ended up in jail when she helped the Russian police solve a murder. How could she know so much if she hadn't been involved? But Madame Blavatsky could do just about anything. She fled her antique husband and Russia to be a bareback rider in the circus, to fight, disguised as a man, under Garibaldi, to be left for dead on the battlefield, to recover and become a dressmaker in Boston. Then she founded the Theosophical Society. Madame Blavatsky moved her growing entourage to India. There her psychic powers ripened to perfection. She could, people said, conjure sweet perfume, fresh fruit out of the air; she could float about the whole world in her astral body; more important, she received communications from the really extraordinary departed, the great Masters of occult, hermetic tradition. Some thought she was a fake, some thought her genuine, but everyone agreed Madame Blavatsky was something else again.”⁴

Ostrander & Schroeder.

“HPB was a powerful materializing and apport medium. At an early séance with the Slades, there was apported into her hand, a buckle, and one of her father's war medals, both of which had been placed in his coffin when he was buried years ago. This was brought psychically, by her deceased uncle, whom she had seen materialized that evening. Colonel Olcott, who was present asked, “Was there ever a manifestation more wonderful than this? A token dug by unknown means, from a father's grave and laid in his daughter's hand, five thousand miles across an ocean.”⁵

Colonel Olcott.

“I proved that all that mediums can do through ‘spirits,’ others could do at will without any ‘spirits’; that the ringing of bells, thought-reading, raps and physical phenomena could be achieved by anyone who had the faculty of acting in his physical body *through the organs of the astral body*, and I had that faculty ever since I was four years old. I could make furniture move and objects fly apparently, and by my *astral arms* that supported them, which remained invisible; all this before I even knew of the Masters.”⁶

Private Letter by HPB to Dr Franz Hartman.

“On one occasion Madame Blavatsky held in her right hand, a blue sapphire ring belonging to her visitor Mrs. Carmichael. This lady expressed a desire that the ring be duplicated if possible, in order to demonstrate the presence and power of the Mahatmas of HPB. After an interval of a minute or two, HPB extended her hand saying, “Here is your ring,” showing at the same instant *two* sapphire rings, the one belonging to Mrs. Carmichael, and the other one identical in every respect, except that the second one was larger and with a better cut stone. “Why do you give me this,” said Mrs Carmichael, in surprise. “I have not done it, it is a gift from the Mahatmas,” answered HPB.

Sinnett.

“I well remember how, during a grand evening party, when several families of friends had come from afar off to witness phenomena, HPB produced nothing, but hardly had they left, everything in the room seemed to become endowed with life. The furniture acted though every piece of it was animated and gifted with voice and speech, and we passed the rest of the evening and the greater part of the night as though we were between the enchanted walls of the magic palace of some Scheherazade. It is far easier to enumerate the phenomena that *did not* take place during these memorable hours, than to describe those that did. At one moment we sat at supper at the dining room, there were loud chords played on the piano which stood in the adjoining apartment, and which was closed and locked, and so placed that we could all of us see it from where we were through the large open doors. Then at the first command and look of Madame Blavatsky, there came rushing to her through the air her tobacco pouch, her box of matches, her pocket handkerchief, or anything she asked, or was made to ask for. Then, as we were taking our seats all the lights in the room were suddenly extinguished, both lamp and wax candles, as though a mighty rush of wind had swept through the whole apartment; and when a match was instantly struck, there was all the heavy furniture, sofas, arm chairs, tables standing upside down, as though turned over noiselessly by some invisible hands”

Vera, HPB's Sister.

“My dearest alter Ego, I have written you this morning a post-card which I hope you have received. And now being full of the Holy Ghost and milk soup I am unable to write myself, owing to my front infirmity, exoterically my stomach. For your offer to help me with *Lucifer* especially this month, behold me in the astral light standing on my knees before you, if such a feat could be accomplished even in

⁴ S. Ostrander & L. Schroeder, *PSI*, London, 1977, 3rd Ed., pp 253-254)

⁵ Olcott, *Peoples from Unseen Worlds*, p338

⁶ Mary K. Neff, p255, op.cit. H.P.B. letter to Dr. Franz Hartmann, 13/04/1886

⁷ Sinnett, *Incidents in the Life of Madame Blavatsky*, pp107, 260

⁸ Cranston, *Helena Blavatsky*, 1993, pp71,72

the astral light. Receive my thanks and send me an article, even *two*, if you can. Hold an indignation meeting with yourself and write on any burning question that you like . . .”⁹

Letter to Annie Besant from HPB.

HPB had a very dry sense of humour and at times a child-like character: “. . . a bright childish nature seemed to beam around her, and a spirit of joyous fun would sparkle in her whole countenance, and cause the most winning expression that I have ever seen on a human face. . . . When she laughed, she opened her mouth and her eyes wide with the abandon of a child. I had never seen a woman of mature years laugh with such child-like naturalness as she.”^{10,11}

Countess Wachtmeister.

As a prophetess she made many, many predictions. The following is indeed a curious one. A last prophecy from HPB before her death was about her native land. “When England ceases to carry the torch of democracy, out of Russia will come the greatest civilization the world has ever seen.”¹²

Madame Blavatsky died on May 8, 1891. In the words of one of her long time friends, Isabel Cooper-Oakley: “She passed away like a sentinel at his post, in the armchair in which she taught and wrote, the best and truest of Teachers, the most faithful and untiring of Messengers.”¹²

“She continued her writing to the last, and the night before her passing she remained for a short time at her desk, arranging her papers and struggling with a half-finished editorial. She retained possession of her faculties to the end and, though suffering much in her final illness, her last moments were peaceful and those supporting her scarcely knew when she ceased to breathe.”¹³

HPB once remarked that the only real friend she had in this world, and who even remotely understood her was William Quan Judge. At her passing he stated the following: “We have known that Madame Blavatsky has been an invalid for a long time, and it was only her indomitable pluck and endurance that have kept her alive so long. Up to her death she was working heart and soul for the cause for which she so ably preached. It is of course a shock to us, and I, who have known her intimately for years, have lost a dear friend. She can have no successor. Of course somebody will be elected president of the European Theosophical Societies, but that is only a mundane matter. In the spiritual sense nobody can succeed her. There was something about Madame Blavatsky that was not of this world. The good she has done is known to but few. Her home of late was at No. 19 Avenue Road, St. John’s Wood, London, where the Theosophists have a large house and a large community that live in the vicinity. They have done much charitable work among the poor and during the late severe winter did all they could for the distressed around them. The death of Madame Blavatsky will have no effect upon the movement here (America). We shall work as diligently as ever and try to carry out her teaching and wishes. We shall have a meeting in a few days, when no doubt resolutions of regret will be passed.”¹⁴

In a vision of the future of her work, vouchsafed to her by her Teacher, she saw clearly the unending struggle of light against darkness that would beset her Society, but it was clearly shown to her that in America, the greatest light of her work would flourish and shine forth into the new age, which ultimately manifested as *The Teachings of the Order of Christian Mystics* which she inspired. In a private letter to Judge: “Well, my only friend, you ought to know better. Look into my life and try to realize it, in its outer course at least, as the rest is hidden. I am under the curse

⁹ Blavatsky, *The Voice of the Silence*, 1992, pp 29,30

¹⁰ Wachtmeister, *Reminiscences of HP Blavatsky*, p54

¹¹ Wachtmeister, *Madame Blavatsky, A Personal Reminiscence*, The Occult Review, March 1914, p139, 142

¹² In Memory of H.P.B., By Some of Her Pupils, 1891, p26

¹³ In Memory of H.P.B., By Some of Her Pupils, 1891, p14

¹⁴ New York Daily Tribune, Saturday, May 9, 1891, p7

of ever writing, as the wandering Jew was under that of being ever on the move, never stopping one moment to rest. Three ordinary healthy persons could hardly do what *I have* to do. I live an artificial life; I am an automaton running full steam until the power of generating steam stops, and then, good-bye! Night before last I was shown a bird's-eye view of the Theosophical Societies. I saw a few earnest reliable Theosophists in a death struggle with the world in general, with other, nominal but ambitious, Theosophists. The former are greater in numbers than you may think, and *they prevailed*, as you in America *will prevail*, if you only remain staunch to the Master's programme and true to yourselves. And last night I saw Δ (The Master. Ed.) and now I feel strong, such as I am in my body, and ready to fight for Theosophy and the few true ones to my last breath. The defending forces have to be judiciously, so scanty they are, distributed over the globe, wherever Theosophy is struggling against the powers of darkness."¹⁵

In the words of Dr. Archibald Keightly: ". . . no work and no trouble, no suffering or pain could daunt her from her task. Crippled with rheumatism, suffering from a disease which had several times nearly proved fatal, she still worked on unflaggingly, writing at her desk the moment her eyes and fingers could guide the pen."¹⁶ By one of her oldest and first pupils: ". . . she was one of the true Saviours of the Race; one of that deathless band of Great Ones whose hands hold back the heavy Karma of the World, who remain unselfish to the endless end."¹⁷

Three years before her passing she was told by her Teacher to " . . . form . . . a nucleus of true theosophists, a school of my own. . . with as many mystics as I can get to teach them."¹⁸ The following address by Mead prophesies that "she will resume her work amongst us at no distant period." Whether he knew what he was talking about we do not know, but within 15 years of her passing her sphinxlike influence in world spiritual affairs manifested once more through *The Teachings of the Order of Christian Mystics*, and the call was answered by "two children in spiritual things."

ADDRESS READ BY G. R. S. MEAD¹⁹

General Secretary of the European Section of the Theosophical Society, at the Cremation of the Body of Helena Petrovna Blavatsky.

Friends and Brother Theosophists:

H. P. Blavatsky is dead, but HPB, our Teacher and friend, is alive, and will live forever in our hearts and memories. In our present sorrow, it is this thought especially that we should keep ever before our minds. It is true that the personality we know as H. P. Blavatsky will be with us no longer; but it is equally true that the grand and noble individuality, the great soul that has taught all of us men and women to live purer and more unselfish lives, is still active.

The Theosophical Society, which was her great work in this incarnation, still continues under the care and direction of those great living Masters and Teachers whose Messenger she was, and whose work *she will resume among us at no distant period*.

Dear as the personality of HPB is to us, to many of whom she took the place of a dearly loved and revered mother, still we must remember that, as she has so often taught us, the personality is the impermanent part of man's nature and the mere outer dress of the real individuality.

The real HPB does not lie here before us. The true self that inspired so many men and women in every quarter of the earth with a noble enthusiasm for suffering humanity and the true progress of the race, combined with a lofty ideal of individual life and conduct, can in

¹⁵ In Memory of H.P.B., By Some of Her Pupils, 1891, p14

¹⁶ Cleather, *H. P. Blavatsky A Great Betrayal*, p79

¹⁷ Cleather, *H. P. Blavatsky As I Knew Her*, p37

¹⁸ Wachtmeister, *Reminiscences of HP Blavatsky*, p66-67

¹⁹ In Memory of H.P.B., By Some of Her Pupils, 1891, p16-18

the mind of no Theosophist be confounded with the mere physical instrument which served it for one brief incarnation.

Fellow Theosophists, the duty that lies before us, her pupils and friends, is plain and simple. As we all know so well, the one great purpose of our Teacher's life in this her present incarnation, a purpose which she pursued with such complete unselfishness and singleness of motive, was to restore to mankind the knowledge of those great spiritual truths we today call Theosophy.

Her unvarying fidelity to her great mission, from which neither contumely nor misrepresentation ever made her swerve, was the key-note of her strong and fearless nature. To her who knew so well its true and inner meaning, Theosophy was an ever-present power in her life, and she was ceaseless in her endeavours to spread the knowledge of the living truths of which she had such full assurance, so that by their ever-widening influence the wave of materiality in Science and Religion might be checked, and a real and lasting spiritual foundation laid for the true progress and brotherhood of mankind.

With such an example before us, then, our duty as Theosophists is clear. We must continue the work that HPB has so nobly commenced, if not with her power, which to us is as yet impossible, at least with an enthusiasm, self-sacrifice and determination such as alone can show our gratitude to her and our appreciation of the great task she has committed to us. We must, therefore, each individually take up our share of that task. Theosophy is not dead because today we stand by HPB's dead body. It lives and must live, because Truth can never die; by on us, the upholders of this Truth, must ever rest the heaviest of all responsibilities, the effort so to shape our own characters and lives that that truth may be thereby commended to others.

Most fortunately for all of us, HPB leaves the work on a firm foundation and fully organized. In spite of failing health and bodily pain, our beloved leader to the very last moments of her life continued her unceasing exertions for the cause we all love so well. Never did she relax one instant from her vigilance over its interests, and she repeatedly impressed upon those who surrounded her the principles and methods by which the work was to be carried on, never contemplating for one instant that the death of her body could be any real hindrance to the performance of the duty which would then more than ever be incumbent on every earnest member of the Society. This duty, which lies so clearly before us, and of which HPB has set us so striking an example, is to spread the knowledge of Theosophy by every means in our power, especially by the influence of our own lives.

Much as we love and reverence our leader, our devotion to the work must not rest on the transient basis of affection for a personality, but on the solid foundation of a conviction that in Theosophy itself, and in it alone, are to be found those eternal spiritual principles of right thought, right speech and right action, which are essential to the progress and harmony of mankind. We believe that if HPB could stand here in the body and speak to us now, this would be her message to all members of the Theosophical Society, not simply to those who are present, but to all who without distinction of race, creed or sex, are with us in heart and sympathy to-day. She would tell us as she has told many of us already, that "a clean life, an open mind, a pure heart, an eager intellect, an unveiled spiritual perception, a brotherliness for all, a readiness to give and receive advice and instruction, a courageous endurance of personal injustice, a brave declaration of principles, a valiant defence of those who are unjustly attacked, and a constant eye to the ideal of human progression and perfection which the Sacred Science depicts, these are the golden stairs up the steps of which the learner may climb to the Temple of Divine Wisdom."

And now in silence we leave the body of our Teacher and go back to the everyday world. In our hearts we shall ever carry with us her memory, her example, her life. Every Theosophical truth that we utter, every Theosophical effort that we make, is one more evidence of our love for her, and what should be greater even than that, of our devotion to the cause for which she lived. To that cause she was ever true, to that truth let none of us be ever false.

Two nights before her passing at 3 AM in the morning she suddenly told her old friend: "Isabel, Isabel, keep the link unbroken! Do not let my last incarnation be a failure."²⁰ Her work, passion and dedication live on to this day in the numerous Societies and organisations worldwide who steadfastly keep her work alive. Her incarnation and the work she performed continues to touch millions of lives.

As to maintaining the link and keeping it unbroken, we present this treatise on *The Order of Christian Mystics* for the benefit of all.

²⁰ *The Path*, July 1894

CHAPTER X

THE TEACHER OF THE ORDER

“It is a case of Avesha Avatara, the overshadowing and informing of the lesser by the greater. . . . a pure vessel is chosen, not necessarily a liberated man, and the Divine Life utilises the Man thus qualified, for a limited period and for a particular purpose. . . . the Divine Influence continues to shine through the purified vessel. . . . who, through his own choice and purity of life, has prepared a mentality and a personality capable of expressing the Great Soul who descends thus to help humanity.”

Curtiss, *Letters from the Teacher Vol. 1*, p18

“. . . no pupil is left without the help and instruction needed for his advance. At certain stages, life alone can give you this; in other cases there are books and earthly teachers who can give the Soul all that it needs for a certain step in its growth. But when the pupil has culled all the lessons to be learned in these ways; when life no longer teaches, because its simpler lessons have been learnt and an interpreter is needed for its mysteries; when books and earthly teachings seem like dry husks and the Soul cries out for more food, IT MUST BE FED; for this is The Law. Then there begins to come to him something closer, generally as a still small voice, as a dream, a vision or distinct impression. If he listens and follows these leadings he will find them confirmed and work out in his life and become steps on The Path, until, finally, he finds himself confronted, not with a mysterious personage, but in close, familiar communion with an Intelligence whom he has learned to love and trust.”

Curtiss, *Letters from The Teacher Vol. 1*, p21

In this part of the work we will show the beginnings, the purpose and the work for which *The Order of Christian Mystics* was brought into being and will elaborate some-what on the life and personalities of its Founders. We will also show that the Founders were not ordinary seekers in the sense of it, having found enlightenment in that specific life, but have had extensive training in matters spiritual, spanning many lives. Even so, being embodied on the physical plane with its dense and unresponsive material conditions, they too were subject and responsive to guidance from above in order to fulfil the mission for which they had incarnated. That their “Lord of Heaven” was a direct contact with that Teacher that was HPB will come as a surprise to many, and it is the intention to show this link more fully in the next few chapters covering the middle section of this work. It will also become quite clear why HPB continued her work through a newly established channel being *The Order of Christian Mystics* and not through the leadership of the Theosophical Society of that time.

In order to show these links as to *The Teacher of the Order of Christian Mystics* we once more quote extensively from ‘The Curtiss Books.’ The references and links to HPB as the Teacher of the Order are stated quite plainly in the beginning of their work. In their final publication, spanning 40 years of spiritual work they once more proclaim openly their source of inspiration.

The Order of Christian Mystics published two volumes of spiritual instruction as *Letters from the Teacher, Volumes I and II*, being a summary of certain letters and replies thereto from students of the Order world-wide who were instructed by a postal system of personal correspondence with the Teacher of the Order.

In a rare and just-about unobtainable first edition of *Letters from the Teacher*, personally signed by the authoress, Rahmea, in which the honorific *Priestess of the Flame* is used once only, the title page states:

“Letters from the Teacher (Of the Order of the 15)”¹

The following text is found at the end of the book, omitted from all subsequent editions.

“In response to many requests for information concerning this new Order, we announce that it is a continuation of the work started by the Masters of the Great White Lodge, through Madame Blavatsky, in 1875, under the name of the Theosophical Society. But as no organization can contain the wisdom of The Lodge that Society was but a phase of the work, and a means of propagating the seed that has now been sown broadcast over the world. Many students have outgrown organizations, having found them too narrow and their necessary limitations too binding. This is but a natural feature of growth and again proves the great law “As above, so below;” just as the seed, when first planted, is confined in a protective sheath from which, in the process of growth, it will burst forth.”²

We have here a very clear reference as to the Order, which at that time called itself *The Order of the 15*, being affiliated to the continuing work of HPB. It is also stated quite clearly that this new Order has been put forth to assist those members of the TS and other organisations who require further teachings over and above what the TS could give its members at that stage. All editions of *Letters from the Teacher Volume I* start with the following dedication:

DEDICATION

To that Great Teacher who brought the
Wisdom-Religion to the Western
World, known on earth as
HELENA PETROVNA BLAVATSKY
this volume is affectionately dedicated
by her loving pupils and disciples
Pyrahmos and Rahmea.³

This is the only reference made throughout the 40 year work of the Order name of the Founders, Pyrahmos and Rahmea. This practice of using an alternative name, or an order name, is well grounded in the Western mystic tradition, especially with the Rosicrucians and Gnostics and associated orders over the last millennia. Usually the name refers to the most illustrious incarnation of that Initiate at some stage in the past. What those incarnations were for the Founders is open to further research.

That HPB fell under the dispensation of Avesha Avatara^{4,5} as explained elsewhere is without question. By their life, times and works shall they be known. Yet, as per our caption, if the Divine influence shines through such a purified vessel while on earth, shall this not be even more the case after transition? It is through this work that we will attempt to present an expose as to the continuation of the Great Mission of that Teacher, known to us as HPB. Yet by not limiting that Teacher to any gender or personality we will simply call that being *The Teacher*, and show how *The Teacher* continues to this day to teach and inspire any and all that answer the call. For through *The Teachings of the Order of Christian Mystics*, a sublime avenue of Teachings have once more been opened to seekers everywhere who are more inclined to follow the Western mystery tradition.

¹ Curtiss, *Letters from the Teacher*, Volume I, Title Page

² Curtiss, *Letters from the Teacher*, Volume I, p157

³ Curtiss, *Letters from the Teacher*, Volume I, Dedication

⁴ Curtiss, *Letters from the Teacher Vol I*, p18

⁵ Curtiss, *The Voice of Isis*, Chapter X, The Doctrine of Avatara

We do not have to go into distant lands. We do not have to go into strange conditions. We have only to prepare our hearts and minds and be ready to respond when the banner is seen. Remember, that while there are many other banners, and they all stand round about the Sun, the banner which this Order holds up before you is the banner of the Lion of the Tribe of Judah, which calls to all whose hearts and minds and lives respond to the call of the Heart Doctrine as presented by its Leader, the Teacher of the Order. If you recognize the call, give it your heart's allegiance and your support. Make it a vital factor in your life, that you may be sealed by the Great Ones as one of the Workers for humanity in this great New Age under the banner of Judah.⁶

The Order of Christian Mystics is such a resting place, a House of Refreshment where the laws of the Path are freely given to all pilgrims who stop to inquire, and where its Teacher stands ever ready to guide them along the narrow Path, accompany them through the deep, dark chasms and up the steep hillsides wherever their paths may lead, if only they draw close in faith and love.⁷

In the two volumes, *Letters from the Teacher Volumes I & II*, we find a storehouse of spiritual wisdom and instruction between pupils of the Order, the Founders and *The Teacher of the Order*, HPB. Why would such letters be published in the first place, and to what purpose?

"The Letters from the Teacher of The Order of the 15, in answer to questions from pupils, are of such universal interest to seekers after Wisdom that we consider them far too valuable to be confined merely to the ones to whom they were addressed. Therefore we make available extracts from the more important ones⁸"

If we take into account that the answers to these letters have come down from the Higher Realms, are therefore Divinely inspired, and that they come from that ascended Being, HPB, we can understand why such high spiritual and occult value was put to these letters. These two volumes passed through numerous editions until the passing of the Order. The few hundred or so letters as published in the two volumes cover a vast range of everyday spiritual topics in the lives of their pupils and are spiritually very instructive. Such letters, due to their inspired nature, carry with them a certain *potency*, which make them very useful in occult psychology, especially when used as instruction to seekers who have just entered the path. It is our hope, that more of these letters, which must number into the many thousands, will see the light of day. To illustrate, we include a few of such letters that specifically refer to *The Teacher of the Order*, as follows:

"I am proud to know that I have been enrolled as a student and am at last affiliated with a circle through which I can give my best expression for Good. For I can give my best only through that organization which embodies that all important spirit of loving kindness. In so many others we find the key-note of love and sympathy giving way to cold intellectuality. Will I digress by continuing my daily study of Madame Blavatsky's *Secret Doctrine*?"

We are very glad of your appreciation of the Order and we are sure that it indicates that you have touched the heart of things and know what to look for. It is not that we feel we are superior to all others, for we know there are many avenues of Truth each fitted to those who are its followers, but nevertheless it gives us great joy to find a student here and there who really touches the heart of this Order and finds that which the heart of the Order feels is the most necessary of all things to give out. Not only do you not digress or diminish your efficiency by studying *The Secret Doctrine*,⁹ but it is a very great help in your studies, as we quote from it extensively.

The following letter illustrates most beautifully the wondrous daily miracles that are experienced and attested to by all seekers participating in the higher life. We are apt to mark such events in life as miraculous but the true occult student

⁶ Curtiss, *The Message of Aquaria*, pp91,92

⁷ Curtiss, *The Temple of Silence*, p44

⁸ Curtiss, *Letters from the Teacher*, Volume I, Preface

⁹ Curtiss, *Letters from the Teacher*, Volume II, p69

accepts such happenings as but part of the glorious road of spiritual unfoldment and as part of nature.

“Every month I find much in the lessons which seems to have been written personally for me. I often lend my lessons to people who have showed interest in such matters. I received almost instant relief the moment I wrote to the Teacher.”

“We are glad the lessons come to you monthly as a real personal help. This is truly a proof that these Teachings come from a Divine Teacher who knows the wants of all His children; for only one who understood the hearts of many and could look deep into their lives could so answer the questions most pertinent to their conditions. We are also glad to have you lend the lessons to your friends, for you are thus doing much good.

We rejoice that your health is better and that you felt the almost instant relief after having written to the Teacher. This is because the instant you ask in the name of the Order for health or help, the Masters back of the Order hear and answer you. Of course you must write to the Agents, who are but human, to give them an understanding of the thing before getting your answer by letter, but the Divine Teachers hear and answer immediately, although the answer may not always come just as you expect or think it should. If you will realize this, there may be many times in your life when you need help and yet, thinking of the time it takes for a letter to reach America, many hesitate to ask it. But if you sit down for a few moments and try to realize that this Order is a band of devoted Souls who are trying to put forth the real work of love and help and healing through the Great Teacher who is back of this Order (HPB Ed.); that it is this Great Teacher who watches over everyone who joins their hands and hearts with this band, then you can ask and know that because you are helping and have joined His chosen band of disciples, you are sure to be heard and sure to be helped according to what He knows is best to manifest to you.”¹⁰

Such happenings are described in more detail in the chapters on health and healing and the effects of Invocative Prayer and Magic when performed by the sincere at heart. For if you ask for help and it is within your framework of Karma, such help must of necessity manifest almost immediately, yet not always in the way one expects. It is usually much later, when the difficulty in ones life has been resolved, that when we look back we can clearly see that everything has worked out the way it should. From such lessons we must build up our faith. Faith in the fact that we are looked after very well, and that everything that comes to us is due to good reason. And if we take the difficulty in hand without lashing out at those around us, learn its lesson and move on, we are making real spiritual progress.

The system of instruction as put forth by *The Order of Christian Mystics* incorporated mainly a sophisticated system of correspondence between its pupils and *The Teacher of the Order* with its Founders acting as transmitters and intermediaries.

“I desire to know something of how your work is carried on and what the expense of membership is.”

The work of this Order is carried on by monthly lessons and by personal correspondence. That is, all students are privileged to write to the Teacher of the Order and ask questions upon points either in the lessons, in the *Bible* or in any other teachings. They may also write for advice in regard to their spiritual growth, or whenever they are in trouble and need help and sympathy. Such letters form a direct line of communication over which the helpful forces from this Centre can flow continually.

This Movement is supported entirely by voluntary contributions, for no true spiritual teachings can be bought for a price, nor can they be withheld from any sincere seeker who is ready for them.¹¹

This would entail that each question as received by the Order would be personally answered by *The Teacher of the Order* being HPB. Such communication would thus come through Rahmea or simply Mrs. Curtiss as she is referred to throughout their works. What manner of burden this would place on the agents is difficult to

¹⁰ Curtiss, *Letters from the Teacher*, Volume II, pp21-22

¹¹ Curtiss, *Letters from the Teacher*, Volume I, p32

imagine but the following excerpt shows the strain that the Founders had to endure on a daily basis in providing leadership and guidance to their personal pupils.

The hands of the Order being its power to accomplish, the right hand symbolizes the exoteric work to be accomplished in the world by transmitting the lessons, spreading the Teachings, publishing the books, lecturing, forming study-classes, etc. The left hand is the esoteric or personal work accomplished by the private correspondence and teachings of the true and devoted followers, helping them with their personal problems, answering their letters, transmitting the healing love and the personal advice of the Teacher to them, etc. All this requires so much patience, time and strength, that the left hand often becomes utterly weary and needs to be upheld by understanding and love¹²

In the ensuing three short chapters reproduced verbatim, *Lessons by the Way*, we see that the communication the Founders have with their Teacher is instantaneous. When and if they have a requirement, they simply ask upwards for an answer and guidance and are given it there and then. The following letter is very revealing as to the mode of instruction given to the pupil or querant. The Founders also state that at the time they themselves may not fully grasp or understand the message as they are but passive transmitters of the answers. The answer is also given in true occult fashion whereby the message may come forward on many levels at the same time. This is true of all advanced and inspired instruction. It can be understood by different intellects and each will get exactly what he needs from that personal instruction. As the student grows in enlightenment and spiritual perception the message given is more clearly understood. Some of the most profound spiritual writings such as the Bible or Gita, can be read many times over and each time reveal an entirely new perspective on matters spiritual as it pertains to the stage of development of the pupil. A system of teaching such as this must of necessity develop the intuitive abilities of the pupil to interpret the truth and therefore much guidance will be given also on the inner planes. This but refers to the fact that whenever we sleep, through the law of affinity we gravitate to such centres of learning that exist on the astral plane where we receive 'astral lectures.' This is why, through sincere aspiration, we learn even though we are not receiving teachings with a physical plane teacher. How many times do we not find that we understand concepts we read in a book, or are told by others, without having physically studied the matter. This is but the result of our 'astral sojourns' where we learn far more than we would ordinarily give credit for.

It is a *Teaching of the Order* that every night, during deep sleep called *susupti*, we come very close to our Higher Self in Heaven, and because the experience is so high and so deeply mystical, we remember nothing of it. If it was not for this 'bathing in the Divine Light' we would soon wither and die.¹³ We refer the reader to the main lesson for more on this subject.

"The personal training of each pupil is carried on partly on the inner planes and partly by correspondence with the Teacher of the Order through the Secretary. Such correspondence is open to all who need personal help with the problems of their Soul life. The answers will contain explanations of the spiritual laws which apply to the individual needs of the pupil. Definite commands will not be given, for the training is designed to foster in the individual perfect freedom of choice and to develop the strength of will necessary voluntarily to apply the Law to his own problems. The letters are signed by the Secretary merely as the Agent of the Teacher, and only if the intuition of the pupil can grasp the fact that the instruction given is more than the human wisdom of the agents can its real significance be appreciated. Necessarily such letters are more or less cryptic and hence require meditation that the light of intuition (or tuition from within Ed.) may reveal their true meaning. The method of teaching employed by the Teacher of this Order is one in which praise and flattery of the pupil plays little part, rather the Teacher points out the stumbling blocks in the pupil's Path to Realization and tests

¹² Curtiss, *The Message of Aquaria*, p310

¹³ Curtiss, *The Message of Aquaria*, p14

both his intuition, his sincerity and his humility. Only the determined and the courageous can win final victory.

This Order offers no formulas or exercises for developing psychic powers, teaching that all such faculties should evolve gradually as a natural result of normal spiritual growth, hence they should not be sought for or forced through special forms of concentration, "sitting for development," etc. But as the Soul evolves the senses must respond to higher notes of vibration and awaken to higher states of consciousness. When this occurs the pupil must be taught both how to protect himself from the many dangers of the psychic realm and also how to make the best use of the newly acquired powers in furthering his spiritual growth. Perhaps the earliest recognition the pupil has of the Divine guidance of his Father-in-heaven is through symbolic dreams and visions.

The Teacher of the Order aids the pupil in interpreting such spiritual lessons until he is sufficiently versed in the language of symbology and methods of interpretation to grasp the lesson for himself. This work is a part of the personal correspondence with the Teacher of the Order."¹⁴

In this method of personal correspondence the pupil is very much left to his own devices in order to take control over his own spiritual development and destiny. On the one hand, the pupil is not spoon-fed by a face to face authority and thereby becomes dependant on the guidance and advice of a physical plane teacher. On the other hand, having to teach and believe in yourself takes far more courage and perseverance and is more likely to lead to taking more false turns. Yet at the end, he who perseveres will surely win, as no effort is ever lost. The first shall be last and the last shall be first is axiomatically indicative of the Path in all its myriad ways in which final victory can be achieved. Arrival at the Fathers home is the just reward received by all.

The following letter gives a beautiful insight as to the demands of loyalty towards leaders of occult societies. This is usually a very fine line to cross and depends very much on who and what such a leader is and has achieved. It must be stated emphatically that for those on the lower ranks of spiritual development, it is very difficult, even impossible to rightly appreciate the sacrifices made by the higher Initiates and the long-suffering they have to endure from a cold and uncaring world in order to fulfil their missions and work on this earth. Yet, a foolproof way to see whether a teacher, order, society or individuality is Divinely appointed is by their endurance, for if their guidance is from a High Source the group will outlast all its detractors and continue to shine through both good and difficult times. By their fruits shall you know them. Inflated claims are dispelled quickly by the burning light of truth.

June 1st, 1908

"Why is it that in the Teachings of *The Order of the 15* we hear nothing about 'loyalty to leaders' when that is such a prominent feature of many occult societies? Is it not true that loyalty to leaders is the first and most important duty of the Neophyte?"

You are quite right in your idea that loyalty is the first step and, we might say, the most important *to your own Soul* were there any degrees of importance when every step must be faithfully taken.

Loyalty, however, must not be a blind following, but must be tempered with Wisdom and must be the result of an intuitive understanding of the guidance given by the Higher Self. Many a leader has passed out of the physical body leaving his or her work to be wrecked in the quick-sands of mistaken zeal by a misunderstanding of this law.

A leader is one who goes ahead. Necessarily such a one is subjected to dangers and pitfalls which those who follow may have the power to see. We think a little thought will convince you that loyalty demands that the followers, at least the more intuitional, must guard the leader by watching out for ambushed enemies and warn the leader of danger when signs of ambition, selfishness, self-righteousness, or any compromise with truth or purity begin to show themselves. And thus, by the power of their developed intuition and by their true love and

¹⁴ Curtiss, *The Voice of Isis*, Objects of the Order, xxiii-xxv

sympathy, prove a bodyguard in the real sense of the word, while the main body of followers should have the personality of the leader thrust upon them as little as possible.

Followers should be faithful and loyal *to the teachings* rather than to the personality of the leader; for the Great Law will take care of all, and no matter how much loyalty is demanded by a leader, he or she will receive just as much as he or she deserves. The Law says, "Give and it shall be given unto you," and this will be in exact justice, not only in what measure, but also in what kind. If a leader gives his or her followers love, sympathy and devotion, forgetting self and striving only to lead the way and make straight the Path for those who follow, he or she will receive back again from the main body of followers true loyalty and love, and the few who repay with selfishness and criticism the love-force will drop from the ranks with scarcely a ripple.¹⁵

Therefore, the pupil should be more concerned with the Teaching itself than the personality of the Teacher, Founder or whether it is derived from HPB or any other Master as such, for truth shows and proves itself and has no need of any other authority. In this way, teachings that are given by correspondence are truly impersonal, and do not ensnare the pupil in dealing with the personality of the Messengers.

If the pupil is ready, the teacher shall appear is an old occult axiom and does not only refer to a teacher in the flesh but rather that when a pupil is ready for a teaching, such teaching shall present itself in some or other way. This can be a message from a friend, a lecture, a private lesson, an interesting book, a dream or vision, entry into a spiritual organisation, a mystical personal experience and any such like.

The following lesson is very indicative of how the Holy Hierarchies work in giving out teachings to those students that are in need of it, for there are Great Souls who have mastered every aspect of life and can meet any student on any platform if they need help to reach the next stage. It is from the higher astral planes that HPB continues to do her work but in a far less limited way, for, like all ascended beings, once the hampering physical body has been cast off one is released from a whole set of limitations that is hard to grasp compared with the freedom one has in the higher astral plane or higher spirit world. It is from this state (not place) where HPB continues to teach and inspire all such people who correlate with her work. It is also from here that we have many other teachers who, under the directing guidance of the Hierarchy, teach and inspire all of mankind, the True Government and Priesthood of this world.¹⁶

The Founders state here quite directly, that by special authorisation, they have been tasked to make it known to the followers of HPB that that Teacher has not reincarnated again and will not do so either¹⁷, the reasons being stated quite clearly.

"This is why it is called the Great White Lodge, for truth is like a diamond which while it reflects every ray of the colour spectrum, is nevertheless in itself pure white. So this Great Lodge contains in it the best and the truest from all teachings, and has in it Masters from all schools. Therefore every Soul seeking Mastery over the flesh can find among these Great Souls some Teacher who belongs to the same Hierarchy as himself, i.e., who had the same mental traits and tendencies and has met on the Path the same difficulties, hence can meet that student on his own mental platform, understanding perfectly his difficulties and temptations and thus the more readily give him personal help.

It is in this great School of The Lodge that the Great Teacher known as Mme. Blavatsky, to whom was given the task of preparing the Western World for the coming of the Avatar of the new sub-race, still directs and carries on that great work as one of the most able lieutenants or assistant professors to the Masters who were her Teachers. It is not as the old human personality of Mme. Blavatsky, however, that that Great Teacher should be thought of by her followers, but as the Great Soul who for a time inhabited and was hampered and limited by the traits and frailties of that complex personality. Indeed it is far more in accord with the facts of the

¹⁵ Curtiss, *Letters from the Teacher*, Volume I, pp152-153

¹⁶ Curtiss, *The Message of Aquaria*, Chapter XXXVI, The True Priesthood

¹⁷ Curtiss, *The Key of Destiny*, p291

case to drop the feminine pronoun entirely and simply refer to that Great Soul as the Teacher, instead of imposing upon her the limitations of the last incarnation in a feminine organism.

The important fact to remember in this connection is that this Great Teacher still remains in the higher Realms of the Astral and from there inspires, works with and influences, to the degree that each will permit, respond and follow, not only the Society which she founded and all the sects into which it is now split up, but also every group of students throughout the world who are seeking to promulgate any phase or aspect of the Wisdom Religion and who are unprejudiced and open minded enough to respond to the more advanced conceptions of it to which she has now attained. For remember that even that Great Teacher has advanced far beyond anything which could be grasped while still in the flesh, and has cast off with the limitation of the personality, many of the limiting conceptions of truth held while in the flesh and hence must present new aspects and points of view which were not appreciated or perhaps were unknown while on earth. For it is unthinkable that so great a Soul with so great a mission would lay it aside or cease to advance merely because a hampering overcoat or outer garment of flesh had been laid aside. We can, therefore, say from positive personal knowledge and with special authorization that this Great Teacher has not incarnated again, as has been frequently reported, and has no intention of doing so again in this Race or even in this World period. For to do so would involve the loss of at least twenty or twenty-five years of precious time during the most vital period of this transitional cycle of the Race, while the new brain and the personality of the new body was being trained as a fitting instrument.

Incarnation would also limit the activities of that Teacher to a single human personality, whereas by remaining in the higher Realms of the astral the activities are unlimited and can be carried on with a hundred groups of followers as well as with one, each emphasizing some special phase of the Great Work that might not appeal to the other groups and working with people who would not be attracted to the higher life through any other channel. This is another great reason why all schools, societies and workers in this field, while maintaining their own point of view and doing their own work with their own followers, should nevertheless work more closely hand in hand with their fellow workers than heretofore, thus demonstrating that the Brotherhood they all preach is a realizable fact among themselves. Thus they can appear before the world as "Pupils of the same Great Teacher, children of the one sweet mother."

The above explains why this Great Teacher appears to many students in a mist of beautiful, clear, rich violet light; for violet is the colour of the higher Realms of the Astral World."¹⁸

The higher Realms of the astral plane is that state where all advanced spiritual seekers and initiates spend most of their *time* between incarnations. We place the term *time* in italics for there is no time as we know it in this state. For those with some clairvoyant ability, visions and reflections seen from this state are indeed of the most beautiful violet, whereby whole scenes are out pictured in myriad shades of violet.

The majority of the population spend their 'time' in the middle astral plane, which is populated by all the so-called heavens of the many hundreds of religions, creeds, sects and belief systems that exist on this world. The lower astral plane is where we find that state termed purgatory. We refer the reader to *Realms of the Living Dead* for a full explanation on after death conditions.

The above is indeed a rare glimpse into the 'after life' of HPB. Whilst in the flesh, HPB led an extraordinary life, from her birth right up to her last breath. The following excerpt will shed some light on her most complex personality, and should be especially interesting for those occultists and scholars that have made a deep study of her life. In the books, *The Seventh Seal* and *The Voice of Isis*, an in depth explanation is made on the subject of 'the twain one flesh,' or the Doctrine of the twin souls. It is a deep *Teaching of the Order*¹⁹ that we as monads or individuals represent either the masculine or feminine principle and mainly incarnate in that state i.e. as males or females. Yet there are reasons why the masculine principle may incarnate in a feminine body and vice versa. The teaching is applied to HPB herself in her last incarnation, where as a masculine principle she had incarnated

¹⁸ Curtiss, *Realms of the Living Dead*, pp194-196

¹⁹ Jeanette Agnes, *The Seventh Seal*, Things that have been kept Secret from the Beginning of the World. (A pupil of the OCM).

as a female to achieve a specific purpose, much like Joan of Arc,²⁰ incarnating as a female to make the defeat of the English doubly humiliating.

“The second and rare cause for a change of sex is that a Soul may have reached a degree of Mastery, yet, owing to the World-Karma, and to the restrictions of conventionality, such a Soul may never have fully grasped or understood the opposite sex. For instance, a Soul expressing the masculine principle might be deeply desirous of entering into the experience of the inmost depths of the opposite Soul-expression so as to see its temptations, feel its oppression and learn its limitations, and thus be ready to take up a special work in the coming age, whose key-note is the equalization of the sexes and the liberation and the restoration of woman to her proper place. Therefore, a Great Teacher in preparing to take the place of Leader in such an age might naturally desire to be clothed for one life period with a female outer covering. But even in this case it would be evident to all thinkers that the sex of the entity differed from that of the body. Such a Great Teacher, moreover, might use that period (which would be her last earth experience), in entering into all phases of life. She might use the power possessed by all such Teachers to merge the apparent personality into various other personalities. Thus, for a time, she might have to become one with and apparently manifest the qualities of a depraved sister, a swearing, roistering swashbuckler, a pirate, a learned scholar or any other phase of humanity. She would thus, in a measure, be gaining the experience of humanity in the only way that would make the experience her very own, knowing all the temptations and also the inner germ of love and hope that even the most degraded hide somewhere within. Such a Great Teacher might be compared to an author who, in gathering data for a coming work, lives for a time in each class of society. But in the case of the Great Teacher the power would be hers to absolutely become, for a time, the personality she desired to study.

Thus when her Great Work began she would know just how to deal with all types of brothers and sisters, and from the higher planes be ready to direct the reaping of the golden grain sprung from the seeds of Divine Truth planted during her last earthly incarnation. Such a complex personality was she who planted the seed of the Wisdom Religion in the Western world. And she is still directing its garnering from the higher planes.”²¹

The above text points to the fact that as HPB, that Teacher experienced its last incarnation on the physical plane. It is a teaching of the occult that even the Avatars such as Jesus, Krishna, Buddha and all others desire to learn while they are physically incarnated. It is on the physical plane with its difficulties and limiting conditions that true learning and spiritual development take place and therefore enlightened beings make good use of the opportunity to learn as much as they can over and above the spiritual mission for which they incarnated in the first place. Having a core of pupils and being intimately involved in their personal lives, interests, abilities, trials and tribulations, they learn exponentially. This is a great privilege afforded to a true Teacher, as the Teacher learns the most, a privilege that has been earned by meritorious service in a previous incarnation. The Founders state here that as HPB she did her best to gain as much earth experience as possible from all life conditions in order to be able to help, assist and teach others when the time came. This would explain why she travelled the world so extensively and experienced so many incredible adventures during the first 45 years of her life.

It is instructive to note the reasons given as to her incarnating in the body of a woman, implying that her soul essence was fundamentally male in energy. In her day the western world had just emerged from the cruel and dark period of the ignorance and savagery of the middle ages, such period with its atrocities and superstitions mainly dominated by a system of brutal patriarchy. Was it then a part of her mission to break the rut of spiritual domination by men? If so, it was well achieved. During her mission, men world-wide accepted her spiritual leadership unquestionably. Also, many woman that were taught and inspired by her came to great prominence in a number of contemporary spiritual movements of the time. *The Teachings of the Order of Christian Mystics* clearly elevate woman as the

²⁰ Curtiss, *Reincarnation*, p34

²¹ Curtiss, *The Voice of Isis*, pp162-163

moral and spiritually superior and dominant force^{22, 23} on the more subtle or intuitional levels, therefore being able to inspire spirituality from above where-as the role of men dominate the spiritual level from the physical plane.

(to be continued)

²² Curtiss, *The Divine Mother*

²³ Curtiss, *Why Are We Here?* Chapter VII, The Woman's Age

CHAPTER X

THE TEACHER OF THE ORDER (CONTINUED)

“Have you no confidence in the love and power of the great Masters of Wisdom to protect and sustain you when you study Their teachings or would be about Their business?”

Curtiss, *Gems of Mysticism*, p14

“You can set it down for a positive fact that no Master of Wisdom ever did, ever will or ever could advertise Himself or give out spiritual teachings at so much per lesson. Nor is there any such thing as an Initiate of the Great White Lodge upon the physical plane acting in His physical body, and claiming to be such. The Great White Lodge does not work that way. If there were such an Initiate thus working you would probably never find it out; for He would go about, like the Master Jesus, among the sick and poor, and be despised of men, His works alone proclaiming Him.”

Curtiss, *Letters from the Teacher Vol I*, p10

“Behold, I stand at the door and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me”

Revelation iii, 20

To the occultist who has the interest to study *The Secret Doctrine* and *Isis Unveiled* comes many wondrous jewels of great price, one of them being the Teaching of the very Foundation of this world. It is an occult teaching in all the mystery schools that man comes from above and descends to the lowest point below, here on the physical plane, and through spiritual development we retrace our steps upwards until we are once more above, but naturally in a far higher state. This can be termed the pilgrimage through matter, through all matter that is, the physical, astral and mental planes, for these all constitute “matter” or what we term the manifested universe. In the beginning of this cosmic week we were cast out of the Divine world to enlighten ourselves in this the manifestation, and through our pilgrimage through matter become once more acceptable to the Most High and so be accepted back in the Divine. We, as Divine sparks, occupied a position in the Divine world and when we return we will occupy a much higher state or position. The occult axiom describing this process states that you have to go down first before you can go up.

Yet this process of descending into more and more gross matter from the higher ethereal planes is not easily grasped or understood. How does man, an astral being in paradise, *physically* manifest. How does this process work? To the authors knowledge this process is described as best as it may in the abovementioned two works. It is interesting to compare such processes with speculations from scientists, who postulate that in the atmosphere of Jupiter, there may well be a layer in which life is possible, as the atmosphere of Jupiter gradually changes from very ethereal to more dense strata as one progresses deeper into its atmosphere. Speculations abound that such zones may also exist in the atmosphere or on the surface of Venus where life may be possible. Compare such scientific speculations together with the teachings of HPB on such issues with the following lesson as given to *The Order of Christian Mystics* by *The Teacher of the Order* on the formation of a living planet.

WORLD CHAINS

“Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made.” Genesis, II, 1-2.

“Whirling, glowing ether, fluidic but cohesive, throwing off sparks. Encountering moist air it sends up clouds of vapour in its rapid motion. The Great Mother sends out her breath to blow cool and moist upon the fiery offshoots of the Father. Little by little it gathers density until the children suited to its condition begin to move in its fiery heart like tiny flames, yet flames that have life and independent motion. All life is now ‘gaseous light.’ The spirits of the gases hover over the glowing vapoury mass. They fan it with their wings that it may cool and harden. Within the womb of the World Mother an infant globe slowly takes form. At last upon this whirling sphere there descends, in one great rush, the spirits of the Great Ones destined to prepare this ethereal dwelling place for humanity. These are men indeed, MEN, Divine Men, Manus, who reached their godlike state on former chains of worlds. They begin their work on the first and earliest globe of this chain in its most ethereal condition. Their work is to inform and prepare this life-essence for future use. “They blow their cool breath upon the glowing vapoury globe and lo! it solidifies into the prototypes of that which becomes rock and mineral, imprisoning the Spirit of Life. Their life blood becomes currents of living force. They hover over the face of the Great Deep. Into the waters they breathe their life breath and the waters are filled with innumerable living forms. From the waters and the cooling rocks a great mist arises. (Genesis II, 6). It is the Spirit or life-element of the coming humanity. It separates into masses.

They take form and become ethereal beings floating like clouds over the still ethereal planet. Through all this first Round the Creators are engaged in preparing the earth, informing the prototypes of that which is to be. It is the breath of their nostrils, the blood-stream of their life forces that is both transforming and reappearing in the life of the elements.

“Ere the earliest types are ready to take on denser ethereal forms they pass into a sleep, which in this early stage is but a slight cooling down of the globe. Then a new day dawns, the Second Round. A new form of life appears, the vegetable. Once more must the Parents of the Race guide the pure but as yet incorporeal beings, the Second Race, and teach them how to inform the planet. The Manus must enter, through the breath of their nostrils, into the formation of the new globe. They must permeate the mineral to give it consciousness and penetrate the vegetable, very like the water of the ocean flowing through coral or some spongy substance, leaving behind its informing principle. As yet humanity is globular and ethereal, but must become acquainted with the globe on which it dwells. It becomes the mineral, the stone, the water, the air. The oceans are of carbonic acid, and the air is saturated with its evaporation. Gigantic trees form from the carboniferous exhalations of the early Races. The immense coal beds were thus created by the informing Beings, the Progenitors of the coming humanity.

“After a pralactic night of short duration they are ready for a new globe; they awaken to a new condition, the Third Round. Different strata have been formed. The earth’s crust has formed over the minerals and the giant trees. Now gigantic reptiles and beasts roam the earth, with bodies and functions adapted to the existing conditions. Humanity is not yet ready to take solid form.

“In the Fourth Round humanity falls into generation; is endowed with mind by the Sons of Mind. God breathes into man’s nostrils the breath of life and he becomes a living Soul. As humanity reaches the lowest point of this Fourth Round, the human body solidifies. The spiritual powers and psychic faculties are now limited and all but lost in the dense physical envelope; mind begins to develop. From this point onward man must work out his own redemption, together with that of the earth. Up to this time his evolution and that of the earth had been guided and directed by the Manus or the Rishis, the Progenitors of all that lives and breathes on Earth.”

The above is an extract from a cryptic lesson given by the Master to the Order explaining the formation of a World Chain, but which the limits of this lesson are far too short to fully explain.”¹

It is relatively easy to picture in the imagination the formation of a physical planet through the process of condensation, as we see such processes in the realms of science every day. But to picture the formation of a plant, an animal or a human being is far harder. If we but once have a planet with plant, animal and human life it would be a simple matter to populate other planets through seeding and transferring life-forms physically, but the formation of the first proto-life remains much of a mystery to this day and makes the above extract suggestive.

¹ Curtiss, *The Voice of Isis*, pp204-206

The above extract forms part of a private lesson as given out by *The Teacher of the Order of Christian Mystics* to many of its pupils. It is hoped that through a work such as this many more of these writings will become available, scattered as they are throughout the world, and to be collected and made available to interested occultists in the continued teachings of that Teacher that was HPB. This extract was published in the first book of formal teachings by *The Order of Christian Mystics*, originally sent out to its pupils in monthly lesson form, *The Voice of Isis*. Every edition of *The Voice of Isis* has the following announcement on its title page, clearly referring to the fact that the teachings were inspired by *The Teacher of the Order*.

“*The Voice of Isis*, By the Teacher of The Order of Christian Mystics”²

Much occult lore is extant in the works of HPB on the earlier races and their various sub-races. But what does the future hold? It is stated that we are at the close of a major cycle, the Piscean Age and entering the Age of Enlightenment, the Age of Aquarius. Together with the beginnings of this age will be the beginnings of a new Race, the sixth sub-race of the Fifth Great Race. It is this Race, the beginnings of which can be felt and seen today, that will be a race of Initiates who will be far more in touch with the Godhead as has been possible up to this day. Already the forerunners of this Race are being born to usher in the great tide when this race will dominate the next world period. *The Teacher of the Order* explains further:

As the Teacher of the O.C.M. has said: “Just as in the trifling period of a man’s life or of a single day there are twelve hours, and over these hours there plays the seven-fold manifestations of our life, each emanation in turn bringing its influence into the day, the moment and the second to the infinitesimal point within the second, so it is with this Great Law manifesting in larger and ever wider circles of manifestation. This is so familiar that we hear often of the great Clock of the Ages with its twelve hours and its seven powers. This great sidereal clock is often called the zodiac, and each of the signs of the zodiac is but an hour in this great day-period.

“Like the days in the week and the hours of the day, you will find upon close analysis that the influences of these zodiacal signs, or, to speak more correctly, the influences of these Angelic Rulers of the hours of the heavens, manifest just as distinctively and as perfectly through the periods of the day as in the greater periods of the year. Moreover, every one of the so-called planets, or more correctly speaking their Angelic Rulers, rule over and emphasize those periods of the day and bring upon the Soul the varying experiences, joys, temptations and testings which a careful study of the greater map of the heavens will elucidate and make clear. . . . From the beginnings of time this great Clock of the Heavens has marked off its hours, and the Planetary Rulers, the Regents of the Stars, have passed in grand procession with the torch of their inimitable illumination through the pathways marked out. That which is true of the little things of life is equally true of the Cosmos and we find that through the different Races of mankind these same planetary configurations have ruled, hence we find that each of the seven Great Races of mankind has been the direct outpouring of one of the great planetary expressions. Now that we understand it, let us consider the Races of mankind, each Race being the expression of one of the cosmic emanations called the Planetary Hierarchies, although in each Race all the Hierarchies must manifest. And in each Race the hours, symbolized by the zodiacal signs, are passed through largely as a Race. When its hour strikes, or when its day is done, that Race sinks into oblivion and that portion of the globe upon which it manifested is either changed and prepared for the new day or it is swept away, according to the hour or the great day or the period or the cycle.

“Today we are reaching a time when this great Clock of the Heavens is pointing to a most important era. The Third Race of mankind was in reality the first physical race. I speak now of the ancient Lemurians. When its final hour of dissolution struck, the whole continent of Lemuria sunk beneath the waves and with it the Race disappeared. But as the racial hours passed by, certain conditions we will say or a certain embryonic larva, was deposited in the soul of humanity—in the thought world, in the psychic realms, *et cetera*—which was to be developed and built into the subsequent Races.

“We are now entering the sixth sub-race of the Fifth Great Race. This is the most important of all the sub-races of the Fifth, inasmuch as we are now planting the seed of and preparing

² Curtiss, *The Voice of Isis*, Title Page

for the Sixth Great Race. Very little thought will convince one that between this Third Race, which was the first race to materialize or to emerge from the mere astral bodies into the denser material bodies, and the Sixth Race—which is the ‘third hour’ after it completed the triune manifestation—there must be a very important relation. In other words, on the Spiral of Evolution the Sixth Race stands directly over the Third Race. It completes the triangle. It is the other diagonal side; the lower, more dense, physical, horizontal line of the triangle being represented by the Fourth Race and the Fifth. Therefore it is quite reasonable to suppose that as the hour of the Sixth Great Race is marked out in the heavens there should gradually come about changes quite as marked as were the changes from the more ethereal bodies into dense physical bodies, but these changes will be in the reverse order. In other words, the more dense physical bodies will gradually merge into more ethereal bodies, bodies in touch with the higher ruling spiritual emanations of the Godhead, and a continent will also emerge from the Great Deep prepared for a Race such as we have described.”³

It is intimated that it is in America that this new Race will initially take shape. Life on the physical plane, here on Earth, is but an extension of life on the higher realms. When we pass on we are surprised just how much the astral plane resembles the physical plane,⁴ but here we are far more limited in expression where we are crucified daily on the cross of matter. When we leave our physical bodies at night during sleep, we find ourselves on the astral plane, where we can see, feel, hear and talk just as we do on the physical plane. This means that our psychic senses are fully operational on the astral plane and we are therefore fully psychic. Upon entering the physical body once more, our vibrations slow down to a sluggish state, and we lose this psychic ability and have to make use of our physical senses. On the astral plane we can change our dreams and scenery to suit our needs during dream control, lucid dreaming or astral travel as our thoughts are able to change the astral stuff or matter very easily. If we meet a person on the astral plane and we see that they are surrounded by negativity then on request we can visualize this negativity away and the person feels better or is healed. During normal waking hours while we are in possession of our physical bodies, our mind and thoughts can still change the astral stuff or matter and this forms the basis of occult healing and psychology. The only real difference is that for the majority of us we do not see the effects on the astral plane as we are not psychic. But life on the physical has its definite counterpart as to life on the astral and if this is firmly grasped, magical practices, occult healing and the implementation of occult psychology becomes possible.

Such system of occult psychology was extensively used by the Order under direction of its Teacher and has been discussed in more depth in the chapter on *Spiritual Hygiene and Occult Psychology*.

One of *The Teachings of the Order* explains how communication with departed ones works and also how to communicate with any being according to the *Independent Method*.⁵ For those interested in, and who wish to attempt communication with their departed loved ones, it is recommended to ask *The Teacher of the Order*, for help and protection.

“And the next time it is attempted you should send out a mental call either for the Teacher of this Order, or The Christ, to send you a protecting helper until you are thoroughly trained, as much to train the one desiring to communicate with you as to protect yourself. Also tell your loved ones to ask for the workers of this Order to instruct and help them in what-ever Realm they may be.”⁶

What is implied here is that any member of the Order can invoke (ask for help from a higher one) *The Teacher of the Order* to help and assist in any matter. In this case, whilst trying to communicate with a departing one, for help to ensure

³ Curtiss, *The Key of Destiny*, pp37-39

⁴ Curtiss, *Personal Survival*, Chapter XXIV, Letters from Heaven

⁵ Curtiss, *Realms of the Living Dead*, p197

⁶ Curtiss, *Realms of the Living Dead*, p231

that the communication does in fact take place with the correct departed spirit and not an impostor. It is also mentioned that the Order has workers in the astral plane that can be asked to help and assist when invoked to do so. Departed spirits can also be helped in the astral plane in a variety of ways if they are open to such help. The above extract encompasses a deep teaching as to occult psychology and when grasped properly becomes an empowering teaching to the seeker, for it but shows the workings of that ancient axiom, as above so below.

A case study is given in the chapter on *Spiritual Hygiene and Occult Psychology* and has to do with a person who suffers from a drinking habit, *enforced by a discarnate drunkard*, and successfully healed through following the instructions of *The Teacher of the Order*, as given elsewhere in this work. The method employed constitutes a true banishment ritual incorporating Divine invocation such as *The Morning Prayer*⁷ and can be performed by all, on condition that one has an understanding of the subtle planes and a belief in the efficacy of such methods.

Those that pass on have but shed their outer body and are still in command of their astral and mental bodies, therefore they can still think, reason, see, hear, smell, communicate and *desire*. If you pass on and still have a strong desire for drink, money, ambition or still care greatly for a loved one, you are then bound by such desire, until it has been worked out and you are released to the higher spirit planes. This process is called purgatory and lies at the root of many psychological disorders, obsessions, impulses and the like, suffered by living humanity daily, *and which are not their own*. Such processes are well described in an empowering way for practical occultists throughout *The Teachings of the Order of Christian Mystics* and specifically in *Realms of the Living Dead*⁸ and *Personal Survival*.

As there are many hierarchies, societies, organisations, races, mind-sets, cultures and the like on the physical plane, such stratification is also to be found on the higher planes although to a far simpler degree. Here we may refer to the immutable symbol of the pyramid, where the base represents the utmost degree of differentiation (that which we find on the physical plane) and the pinnacle represents the Most High, the Supreme Being, the Ultimate Unity. *The Order of Christian Mystics* belongs to that Hierarchy representing one of the Seven Rays⁹ that caters for the Western mind set. Such teachings as are able to be assimilated by westerners in the true Western mystical tradition. Pupils of the Order who have loved ones that pass on were able to make use of the services of the Order whereby a call to *The Teacher of the Order* would ensure that the awakening spirit would be surrounded by loved ones upon entering the astral plane, and if none such were available or interested then workers of the Order would form such a welcoming committee. It is a well known fact that people who are close to passing over very often see their departed loved ones standing by their beds and communicating with them.

“Those who know of these helpers can therefore be met and be taken care of, students of this Order being met by members of the Order over there acting under the direction of the Teacher of the Order. They can also arrange for their loved ones to be met by a reception committee which will include the dear ones who have gone before, provided they are still interested in those left behind and naturally wish to welcome them. Such a reception is by no means confined to members of the Order of Christian Mystics, for all that is necessary for anyone in any part of the world is to send out a mental wireless call for the invisible helpers and the loved ones will be gathered to greet the newcomer. These facts are the basis for the belief in the efficacy of prayers for the dead—purgatory being simply the lower Realm of the Astral World—also for the belief in the value of baptism for the dead as advocated by St. Paul,

⁷ Curtiss, *Potent Prayers*

⁸ Curtiss, *Realms of the Living Dead*, pp126–128

⁹ Curtiss, *The Voice of Isis*, Special Information

for not only do such prayers surround the loved one with comforting, helpful and protective thought forces, but they also serve to call the attention of the invisible helpers to their needs.”¹⁰

This but shows the truth that what happens above also happens below. We can therefore ask mentally for help from above through a process called prayer or invocation and this will bring its inevitable result, much the same as a cry for help on the physical plane brings physical help. It is stated quite clearly that such help is not only available to the students of the Order but to all people as there are helpers in the astral realm suited for each race and mind-set as well as helpers in general. Every prayer that is uttered by mankind is heard by those above and help sent in equal proportion to the real need of that cry for help or prayer.

In the days when HPB was in the flesh, it has been well documented that a number of people were in contact with the Mahatmas of HPB and received personal correspondence on many spiritual matters. However, at the passing of HPB the leadership of the Theosophical Society at that time made claims and counter-claims as to who was still privileged enough to receive such personal letters, thereby showing who would assume overall leadership of the Society. Such unending squabbles are well documented and has become a blot on the work of the Theosophical Society in general. The following letter from *The Teacher of the Order* puts the record straight as to the continued contact with the Mahatmas of HPB.

June 12, 1922

“How can I get personal guidance from Mahatma K. H.? I wrote to _____ at _____ India, to send my enclosed letter to Mahatma K. H. Will your Teacher inform me if the Mahatma received my letter?”

As to your desire to come into touch with the Mahatma K. H., in our conception regarding such communications we differ widely from the teachings largely promulgated by the _____. As you have doubtless heard and know, it was given out that after the departure from this Earth of the great Soul, Madame Blavatsky, the Masters had withdrawn and would not come into personal communication with their pupils before the end of this present century, *i.e.*, about 1975. But in spite of this widely circulated report there are many in the _____, especially _____ who claim to come into personal touch with her Masters. Now, from our knowledge what was meant by this report was that the Masters would no longer come into physical every-day touch with Their pupils in the way of answering letters, etc., because in the early days that privilege had been so much abused. As perhaps you know, the foundation of the many inharmonies in the _____ (persecution of _____ and many other conditions resulting in the inharmony prevailing today) was started in what we would call childish quarrels over supremacy in receiving personal letters from the Masters.¹¹

We would have little respect for the Great White Lodge were such a policy continued, yet there is no doubt whatever that the Great Lodge of Masters is still concerned intimately and deeply with the affairs of the world; that They are helping in every way to promulgate the higher ideals of Their Teachings. But having found that this intimate physical communication awoke in humanity only rivalry and inharmony.

They now work in quite a different way; in fact, in a very impersonal way. Whenever a pupil desires to ask really vital questions, there are certain avenues through which the answers will be sent, but they will be sent in an absolutely impersonal manner, with no name of any special Master signed to them. Every communication given out is given in such a way that there can be no claim of the personality to have had greater privileges than anyone else.

In other words, every communication from the Masters comes for the good of humanity and in a way not to add to the vanity of the individual. Therefore, we would not, if we could, tell you whether the letter you sent to the Headquarters was received by Master K. H. or not. But we will say to you that if you have anything which is absolutely vital and to which you wish to receive an answer, provided you have fulfilled the requirements pointed out in our *Letter of Information*, we will lay it before the Lodge and take the answer from any source which in the wisdom of the Lodge is considered to be best, without demanding any signatures.¹²

¹⁰ Curtiss, *Realms of the Living Dead*, p49

¹¹ See the Mahatma letters to A.P. Sinnett

¹² Curtiss, *Letters from the Teacher Volume II*, pp115-116

HPB was accused by the leadership of the Theosophical Society and many of its pupils of having left the Society leaderless and without guidance, a claim she strenuously objects to as revealed later in this section under a chapter headed “*A Message from Madame Blavatsky*.” The only way she could continue to communicate with her followers was through advanced pupils and such training took many years before direct contact could once again be established with agents on the earth plane, being the *Founders of the Order*. The Order could then once more continue with her work and provide a direct link between the followers of HPB and the Masters. This time such communication would be provided on an impersonal basis, leaving it to the student to accept the answer as coming from the Masters or not. For many years the *Founders of The Order of Christian Mystics* refused to divulge any information about themselves as they deemed this would affect the sincerity of their work and message. This is one of the reasons why even to this day, so little is known about the personalities of the Founders.

The method of instruction as put forth by the Order was one of impersonal teaching as the vast majority of its pupils were contactable only through correspondence. Such teaching inevitably meant that the pupil would have to work far harder on his own spiritual development through application of spiritual laws and teachings in self study, then would be the case if a pupil could attend regular classes somewhere with a regular teacher. Therefore spoon-feeding was not the order of the day and the remarkable insights and experiences gained by its pupils is attested to in the various letters as published in *Letters from the Teacher Volumes I & II*. True spiritual development is gained through individual effort and not through special privileges. *No one can claim to give spiritual development. Only the Soul itself can earn it.*¹³ This is a central teaching throughout the published works of the Order.

“Have I reached that point where I am ready for personal instruction? Am I ready to come into personal touch with the Masters of Wisdom? What directions can you give for forming such contact?”

The way in which a pupil is brought into personal touch with the Masters of Wisdom is firstly, as we state in our circulars: “It will be *only through your own individual effort*, your attitude of Soul, and the character of your life that will enable you to place yourself in personal, conscious touch with the Masters. *It depends upon no personality but your own.*” And secondly, until this conscious touch has been made, you may come into personal touch by correspondence with the Order. For whenever a pupil writes, in singleness of purpose and with a heart-cry for help and enlightenment, the letter sent him in reply is dictated by a Master of Wisdom. Often the application of the letter thus transmitted is not understood by the agents, for they may not understand the circumstances of the pupil, but, nevertheless, the pupil can see the application of the message. Often, too, the letters are beyond the full comprehension of the pupil unless he studies and meditates upon them. That is, the intuition of the pupil is not sufficiently awakened to perceive under the words the answer to his real need. And since, as it frequently happens, the pupil has his own ideas of what he needs, while the Master takes quite a different view of the situation, it is, in reality, a severe test to the pupil and he often fails to pass it, being unable to recognize the Master’s words. Thus the pupil wonders why he has not come into personal touch, as he understands it, and perhaps accuses the Order of misrepresentation. But *there is no claim made in the letters* that they are dictated by a Master of Wisdom. They are signed by the Secretary who says that he is “directed by the Teacher of the Order to say,” leaving it to the pupil to accept it, as from a Master or from the human brain of the Secretary, as his intuition directs.

If, however, the pupil recognizes something more than mere human wisdom in the letters and welcomes the Master’s words, it is seldom long ere he or she is in interior, personal communication with the Master who dictated the letter. Indeed, many of the more advanced pupils receive the answers to their questions before they have finished writing them to the Secretary and the latter’s letter merely confirms what they had received interiorly.

¹³ Curtiss, *Letters from the Teacher Volume I*, 3rd Ed., 1919, p69

You are ready for personal help when you can recognize and accept the instruction when it comes. Such personal help cannot be withheld when the demand is made; but *it never flatters* the pupil. On this account the pupil often thinks that the Master does not appreciate him at his true worth, that is, at his own estimation of himself; for the Master gives what is most needed rather than what is most wanted. . .”¹⁴

The above letter contains so much vital information as to spiritual instruction that a whole book may be written on the subject. Much is said throughout the works of *The Order of Christian Mystics* on the development of personal intuition (or tuition from within) for this is ultimately the final Teacher that one has to rely on when physical teachers can do no more for you, personal instruction through intuition from your own Father-in-heaven, the Higher Self. When studying the lessons, letters and works of the Order one comes to a deep realization that the writings are not the intellectualisation of the Founders, but that they are indeed the emanations of something much higher and Divine, as the style of writing, and the simplicity of the teachings strike a chord deep within the heart. We term such writings as being truly inspired for no human agency can hold so much love, understanding and wisdom. The Founders state in this letter very clearly that they are but agents of the Teacher, a pipe delivering water to a parched and thirsty land and no more.

Students of the occult, through their own personal effort in developing spiritually, develop an initial occult power which we term sensitivity. As the seeker makes a determined effort to better himself through his everyday daily actions, his aura becomes filled with light and the seeker comes to the attention of the Higher Ones who are ever ready to extend a helping hand to those that ask for it. This is the true *Invisible Order*, so much written about in the past. The pupil becomes more or less sensitive to the vibrations of the higher realms and through development of his intuition comes into contact with higher teachings and forces. This can be distinctly felt by many, that you are no longer alone. Guidance from within starts to take place, through strong impressions during waking life, through dreams, visions and waking up in the morning with the answer that you have been asking for, ready at hand. Small, everyday miracles start to happen. Intervention into the life of the seeker starts to take place. This is one of the first steps in developing a direct contact with a higher being as achieved by both the Founders as per the *Independent Methods* as described in *Realms of the Living Dead*. This process of guidance or intervention is shown most pointedly in all the myths, fairytales and fables, where some sort of Divine intervention takes place in the life of the hero in order to achieve the final quest. For as soon as we set out to lead a different life, or the higher life, in which our highest spiritual ideals become our main driving force, we become different from the ordinary man in the street, for we have now consciously invoked our Higher Self to illumine our life and mind, and so set our feet on the path of spiritual initiation and enlightenment.

But the case of each who is pledged to the HIGHER SELF is quite another matter. You cannot invoke this Divine Witness with Impunity, and once that you have put yourselves under its tutelage, you have asked the Radiant Light to shine and search through all the dark corners of your being; consciously you have invoked the Divine Justice of Karma to take note of your motive, to scrutinize your actions, and to enter up all in your account. The step is irrevocable as that of the infant taking birth. Never again can you force yourselves back into the matrix of Avidyâ (ignorance) and irresponsibility. Though you flee to the uttermost parts of the earth, and hide yourselves from the sight of men, or seek oblivion in the tumult of the social whirl, that Light will find you out and lighten your every thought, word and deed. All HPB can do is to send to each earnest one among you a most sincerely fraternal sympathy and hope for a good outcome to your endeavours. Nevertheless, be not discouraged, but try, ever keep trying; twenty failures are not irremediable if followed by as many undaunted struggles upward. Is

¹⁴ Curtiss, *Letters from the Teacher, Volume I*, 3rd Ed., 1919, pp83-84

it not so that mountains are climbed? . . . Finally, keep ever in mind the consciousness that though you see no Master by your bedside, nor hear one audible whisper in the silence of the still night, yet the Holy Power¹⁵ is about you, the Holy Light is shining into your hour of spiritual need and aspirations . . .

The next chapter in this section deals with subject matter whereby *The Order of Christian Mystics* and its Teacher being HPB openly proclaim their source of guidance and inspiration, given out at the closing stages of the Order in 1946, the purpose and mission of HPB and a prophecy for coming contemporary times.

The final chapter in this middle section is taken verbatim from extra lessons as published by *The Order of Christian Mystics* from time to time and gives a rare insight into the daily life experiences of the Founders and the ease with which they have constant direct communion with their Teacher on every conceivable bit of subject matter. It also gives further insight into the Atlantean disaster and the workings and effects of the black magicians of bygone times, how the Founders were able to instruct and communicate with the nature spirits as well as the transmutation of the earth.

To close of this chapter we give instructions from HPB as to how to live a progressive life of spiritual attainment.¹⁶ These have been published in previous works and are words of golden wisdom and encouragement for the seeker to indeed 'endure courageously all perceived personal injustice,' for to live the spiritual life one has to constantly search the soul and drive out all imperfections so as to transmute the bodies through personal alchemy. This is one of the most difficult things to do, to face up to ones life conditions and to courageously accept ones personal karma and to transmute such into spiritual gold.

"If there is any doubt left in regard to the Path we point out, to reach this attainment we will briefly recapitulate.

Think only constructively if you desire spiritual growth.

Do cheerfully and well the duty that lies nearest.

Conquer the little faults as they show themselves.

Never let a day pass without its period of selfexamination, meditation and communion with the Divine.

Do unto others as ye would that others should do unto you.

Learn to love in its truest and grandest sense.

Do not criticize others, even though your criticism seems just, for to do so you must dwell mentally in the conditions you criticize.

Be not afraid to face and recognize your own faults.

At the same time be not discouraged.

Have perfect confidence in your power ultimately to conquer through The Christ within. For the voice of The Christ declares, "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."

The following are the requirements given by a Great Teacher of HPB to those who seek Illumination:

Behold the Truth before you;

A clean life;

An open mind;

A pure heart;

An eager intellect;

An unveiled spiritual perception;

A brotherliness for one's co-disciple;

A readiness to give and receive instruction;

A loyal sense of duty to the Teacher;

A willing obedience to the behests of Truth once we have placed our confidence in and believe that Teacher to be in possession of it;

A courageous endurance of personal injustice;

¹⁵ Blavatsky, *Occultism of the Secret Doctrine*, p529

¹⁶ Curtiss, *The Voice of Isis*, pp384-385

A brave declaration of principles;
A valiant defence of those who are unjustly attacked;
A constant eye to the ideal of human progression and perfection which the secret science depicts.

These are the golden stairs up the steps of which the learner may climb to the Temple of Divine Wisdom.

All things are possible unto him who believes.

CHAPTER XI

A MESSAGE FROM MADAME BLAVATSKY

“Dedicated to the Few . . . True Mystics in the Theosophical Society”

HPB, *The Voice of the Silence*

The following Divine Teaching, one of many, as transmitted from HPB to her pupils and disciples is significant from many points of view. For followers of the Teachings of HPB it is a document that is truly invaluable from an esoteric point of view. It shows the clarity of mind and purpose of the ascended Teachers in transmitting clear, concise and meaningful Teachings to their advanced pupils, as has been done since Biblical times and far beyond. It shows the ability of advanced disciples and initiates to receive such Teachings according to the ‘independent method’¹ as described in *The Teachings of the Order of Christian Mystics*. It shows to the pupils of esoteric organisations that such methods are real and are employed in the day to day running of advanced Orders *then and now* existent on the physical plane. It shows the reality and truth of the Teachings as given through-out the ages of the Sacred Government or True Priesthood that governs the spiritual destiny of all mankind. It is a rare glimpse into the hidden life and existence of such Teachers where they reveal their true purpose and mission from the more advanced understanding that they have, operating from a less limited platform on the higher planes than when they were incarnate on the physical plane. Here we have a directly transmitted communiqué from a Great World Teacher and the Founder of the Theosophical Society to its members world-wide.

A MESSAGE FROM MADAME BLAVATSKY ²

Transcribed by

DR. AND MRS. F. HOMER CURTISS

Founders of The Universal Religious Fellowship, Inc.

Authors of “The Curtiss Books”

The many messages from Madame Blavatsky given to the authors in her own handwriting and over her own identified signature, as reproduced in this volume, should be sufficient evidence of the close contact the authors have had with her through many years. These messages should be sufficient evidence too, of the authenticity of the following message, dictated to Mrs. Harriette Curtiss by Madame Blavatsky, Oct. 16th, 1928.

This message was transmitted via the method of Theopneusty¹ to Harriette Augusta Curtiss, or her Order name of Rahmea, Priestess of the Flame, through the independent method. As described in a further chapter she was an advanced initiate of *The Order of the Flame*, or *The Order of the 10*, as she had a direct contact upwards to a Divine Being. Such ability is not easily achieved and had taken very long and wearisome training, over many incarnations. As shall be seen in further

¹ Curtiss, *Realms of the Living Dead*, p13, Chapter XVI, XVIII

² F. Homer Curtiss, *Personal Survival*, Chapter XI, pp113-123

chapters, Mrs. Curtiss had the ability of instant contact with her Teacher on demand. In the chapter on *Prophecies of the Order*, remarkable accounts, visions, contacts with various High Planetary Intelligences and prophecies are put forth as presented to the consciousness of Mrs. Curtiss, let alone the many thousands of letters dictated to her by her Teacher. It is through this method that advanced initiates maintain contact with the Divine, as did HPB herself and as did many prophets through-out the ages, even in Biblical times such as St. John. "When St. John was 'in the spirit on the Lord's day' he was not under control, nor was *Revelation* given through automatic writing of any kind. He was simply in an ecstatic condition during which the Lord (or Spiritual Teacher) told him what to write, and he wrote it while in full possession of all his faculties, able to refuse if he wished."

As to the authenticity of the message, we can only fall back on the whole work, presented as *The Teachings of the Order*, which are in themselves the only authority.

This message was given to the transcribers some time ago for a special purpose.

Thirty seven years after HPB entered transition and twenty years after the proclamation of *The Order of Christian Mystics* the leadership of the Theosophical Society refused to acknowledge the breakthrough made by the Founders of the Order as the true representative of that Teacher that was HPB and the continuation of the work of that Teacher. The bitter infighting in the Theosophical Society, the disillusionment of thousands of their members and their search for guidance and leadership is well documented in many sources.³ The leadership at the time naturally believed themselves to be the spiritual successors of HPB but in reality they were only stewards of the Theosophical Society. Not being advanced Initiates there developed a natural antagonism towards *The Order of Christian Mystics*, condensed extracts of revealing letters⁴ to the Order are published in *Letters from the Teacher Volumes I & II*. The purpose of this specific letter² was to show the then current leadership of the Theosophical Society that HPB was 'alive and well' and continuing her work. It was the sincere wish of HPB and the Founders of *The Order of Christian Mystics* that the Theosophical Society would incorporate and distribute the newly inspired Teachings. This would have assisted many of its members to graduate from The Order of the 21, an order such as the Theosophical Society catering mainly for the intellect, into *The Order of the 15*, incorporating the Heart Doctrine, and deeper initiation. (Refer to *The Voice of Isis*, Degrees and Orders.)

But the Author of the message now directs them to make it public (1946, Ed.). And they herewith comply with that instruction, that the message may reach the hearts of those who are ready for it.

The Founders reveal their contact with HPB and the source of their inspiration and writings in the very first book published by the Order, *Letters from the Teacher Volume I*, as a dedication. In the very last book published by the Order, *Personal Survival*, in 1946, their source and Teacher is once more revealed. It is in this year, 1946, that Dr. Frank Homer Curtiss, Pyrahmos, enters transition and that the Order for all intents and purposes ceases to operate with a direct link to the Divine. It is a common principle of true occult fraternities to reveal their origins at the start and at the end of their Work. As it is in the beginning, so it is at the end. That which comes first shall be last, and that which is last shall come first. For those who are ready for the revelation that a letter such as this brings, to those will come the blessing

³ Cleather, H. P. *Blavatsky A Great Betrayal*, By a direct pupil of HPB.

⁴ Curtiss, *Letters from the Teacher Vol II*, p64

of the understanding that comes with it. A Divine inspiration for all followers of that Great Teacher, direct from the Higher Realms.

CURTISS PHILOSOPHIC BOOK CO., Washington, D. C.

The publishing company of the Order, one of its main financial contributors, some of their books running into 18 editions over a 40 year period.

It is very important that there should be a plain understanding of my teachings on some of the subjects which are causing so much misunderstanding among my followers in other societies, so that you can put things in a plain and definite way which will carry conviction, and will help, we hope, to bridge the chasm of separation and bring us all closer together as one family sitting at the table of our Father.

The leadership of the Theosophical Society at the time could not understand that their Founder seemed fit to continue her Work through agents other than those running the Theosophical Society, i.e., Besant, Olcott, Leadbeater, Tingley and others. Why this new avenue through *The Order of Christian Mystics*? Could HPB not have chosen one of them as her new instrument? What the leadership of the Theosophical Society could not get to grips with is that they were not advanced enough in spiritual unfolding and initiation to establish a direct contact upwards with an ascended Teacher. Thus did the fiasco with Krishnamurti also reach a climax, for the leadership was hell-bent on proving some sort of Divine continuation of the Society, which would prove false in the end, much like the mediums and many purported messages received by all and sundry after the passing of HPB. That Krishnamurti was a sincere seeker is without doubt, but he was not what the leadership made him out to be. Such manifestation was only meant to incarnate much later, i.e. 1975. Later on HPB makes it clear that she will lead and inspire any of her pupils and followers who, through their own effort, have become sensitive enough to respond to her leadership. Mrs. Curtiss, who in all likelihood only came to grips with her own Divine mission much later in her life, managed to establish a direct contact and the usual human emotions of resentment and envy come into play here against her achievement by others. It was the sincere wish of HPB that all her followers would sit around the same table and co-operate in the continuation of her work, but this was not to be the case. We see this in many spiritual societies where the leadership guard their positions jealously, and any “new inspiration” is quickly crucified with characteristic zeal.⁵

You will have difficulty in making certain ones comprehend, owing to their fixed idea that only the explanations given them by their so-called authorities can be accepted. But I want this my explanation written out so that those to whom it is shown can accept it or not; then at least we have done our part in presenting the truth.

HPB refers once again to the leadership of the Theosophical Society who remain fixed in their ideas on the teachings of the Work of HPB, as well as the personal instruction she gave whilst in the flesh. In this letter, HPB openly admits to having made many mistakes and having had many misconceptions whilst she was alive. Being human, how could it be any other way? The Masters provide the Mission to be accomplished in life, but leave it up to the free-will of the pupil as to how to

⁵ Curtiss, *Letters from the Teacher Volume 1*, 3rd Ed., 1919, pp241-242

achieve it.⁶ Now there was a more advanced avenue of Teachings and Outpouring taking place through *The Order of Christian Mystics* and why could the leadership of the Theosophical Society not accept it? This letter was therefore shown to the leadership (in 1928) in the hope that they would believe the message and thereby be released from the 'dogma' of previous instruction and be able thereby to move forward in spiritual understanding. It was also never her desire to be elevated to such esteem as she was after her passing, for she was and is to this present day elevated as some mythical cult figure, where-as in her own words, that manifestation of hers was but a personality and she but an agent, nothing more.

At the time when she who was known as Helena Petrovna Blavatsky was on earth, although she had many faults and many misconceptions she was nevertheless chosen for the great work of preparing the Western world for the coming of the Great Teacher, the Avatar.

Just as was done by John the Baptist and many others, preceding the coming of other Great Teachers. When the Avatar descends once more the world has to be ready to accept and be instructed in a New Religion, the seeds of which are planted by the messengers that come before, who till the ground and prepare the soil, so that the Great Gardener finds fertile soil for His Teachings. Therefore much preparation work is required before such an Event can take place. Today there is not a city or large town in the world that does not have a branch of the Theosophical Society operating in it, or any of the myriad offshoots of her inspiration and work, disseminating spiritual knowledge and understanding. There is today, almost without exception, any spiritual movement that does not make use of the Teachings of HPB in some form or another. That her Work and Mission initiated the Age of the Outpouring for the West is beyond question.

She was never worthy in her own eyes, except in the sense that she was willing to take up the burden and would not lay it down until the work was accomplished.

When one touches the Source of such Revelation, when one comes into conscious touch with the state of the Higher Realms and the Teachers that operate from there, a fundamental shift in the *motivation* of the aspirant takes place. This usually manifests as profound *humility* and a willingness and readiness to sacrifice *All*, even ones own spiritual advance, in the pursuit of such goals. Historic references abound of the true believers who were willing to die the cruelest deaths in defence of their faith and beliefs. HPB was no exception. The average seeker is hard pressed to understand such motivation. We see much glory in the life of Lightbearers such as HPB and many others, but it is difficult to understand that to be chosen for such a work is indeed a burden that is taken up with much resultant pain, misunderstanding and suffering. HPB was, in a sense, fortunate, to have entered transition at the relatively young age of 60. Usually Lightbearers of her standing are kept on the physical plane for much, much longer in order to do the Work of Those that sent them.

The chief work that she gave to the world, *The Secret Doctrine*, was made up largely from the Ancient Teachings, the fundamental principles of the Wisdom-Religion. These were gathered from the Ancient Teachings because there they were most accessible, and because they expressed most convincingly the essential

⁶ Curtiss, *The Voice of Isis*, p279

principles of that religion. So with many a self-interpolated dictum and with many a hammer and tongs she did the best she could.

Her main works were compiled after a life-long period of preparation, extensive research, having travelled the religious cradles of mankind and through direct Teaching and communications from her Masters. Such is well documented in the known literature on HPB. *The Secret Doctrine* is but a reference to the Truth, that Truth which is ancient in origin, and has been accessible to the Initiates and sages of all times, but now ready to be disseminated to the world and especially the Western world at large through a more public and general drive. Unlike popular belief, learning takes place below and such information is then fed upwards. Therefore, when HPB mentions that she did the best she could, she but refers to the fact that she was but a human being, prone to many faults and failings. For when one is given a Divine Mission, it is up to the free will of the agent how to accomplish that mission, for they have free will like any other, and the Masters watch and guide only and interfere as little as possible.⁶ This was so even in the life of the man of Nazareth.

And what has been the result? With great suffering and many mistakes the Theosophical Society was founded.

Such history is well documented and the results speak for themselves. "If this work be of men, it will come to naught; but if it be of God, ye cannot overthrow it; lest haply ye be found even to fight against God." The Order of Theosophy, if we may call it that, has brought light and understanding to millions.

And finally the time came for her to lay down the outer part of her physical work.

The time of transition or death of the physical body with which she did her 'outer work.' How many students of the esoteric believe in life after death but when death comes to a person they know, they quickly forget that that person or 'spirit' continues on and operates from a less limiting and more exalted state than whilst bound in the limitations of the flesh. HPB entered transition at the relatively young age of 60. From her writings⁷ we can readily accept that through her unending and tireless working, she consumed her physical life-force and came to an early end.

But did she lay it down altogether? No.

Death does not change us. We remain the same in emotion and thought after transition. If we did a work in the physical we continue with it on into the astral or spiritual world where we take it on into a more perfect state. We are just less hampered by the dense conditions of the physical plane and the physical body. It would make no sense that the spiritual work of an advanced spiritual worker would come to an end at the passing of a physical body. One part of the continuing work of that Teacher was *The Teachings of the Order of Christian Mystics*, amongst many others.

That was impossible, because when one is chosen and given a definite work to do for the Masters in a definite cycle that work must come under the Great Law. And one is never chosen and then the work pushed on him, but the choice always

⁷ In Memory of H.P.B., By Some of Her Pupils, 1891, p14

results because in his past incarnations he himself has asked for the opportunity and has tried to prepare himself, has literally said: "Here am I, use me!"

To be used as a tool and instrument by the Powers that Be is the greatest privilege that can be afforded to an Initiate. Nothing else but the furtherance of the Work of the Hierarchy can motivate the True Initiate. Yet such a privilege is not doled out by the Rota to all and sundry. It is a privilege that is earned by the service afforded to other Teachers in previous lives in whatever form. Such a privilege once afforded becomes a binding duty and is not given up just because the physical body fails due to ageing.

She was chosen as a Messenger of the Lodge because she had that karmic right and had sought to prepare herself for that work.

As you sow, so shall you reap. The Law of Karma metes out in exact Justice your due reward. We can infer much from such a statement as to the type of life or lives that HPB must have lived prior to her last incarnation. Also, as nothing you ever learn, work and strive for is ever lost, the remarkable powers she displayed as HPB must point to achievements in previous lives. We also see in *The Teachings of the Order*, that one is already prepared extensively in the higher realms, before incarnation, as to the coming mission on earth. This is but an example as to the axiom "as above, so below", for even during nightly sleep we undergo instruction on spiritual matters if our affinity lies in such direction, and we wake up knowing and having a deeper understanding of life and spiritual concepts.

And it is well to understand clearly what I mean by a Messenger of the Lodge. The Lodge has messengers of greater or lesser degrees, but all messengers must be in conscious touch with the Lodge and be willing to lay down their own personalities, their own lives, to do the Master's work, and must be those whose Karma permits this.

There are many names for the Masters of Wisdom and Messengers of the Lodge. Depending on the mystical system followed they are termed the Holy Hierarchy of Man, The Fathers, The Divine Mother, Saints, Avatars, Adepts, Gurus, Teachers, Initiates and so on. What HPB points out here is that whether high or low, one must have reached the state whereby one can receive conscious, accurate and clear instruction from above and not from ones own inflated ego. With such contact will come the humility that goes with it, and thereby the willingness to sacrifice All, being your own life and personality, in the furtherance of the Work of the Masters. By implication, and in the occult terminology of *The Order of Christian Mystics*, one must have reached that stage of spiritual development that will allow entrance into *The Order of The Flame*, or *The Order of the 10*. Such achievement comes through individual effort over many lives and not because of some mystical initiation conferred by some group. Here one realises the littleness of ones self in comparison with the dictates of the Higher Self. As to Karma permitting, only those who find themselves in spiritually conducive environments can truly make great spiritual progress or be of real use to the Powers that Be. For this you need free time, resources, a certain amount of intellect and training etc. The worker who must slug it out 16 hours a day to make ends meet has little time for spiritual endeavours. This does not mean that such a person cannot develop spiritually, but one needs the freedom, earned by meritorious actions in a previous life, to be able to dedicate the bulk of ones life to spiritual work.

And yet at certain eras in the world's history, when we might say the world is approaching a great event, such as the descent of the Avatar, there is always some special Messenger sent out who has the characteristics, force and power to hew the way like John the Baptist; to make straight His paths, to prepare for His coming.

Today, nearly all spiritual groups expect the coming of a Great Teacher, the Avatar, the second coming of Christ, of the Prophet, the World Saviour and whatever interpretation they have from their Scriptures, Sources and Prophecies. Yet for such a phenomenal event to be most effective the soil would of necessity have to be well prepared. The period from 1850 up to recent times has seen a spiritual outpouring unlike any other time period in our history. What HPB intimates here is that she, as an Agent, one of many, is and was such a Messenger. By implication, the advent of the Coming Avatar would of necessity follow soon there-after. Refer to our chapter on *Prophecies of the Order and The Coming Avatar*.

This preparation for the coming of the Great Teacher could not be accomplished merely by gathering together a few followers to study the philosophy of the Ancient Teachings; they had been studied for ages. How hopeless such a task!

The work that is accomplished throughout the world by the various sects, secret orders and small intimate groups that prepare their pupils for entry into the Divine would not be good enough here. A more *public* drive was needed to effect a more general enlightenment of the world, especially of the West. This was and is being achieved to great success by numerous groups to this very day. Therefore the Work and Mission of HPB has been a public drive, continued under *The Order of Christian Mystics*, the crown jewel in her works as far as mysticism is concerned.

You know how even during her life time she had few friends. Her true friends she could count on the fingers of her hand, or on both at best. She had no one who was really close, who really understood her or comprehended her real mission.

HPB was a very complex person and personality. The Path for enlightened people can and usually does become very lonely. The Tarot Card of the Hermit⁸ will do justice here to describe HPB, following the light of her Mission and convictions. Having such a complex life and mission it is not surprising that she had no-one that really understood her on the physical plane, especially as to the greatness and impact that such a life has on the general enlightenment of the world, and this makes one very alone indeed.

She was either regarded as a mountebank and a doer of wonders, hence sought out for pastime and entertainment, or as a half crazed enthusiast who was trying to make a stir in the world by putting forth bizarre doctrines which would upset the placid faith of easy going Christianity which had only just settled down into a comfortable jog-trot after the strenuous experiences of persecution and intolerance of past ages. People either fawned on her or flattered her and demanded her help or they derided.

Her psychic demonstrations in front of many people are legion and it is not often in the history of the occult that such have been well documented for posterity. Yet she truly despised effecting such demonstrations as it inevitably brought down

⁸ Curtiss, *The Key to the Universe*, pp333-335

scorn on her and her work. Like all such things, people either worshipped her as a god, or despised her when she would not perform. During her life she was accused of just about every calumny thinkable.

And oh, how they crushed and trampled on her highest ideals and belittled her great mission!

When one takes up a spiritual work such as HPB did, it becomes an all consuming fire. Once you have been touched by Divine Inspiration a Flame starts to burn within your heart, which cannot easily be quenched. HPB had to make use of people and human agents in order to fulfil her Mission. They in turn were filled with every human weakness and failing that we are all familiar with. She suffered many setbacks and disappointments in the fulfilment and drive to complete her Mission, mainly by the very people that were close to her. To remain focussed under such conditions becomes very trying in the face of criticism, opposition, betrayal, desertion and outright hostility.

At last there came a time, as there always does, when the Great Ones said: "Dear child, you have worked long enough under this terrible handicap of disbelief, of bickering, of criticism. Now you can continue your work where it will be easier; where you can stand aside, can look at the Teachings you have given out, and at the Source from whence you gathered them, and can understand more fully what is still necessary for the coming age." So Mme. Blavatsky, according to the world's opinion, died, and according to the ideals of the Theosophical Society was transplanted into a higher sphere of activity where she would still be capable of carrying on her work.

For spiritual workers in the flesh on the physical plane, life can become very weary. One is constantly aware that death is a release from the daily trials and tribulations of physical life. Consequently, death is never feared but in a sense is eagerly anticipated. Yet there are so few true spiritual workers on the physical plane that the Powers That Be have no choice but to make use of the few to do the work of many. It is well known that enlightened workers are kept on the physical plane for as long as is possible under the circumstances. For HPB, she was eventually released to do a Higher Work. When one casts off the physical body, one progresses consecutively upwards in the subtle realms to whatever level one can reach due to spiritual progress made on the physical plane.¹ Being on the higher rungs of the subtle planes gives one exponentially more freedom to continue ones work. From this State one can see much further into the future and one is closer to the Higher Teachers in mind and spirit. As the limitations of time and space do not exist here, one can accomplish exponentially more than would be possible on the physical plane. According to the general world's opinion, that was the end of HPB but according to the more advanced students of the Theosophical Society she would still be in a position to continue her work. Yet when such evidence of her continued work was presented to the leadership of the Theosophical Society by *The Order of Christian Mystics* it was met with severe antagonism. We should also realise that the Teachings as given out by HPB, are not her Teachings, she was but an instrument and messenger. The Teachings come from the Source, the Hierarchy which she serves, and only so much as was deemed safe to give out to the world whilst she was in the flesh was vouchsafed to her. Now, after transition, more of her continued Mission would be shown to her as to what the coming age was in need of.

According to the very teachings which had been so carefully gathered and inculcated in the little group which at that time called itself the Theosophical Society, it had been pointed out that when a Teacher has accepted the great responsibility of preparing for the coming of an Avatar, such a Teacher never goes into Devachan or accepts Nirvanic bliss; that always, if he is worthy the name of Agent, he makes the great sacrifice and remains in the Earth's aura and in close touch with his followers to teach and help them and to watch over the seed he has planted and help to continue its growth.

HPB states here that one can achieve and accept unio mystica or that mystical union with the Divine and lose oneself completely and utterly in that sea of bliss. She made a conscious decision as part of the duty she accepted to forego final bliss and to remain in a far more limited state in the higher astral plane of the planet to continue with her work and to continue to teach her followers and pupils. This was expected of her to continue her Mission to prepare the way for the Coming Avatar. Providing continued inspiration and guidance to her pupils and followers did not necessarily mean a conscious contact such as was achieved by Mrs. Curtiss but through other means such as strong impressions,¹ intuition, dreams and 'gut feel' as displayed by many who have made themselves more or less sensitive to such impressions through conscious spiritual development. Remaining in the Earth's aura means to forego the freedom that comes from continued access to the Higher Plane as well as the Divine Realms. This can be likened to a school teacher, staying behind at school to prepare for the next terms work and lessons whilst everyone else goes on holiday. The sacrifices made by the Aveshas and Lightbearers is difficult to comprehend. Looking after the seeds that she planted can be attested to by the general enlightenment of humanity and the Western world in particular as a part of the efforts of her Mission, which has been taken up by many sincere spiritual workers and continues unabated to this very day.

This teaching is scattered all through her writings.^(a) When they cry, "Back to Blavatsky!" why do they not go back to her fundamental teachings on this subject as well as others?

When a student *has not* developed sufficiently to a point where they are sensitive enough to receive inner instruction, a great loss in motivation and direction is experienced when their Teacher passes on. This is natural. Lacking the guidance and inspiration of one's Teacher in the flesh, the next best thing is to go back to the writings of such Teacher and to find in there some form of direction. The leadership of the Theosophical Society at the time had no clear inspiration, contact or guidance, and disgust by many members with the leadership soon followed. Such is well documented.³ Having thousands of followers asking questions and seeking answers it would be only natural for those who were disgusted with the leadership of the Theosophical Society to fall back on the teachings and writings of HPB. Yet HPB openly taught that as a Teacher she would not leave her followers leaderless, why could they not internalise her teachings on this subject? The following comment is provided by the Founders of *The Order of Christian Mystics* on this matter, taking references directly from *The Secret Doctrine*.

(a) Among the many such references we call attention to the following: "Of the voluntary and conscious incarnations of Adepts there are two types, those of Nirmanakayas, and those undertaken by probationary chelas who are on their trial. . . . There are cases - rare, yet more frequent than one would be disposed

to accept - which are the voluntary and conscious reincarnations of Adepts on their trial. . . . But few are those who, outside the higher degrees of adeptship, can guide the latter (astral body), or any of the principles that animate it, when once death has closed their short terrestrial life. Yet such guidance. . . . is not only possible but is of frequent occurrence. . . . After the physical translation of such a Saint. . . . his astral principles cannot be subjected to a natural dissolution like those of any common mortal. They remain in our sphere and within human attraction and reach. . . . Such an adept remains in the astral plane connected with our Earth, and henceforth moves and lives in the possession of all his principles except the Kama-Rupa and physical body. . . . Those are Adepts who give up Nirvana for the sake of helping humanity. . . . This kind of easy death. . . . symbolizes the "death" of any Adept who has reached the power and degree, and also the purification which enables him to "die" in the physical body, and still live and lead a conscious life in his astral body." (The Secret Doctrine, Vol.2, 559; Vol. 3, 365-67, 372.) Other references are too numerous to mention. HPB promised never to come back "as a spook," and she never has, but this does not mean that she has not continued to work, through the independent or telepathic method (See Realms of the Living Dead, Curtiss, 225), through enlightened and devoted followers who are so developed and trained as to respond to her directions, not in any kind of trance or "spook control" but in full waking consciousness. The evidence is too plain to be ignored.

Two such followers were Harriette Augusta and Frank Homer Curtiss. The author believes he has identified many other published works that were also inspired by that Teacher that was HPB. He bases this on the strength of the personality and literary style of HPB. For those who have read many of the private letters of HPB, compare them with the writing style of this communiqué to the Founders. The similarity is striking. Yet such comparisons 'prove' little and the truth of the matter is left up to the insight and intuition of the student.

There never has been a great Teacher or a Messenger who, after he put away the hampering body of flesh, does not remain close to his pupils; who does not continue his work; does not come and appear to and speak with his followers.

Such Teachers remain in command and have full use of their astral bodies and can therefore easily draw matter to themselves and appear phenomenally to their followers who are sufficiently advanced to respond to such techniques. In this statement we therefore take it that HPB appeared a number of times to the Founders. Also that she appeared in dream and vision many times to her other followers in a beautiful pure violet light.⁹ Other references to such appearances of recent times is the appearance of Sri Yukteswar¹⁰ to his pupil Paramahansa Yogananda after transition. Such close contact as referenced here is very often the mainstay of Initiates who continue the work of their Teachers. When the aspirant embarks on conscious spiritual development through implementing disciplines and exercises in his life, he cannot fail to grow. One of the first powers that manifest in the pupil is the development of a clear understanding of spiritual concepts and coupled with this a more or less development of sensitivity to the vibrations of the higher planes. This may manifest in a number of ways. In *The Teachings of the Order of Christian Mystics* it is stated that such contact with the higher Teachers is easiest through mental telepathy. This makes sense as the mental realm is the easiest to

⁹ Curtiss, *Realms of the Living Dead*, p194-196

¹⁰ Paramahansa Yogananda, *Autobiography of a Yogi*, (Bombay, 1989, 8th Ed., Ch 43)

impress, otherwise the advanced workers and teachers would have to descend to the lower planes to instruct their pupils. That they are capable of descending to the lower planes is without doubt as is attested to by many, but this would mean that they have to leave their home of glory and descend into darkness. By analogy, they would have to take the taxi to the slums of the city to instruct their pupils from the lower planes where-as a telephone call would be all that is required if their pupils are sensitive enough.

To say that Mme. Blavatsky died and then disappeared and left her work, left it in the chaotic and undeveloped and unfulfilled condition you all know it was in, and is still in today, is simply to deny her the one little recognition of her work that at least her followers should be glad to give her, namely, that she was an authorized agent and Messenger of the Lodge. For, as I have said, if she laid down her work at death she broke the Law. And if she had not been a Messenger she would have been repudiated long before her death.

All things material decay and disappear over time. All things spiritual grow but stronger over time. The more one uses a physical tool, the more it deteriorates through wear and tear. The more one uses a prayer or ritual the more potent it becomes. If HPB was a false Messenger, her work would have come to naught *in her lifetime*. 'If this work be of men, it will come to naught; but if it be of God, ye can not overthrow it; lest haply ye be found even to fight against God.' That which is of God is permanent, that which is of man, is temporary. The proof of her Work can be shown to this very day whereby millions have come to a spiritual understanding through the works inspired by HPB. Yet the leadership of the Theosophical Society at the time clearly could not come to grips with such a concept.

This doctrine of "the self-sacrifice of one who voluntarily gives up the absolute Nirvana in order to help humanity and be still doing it good. . . . to save his fellow creatures by guiding them,"^(b) has been plainly given to the Theosophical Society. And the Masters of Wisdom, be They of high or low degree, far advanced or only a few steps on the Path of Mastery, all obey this Law. Therefore, being an Agent of the Lodge, "an Adept on his trial," she also could be expected to obey this Law. (b) The Secret Doctrine, Blavatsky, iii, 366

The statement is self evident. We refer the reader to the published works of HPB on this matter. Spiritual workers of other schools state similarly that they will continue to work to assist Humanity 'until the last pilgrim has come home' before they will accept Nirvana. Such a sacrifice, when the full meaning is but half glimpsed, is truly unimaginable. There has been much speculation whether HPB ever achieved Adepthood. This statement as to her spiritual achievement is therefore self-evident, for no true Initiate or Adept would ever claim to be such whilst in a physical body, their works alone proclaiming them.

Is it conceivable that the great Masters of Wisdom and Compassion who knew that the whole Earth was about to pass its great baptism of horror and of blood and of dissolution; who knew that the days foretold from the beginning of time were about to be entered upon; who knew that this poor little Earth was about to pass through its most terrible time of testing;

We have mentioned before that part of the mission of *The Order of Christian Mystics* was to bring comfort to the world during a terrible period of world crisis.

Here HPB is referring to the period in our history encompassing the First World War, the Great Depression, the Second World War and the associated famines, disease, epidemics and chaos that was to go with it. A truly remarkable prophecy (given in 1928). We refer the reader to our further chapter on *Prophecies of the Order and The Coming Avatar*.

.... is it conceivable that these Great Souls would say: "Yes, we know that the world is about to reach its darkest night; we know that war and fire and sword and famine, pestilence, desolation and horror are stalking abroad. But we will now withdraw our Messenger and let no one from the Lodge interfere to help or comfort or guide. Let the poor suffering little children fight it out alone with what we have already given them. We will do no more to help. There will be no one sent from the Lodge until 1975 when it is all over! We will remain away in hiding, in some safe retreat where we cannot be hurt while they die and starve and suffer and sink down into a hopeless hell in the horrors they must face." I say is this conceivable?

In *The Teachings of the Order* it is stated that HPB was and is a World Teacher as "the most able lieutenant of the Masters" inspiring "all" groups who work along spiritual lines on this earth.¹¹ Yet why should it not be so, as the work of HPB was clearly under the direction of the Holy Hierarchy or The True Priesthood of Man. Note also the typical literary style of HPB and the feelings invoked by such statement. The above statement implies that the Lodge would not leave the western world spiritually leaderless and at HPB's passing prepared the Founders to continue her work. The author believes the Founders to be a type of Avatar as discussed elsewhere which would most certainly make of them fitting tools and instruments in the hands of the Higher Ones. Note also the prophecy of a New Messenger Who is to come by 1975, expected to be the *The Coming Avatar*.

Is there a person living, especially one who calls himself a theosophist, who can so belittle and falsify the teachings and condemn the great loving Masters who, as they have been taught, are the "guardian wall" around humanity, who are the givers of compassion and love, and the "watchers through the night," the great lovers of mankind? Yet, apparently this is the result of Mme. Blavatsky's teachings. Oh, if such a horrible doctrine were true, I myself would gather the peoples of the earth together and I would say: "Find these so called Masters of Wisdom and tear them limb from limb and throw them to the dogs! Find this God of theirs in his highest heaven and tear him down, and say to this God: How dare you make man and then leave him helpless and without comfort to suffer and die under such terrible conditions! How dare you!" Yet this is what my followers today are saying that Mme. Blavatsky taught! Ah, my children, it is unthinkable! It is monstrous! It is villainous! It is horrible!

One has to put oneself into the mindset of the Theosophical Society and its members of those days. The Theosophical Society literally had thousands upon thousands of members and adherents worldwide. With the Teachings and writings of HPB, the occult fraternity of that time entered a renewal and renaissance that had not been experienced since ages far past. The new material that was made available by the efforts of HPB were a source of study and inspiration for seekers worldwide including the European Orders and Eastern mystics of the day and so on. For its members, the Theosophical Society was the be-all and end-all of all esoteric groups

¹¹ Curtiss, *Realms of the Living Dead*, pp194-196

and societies, a cult mindset found in esoteric and religious dogmatic societies to this day. An accusation in general is directed at the Lodge or Masters, and HPB in particular that the Theosophical Society was left leaderless at her death. HPB here tries to dispel this accusation. Note once again the writing style, bringing the personality of HPB out the fore as she was when alive.

On the contrary, according to the Great Law, when a Messenger of the Lodge is given a work to do upon the earth plane, and owing to his Karma, his disposition, his racial characteristics and to a thousand other factors, he fails to a certain extent to carry out his mission as well as he should, and yet his heart is true and he wants to do better, he is taken up into a higher realm, yet not far from Earth, and there is given an opportunity to do better, to see more clearly, to work harder, to correct mistakes, and to make the great renunciation of Nirvanic bliss to remain as the guardian and guide of his followers;

All spiritual workers, be they of high degree such as the Master Jesus and other Avatars, or of lower degree such as the initiates and seekers of this world, all are subject to the Laws governing the physical plane. It is here on the physical where things are difficult, where the school is the hardest, where the most is learned. Even advanced souls struggle on this earth plane to fulfil their mission and often, more often than what we would think, they do fail to a certain extent to fulfil that which they were sent here to do. They too incarnate within a certain racial group and have to bear the Karma of that racial group as well as the individual Karma they bring with them, if any, and the individual Karma they earn while doing their work on the physical plane. Even the Master Jesus, in real life displayed arrogance, carelessness, anger, temper, race prejudice and all other human emotion and weaknesses such as doubt, worry, anxiety, fear and the like. What is stated clearly here is that all Agents do the best they can under the circumstances in which they find themselves, in line with their own karma. "As thy days are, so shall thy strength be." HPB was no exception. Yet the message here is that the Work goes on, regardless of the fact that mistakes have been made and the physical body has been cast off. This is therefore a direct reference to the fact that true Teachers stay with their pupils and continue with their earthly mission even after transition. The leadership of the Theosophical Society at that time could not or would not grasp this.

. . . .for he would not lay down his advanced state to incarnate again as a babe, and thus waste the most precious years of the cycle while waiting to grow up to an age at which he could resume his work.

The followers at that time also questioned why HPB could not immediately reincarnate again to continue her work. This but shows a very poor understanding of the mechanisms of reincarnation by her followers. No advanced Soul can or will incarnate immediately after transition. It just does not work that way. Such mechanisms are beautifully described in the booklet entitled *Reincarnation*.¹² Once a great Teacher enters transition, it is up to the followers to continue the work with what has been given to them. More often than not such leadership is only then truly appreciated after they have entered transition. Indeed, if grasped properly, and if the pupils that remain behind have been trained properly, much work can be accomplished if one is aware of the presence of the Teacher in ones life.

¹² Curtiss, *Reincarnation*

Again, they say that granting that all this is so, why could not some one in the great and loving and brotherly Theosophical Society be chosen to carry on her work? Oh, they are doing it beautifully, are they not?

The years after her passing and especially after the third Founder and leader of the Theosophical Society in America, William Quan Judge passed on, the Theosophical Society disintegrated over many years due to the most bitter infighting over leadership and succession issues. This sordid and sad saga is very well documented³ and such politics seem to be a part of all spiritual organisations much like any other grouping where people band together. From the above passage we can clearly see HPB expressing disgust as to these matters.

But I tell you now that there is absolutely not one among all the T. S. members in the world whom, if he will come to me and listen to me and obey me, I will not teach and help and inspire; who, if he will let go his own preconceived ideas of what Theo-sophia is, I will not guide and enlighten.

That HPB worked through other Agents after her passing and not just the Founders the author is most certain and may form the subject of a future publication. Many pupils have also reported specific visions where-by HPB appeared and instructed them, even to this day. In this letter it is also made clear that she will help and assist any and all sincere hearts who wish further spiritual instruction, that she has not left her Society without guidance, and that she continues to look after the seeds she has planted *to this day*. This is therefore a pledge and a promise by that great Teacher to all who will look up to that *Source* for guidance and inspiration.

But they will not. They will not realize that when on Earth Mme. Blavatsky gave out but the outer body of the Mystic Teachings or Theosophy, the shell let us say. But now, like all such Teachers, when she has entered into her real work upon a higher plane, she has to take that outer shell and build into it its soul, the Mystic Teachings of the Heart-Doctrine, the love, the understanding, the sympathy and the personal touch, because today that is what the world needs.

HPB did most of her work during the last quarter of the 19th century. The world had just passed through the brutal persecutions of the Church and the dark middle ages. People could once more think and express themselves freely. It was truly a time of tremendous occult revival. Yet she states here that after she passed on she was tasked to start with her real work from a higher plane. One can do exponentially more work, and influence exponentially more people from the higher realms¹. The world was about to pass through its most terrible time of testing, already prophesied in the Bible, the First World War, the Great Depression of the 1930's and the Second World War.¹³ It is this 'real work', the Mystic Teachings of the Heart Doctrine, that formed the basis of *The Teachings of the Order of Christian Mystics*. Such teachings, forming a most sublime spiritual philosophy, assists those aspirants who find themselves in a Western setting and mind set, enabling them to make true spiritual growth in the environment they find themselves in without having to give up home, family life, career and the like. This also constitutes a prophecy as to the worlds need in spiritual instruction. This is the Heart-Doctrine which will be ushered in by the Coming Avatar, a New Religion for a new period in the history of the world.

¹³ Curtiss, *Coming World Changes*

In those early terrible days of materialism the world needed hammer blows, needed to be shown that real religion, the Wisdom Religion, was scattered through all religions; needed to be shown that even those religions which they called “heathen” contained the mighty spiritual truths needed to guide the life.

In the words of Manly Palmer Hall: “The closing quarter of the last century (1875) witnessed a metaphysical revolt against the crassness of a physical science fascinated by phenomena.”¹⁴ As the western world emerged from out the dark ages of ignorance and persecution a mighty revival in the esoteric and occult sciences naturally started to take place. In the East the deepest mystical teachings had always been available quite openly to seekers after spiritual truth. It can be said that by far the largest proportion of the population of the East at least believed in the basic tenets of karma and reincarnation, if not the concept of final liberation. In the West the situation was completely different. Here the true spiritual teachings were held by secret esoteric orders, mainly Gnostics and Rosicrucian, that had to operate in secret due to relentless persecution by the Church. The only religion and spiritual outlook that prevailed in the general population of Europe and the West was the Christian faith based on the life of the Master Jesus. The general outlook on Eastern religions and any other religion for that matter was indeed ‘heathenish’. It was the work of HPB to prepare the West for Eastern teachings such as were later popularised by Yogananda, Vivekananda, Sivananda and many others. It can be said that through the Work of early Theosophy, many millions of people were introduced to advanced spiritual concepts at the time. This also opened the way for the Western mystery schools to lecture and work more openly and to start profuse publishing of the great Western books on the esoteric. The Order of the Golden Dawn, Rudolf Steiner’s Anthroposophy and the popularisation of Rosicrucianism by many authors was partly started as a direct result of Theosophy due to its predominance at the time and to counter the Eastern slant of the Theosophic teachings.

This was accomplished, but after she had passed out the world had changed. It was no longer merely materialism we had to fight. The world was seeking and crying out for truth, for love, for understanding, for brotherhood. Therefore, as the dark night came upon the world it had to have the inner side of the teachings, especially the inner side of the Christian teachings, explained to it.

Up to the end of the 1800’s, very few accurate true esoteric interpretations and works were available on the truth of the Teachings of the Master Jesus. From the early 1900’s such writings started to abound as the inner side of the Christian teachings were popularised by various groups, sects and orders. Today, many accurate writings and interpretations of the Christian mysteries exist. Together with the Nag Hamadi and Dead Sea Scrolls, the inner mysteries of Christianity are once more available to all. There is nothing that is hid that shall not be revealed, nothing buried that shall not be resurrected.

But where could I find anyone with minds open enough and who were karmically prepared to give these except the simple ones I chose?

The bane of all teachers to find suitable pupils and willing instruments to do a new work in the face of an uncaring and often hostile population to new thoughts and ideas. As to the simple ones she chose, this manifested through the personalities

¹⁴ Manly P. Hall, *The Phoenix*, (Los Angeles, 1968, 5th Ed.), p112

of Harriette Augusta and Frank Homer Curtiss. Together with less than a handful of dedicated students *The Order of Christian Mystics* was founded.

Therefore I say let all those who consider themselves true theosophists turn aside from worshipping the outer shell of the teachings and seek the heart. Let them say: "Yes, all that former teaching was necessary and fundamental and is good, but can it alone really help us in these days of misery and unrest? Can philosophy alone really feed our Souls?"

The monumental works that were prepared by HPB, *Isis Unveiled* and *The Secret Doctrine*, are indeed enough to keep the serious student of the occult occupied for the rest of his life. Yet such study will keep the mind and intellect occupied but man has a heart also, and to develop spiritually he needs to find a balance between the Teachings of the heart and the mind. The word *Theosophy* literally means Divine Wisdom, and students of Theosophy therefore study Divine Wisdom in all its aspects. HPB intimates here that more is needed in spiritual unfoldment than just mental learning of the occult. An Inner Life needs to be Initiated through Spiritual Alchemy.

Yet, we know that in Theosophy, real Theosophy, there is this Bread of Life.

As is taught by the great Masters and Sages of all times. The way towards Union with our Higher Self in the Divine. The ultimate quest of the Mystic.

But who shall break it and give it to us? Where are the disciples who can take the five loaves and the two small fishes and give them to the multitude?"

The Founders of *The Order of Christian Mystics* and their Work in the Western world. It was their Mission to introduce a system of Mysticism that would be new, advanced and spiritually sublime enough that can be practised in safety by the general seeker and the advanced occultist alike.

When they have said this let them take the Mystic Teachings I have more recently inspired^c and see if they cannot find in them the real inner nourishing food of true Theosophy; (c) Teachings of the Universal Religious Fellowship, Inc.

The Mystic Teachings as transmitted to Rahmea, Harriette Augusta Curtiss, Priestess of the Flame and to Pyrahmos, Dr. Frank Homer Curtiss. Of the published Teachings 27 volumes are extant with many more lectures and Teachings available in unpublished form. The Order started off with the name of *The Order of the 15*, then changed to *The Order of Christian Mystics* and an alternative name used in time was *The Universal Religious Fellowship, Inc.* The Teachings as published by *The Order of Christian Mystics* are as voluminous as the works of HPB in her time. Yet as nothing given to the seeker on a platter is ever appreciated, it is intimated here that a close study of the Teachings will bear spiritual fruit.

. . . . not the exact interpretation perhaps, not the talk, not the controversy, not the arguments, but the spirit; the Spirit of Truth; the help, and the understanding of humanity which needs different treatment today than it needed when Mme. Blavatsky was on earth in the flesh.

What is referred to here is that within the Mystic Life there is a simplicity that can be followed in order to achieve Union with ones Higher Self. For such spiritual

realisation, a cold intellect is not required, but the *Fire of Life and Mind* or *The Heart Doctrine* is to be followed and incorporated in ones life. HPB compiled her monumental works 'with many a hammer and tongs.' In this communiqué she openly states that she made many mistakes but under the circumstances did the best she could. This would of course leave her works open to just criticism and comments from contemporary and future mystics and occultists. The strong leaning to the Eastern teachings and methods as the Genesis of worldly light and the negation (not deliberate) of the Western mystical tradition is a point that has raised the ire of many Western occultists. This gave a direct drive to a number of occult societies in her time to counter the Eastern influence of Theosophy. Yet if one can look past all the differences and interpretations, then within all teachings can be found one single spirit of Truth.

Not until the work of that Teacher is accomplished will she take her rest. And it will never be accomplished until the inner Mystic Spirit of her teachings has been given out.

As mentioned, the published works of HPB cater fully for the intellectual aspects of learning the occult. In *Letters from the Teacher* and *Realms of the Living Dead*⁹ the Founders state that they have it on full authority that HPB will not incarnate again in this 'world period.' From the viewpoint of higher spiritual development we can thereby assume that she has ascended, i.e., paid off her full Karmic debts and has no further need of a reincarnation cycle. One can therefore rightly assume that she will 'never' stop her inspirational and teaching activities from the Higher Realms, a pledge made by many advanced spiritual workers.

And when I say the inner Mystic Spirit I mean the things which touch the heart, which grip the understanding, which help men and women to live in spite of the hard times; to stand up and face themselves and the world in spite of all the things they are passing through today, rather than mere metaphysical speculations and disrupting, hair-splitting disputations over doctrinal points.

It is the sincere wish of the author that through this Work *The Teachings of the Order of Christian Mystics* will be brought to the broader public attention once again. The hundreds of published Teachings are beautifully written and as valid today as they were 60 to 100 years ago. The content of the Teachings provide comfort and cheer and are heart warming, filling the reader with a Divine Inspiration that can be practically experienced. The overall Cosmic Philosophy as expounded in the Teachings are truly grand and inspiring, bringing the reader in touch with a True Living Flame. As our world descends once more into chaos, anarchy, war and rumours of war, these Teachings will once more surface to help a suffering humanity understand and endure the hard times they will have to face before the coming inevitable cataclysms which precede the start of all new cycles. Can we not all identify with the 'metaphysical speculations and disrupting, hair-splitting disputations over doctrinal points' that keep the churches, sects and societies divided into hundreds of groupings each proclaiming loudest that they have the 'right and only way?' A more simple and profound philosophy is required and it will be the task of the Coming Avatar to usher in a New Religion that will accomplish such a goal.

Her work will never be accomplished until it has brought out the true religion within the framework of the philosophy or outer body of the theosophical doctrine; until it has shown the great spiritual power, not only in the ancient

religions, but also that same identical spiritual power and those same truths in the Christian religion.

HPB states in more than one source that the Christian Bible is the most true and advanced occult scripture available today. Her Mission of bringing the truths of the Eastern teachings to the public minds of the West had been admirably achieved, but it has left a stigma attached to her work and the work of the Society she founded of being slanted to the mindset of the East. It is through the Work of *The Order of Christian Mystics* and others that she therefore brings to the Western mind the inner true occult teachings as hidden in the Christian Bible.

In the days when Mme. Blavatsky was on Earth the Western world believed in what was called the Christian religion, but could not believe that one could be anything but a "heathen" who could see truth in any other religion. It was the work of Theosophy at that time to bring the truth of other religions to the attention of the Christian world. And this work has been so well accomplished that as a result today it is a common thing for people to go to the Hindus and the philosophies of other ancient peoples and pick out their wonderful pearls of great price.

At 'that time' refers to the closing of the 19th and start of the 20th century. Today the teachings of all seven Rays such as Yoga, Zen, Sufism, Buddhism and all other religions and systems of mysticism are freely available to all. It would be unfair to lay all the credit for this at the feet of HPB but that her Mission played a major part in ushering in the New Aquarian Age, The Age of the Outpouring, cannot be disputed.

Many of such persons say that Christianity is a failure; that there is nothing in it. Therefore Mme. Blavatsky has not finished her work until she brings the same understanding of the Christian Mysteries to the public mind that she brought to it of the other religions; until she strings the pearls of the Christian religion upon the same thread of truth and makes the recognition of all reach around the world and touch the hearts of all.

More than 120 years have passed since HPB passed on and this Mission of hers is still in the process of being fulfilled. It is hard today to find anyone in the West who has not heard of karma and reincarnation, but apart from the trained students and pupils of the Western esoteric tradition, the majority of ordinary seekers still see karma and reincarnation as teachings of the Eastern tradition. Proper esoteric and occult interpretation of the Bible is still misunderstood by most. *The Teachings of the Order of Christian Mystics* provides the most sublime mystical interpretation of the Bible, and the life of Jesus in particular. If one is given the key through a study of *The Teachings of the Order*, then it is shown that every profound mystical truth such as karma and reincarnation can be found in the Bible, mutilated as it has been through the last two millennia by the church authorities. It is a fact that in the Western world today the majority of seekers find their initial enlightenment through Eastern systems of mysticism such as Yoga and Buddhism and the work of the Order is therefore but another channel to bring Western mysticism to the broader Western mind.

You see that her work today is just a continuation of a different part of the same work. You cannot expect a person, even on the physical plane, to go on

day after day, year after year, repeating the same thing. If he has a philosophy he must emphasize those aspects which will meet the needs of the day; for it is not a philosophy if it cannot fit all times and all conditions of life. If you send a child to school and he is taught the multiplication table and learns it perfectly, and then learns something else and finally a profession, would you say: "This cannot be the same child, for this knowledge is not what he was taught in the grammar school, and he is now quite different!" Do you not see Theosophists today who use no more common sense than this?

The Teachings of the Order of Christian Mystics brought to the Western world a new interpretation of the Bible through the expounding of Christian Mysticism. The Order had thousands of students world-wide and published many books running through large editions. Through *The Order of Christian Mystics* HPB managed to continue her work, by putting forth a spiritual philosophy that would indeed suit all times and will help and assist advanced seekers for much time to come.

When the cycle of my work is closed; when this 1975 they talk so much about comes, then there will be a new Agent or Messenger from the Lodge. Who will this new Messenger be? Ah, my children, that we must leave. It will be One whose understanding is opened, one who has wisdom, who has love and sympathy, who can touch the hearts and unfold the Heart Doctrine. His work will be a different work from mine, but a continuation of it.

This date is already mentioned in her writings whilst she was still alive and refers to the Coming Avatar, the Master Jesus. To put such an event in context, it has been the Teachings of all Ages that Avatars incarnate in regular cycles. Is the world not ready in these days of tribulation and unrest for the long expected return of He who was called Jesus? Prophecies regarding this event abound. The Tibetan Djwhal Khul¹⁵ states that in the beginning of the 21st century 'an initiate will appear' to continue the Work started by HPB amongst many other striking prophecies in the same book. We can only wait in awe and anticipation as to the unfoldment of the spiritual destiny of the times we find ourselves in.

But in the meantime you can all help to spread the real Theosophy, both the body structure and the heart. You can thus help to redeem the work that is attributed to Mme. Blavatsky when on Earth; can be setting it right, by making people understand that while she was a human being, full of faults and failings, yet she was a chosen Messenger of the Lodge.

As to faults and failings these are human attributes of both the High and the low on the spiritual path. It is therefore the Work of *The Order of Christian Mystics* and her other followers to continue with the spread of her Teachings, rectified and more accurate if possible, and to spread the Teachings from an angle of love and compassion as incorporated in *The Teachings of the Order*.

She was also an immortal Spirit and a divinely appointed Teacher whose work is not taken from her because she laid down the human body of flesh; for she is still working and will still work and never lay down her work, until she has not merely one agent on Earth, but many, who will catch the rhythm of the true Teachings and will give but Theosophy from the heart side.

¹⁵ A Jurriaanse, *Prophecies by Djwhal Kuhl*, (South Africa, 1977, p6)

Through-out the ages the mighty spiritual truths have always been available to the few Initiates of the Mystery Schools and the more general moral teachings have been given to the masses through Orthodoxy. In the lesson '*Degrees and Orders*'¹⁶ it is explained in simple language that there is a hierarchy as to the level and mode of Teachings that people are ready for. For the general members of the Theosophical Society the teachings were given through books, groups, public lectures and were therefore mainly impersonal. All had to fare alike. But once you have progressed through this and have a general understanding and unfoldment on the spiritual path, the aspirant and seeker then becomes ready for more personal instruction such as given through the system of instruction of *The Order of Christian Mystics*. Today there are indeed many 'agents and Aveshas' on Earth who spread the Teachings as best as their limited mental expressions allow for.

Why has the Society failed to touch the lives and hearts of its followers as it should?

It failed to incorporate within its teachings the Doctrine of the Heart, for man has a heart also and needs to spend time on development of devotion and heart qualities and not just on mental learning of unending occult facts.

Because they cut out its heart and now are trying through magic to hold the atoms of the outer body together. Like all corpses, in spite of the mummy wrappings, the ritual and the mystic powers, the little atoms are gradually separating, and seeking to live their lives in peace and harmony elsewhere.

A fundamental implication here is that man must find his spiritual drive and impulse from the Inner Man, the Inner Teacher and not from coercion. In the absence of HPB the leadership of the Theosophical Society tried to keep the Society together through the use of magic, rituals and especially they tried to inspire 'awe'¹⁷ through unending claims of higher contacts and possession of occult powers. Even a person as exalted as the Comte de Saint Germain was laid low through the wrong use of the powers afforded him by the Genii¹⁷ and high magic and paid a heavy price for it.

Everything that is good in the old society - and there is much good - will be utilized. But there are still some devoted servants of the Lodge who are nevertheless so ignorant, so blinded, so deaf that they can look only backward, never forward. They see only that which was, never what now is, let alone what shall be.

The leadership of the Theosophical Society could not accept that a new dispensation had occurred as to their Founder and Teacher HPB through the manifestation of *The Order of Christian Mystics*. Instead of accepting change and moving forward with the newly inspired *Teachings of the Order*, they instead tried to move backward with their cry 'Back to Blavatsky.' Yet HPB states openly that the Theosophical Society with its many remaining members still command a good infrastructure for the promulgation of Truth and she will continue to work with and inspire devoted members of the Society of which she was the supreme Founder. The Coming Avatar, when He manifests will also be in need of existing infrastructure from properly prepared individuals and esoteric groups to promulgate the New Religion. It is intimated here that the existing worldwide infrastructure of Theosophy will be put to good use by the new coming spiritual dispensation.

¹⁶ Curtiss, *The Voice of Isis*

¹⁷ Manly P. Hall, *The Most Holy Trinosophia of the Comte de Saint Germain*, (Los Angeles, 1933)

All that is good will manifest. Every teaching will come back renewed, with its heart in it.

Through the newly inspired *Teachings of the Order of Christian Mystics*, and the general outpouring as witnessed today in this New Age of Aquarius.

There is nothing that is hid that shall not be revealed, nothing buried that shall not be resurrected.

A prophecy as to the New Aquarian Age, the Age of the Outpouring, whereby Truth will once again be made accessible to all. The countless occult books, teachings, systems of mysticism, scientific researches on Kundalini and spiritual phenomena that have come to light and are freely available to all seekers in this day and age stand as a testimony to this prophecy.

This is all I care to tell you. You can proclaim it at your discretion and let who will believe you. Let those who are blind be blind still, as the Bible tells us. And he that is deaf and lame and halt, let him be so still.

Many of the published letters in *Letters from the Teacher Volumes I & II*, question the need for *The Order of Christian Mystics* in the face of the existing structures such as the Theosophical Society. The Founders evidently requested from HPB an explanation so that this could be shown to selected members of the Theosophical Society. This letter from HPB was the reply to such request. If such a letter was insufficient to convince the old school of a new dispensation, then too bad, each has the free will of his own choices and convictions.

For the “Kingdom of Heaven” cometh like a thief in the night. Did you ever stop to realize what this means? The night that the Scripture was talking about was the night of the world that we are passing through today; this great night of darkness and suffering and ignorance.

The time period in which this communiqué was transmitted was 1928. The aftermath and effects globally of the first world war, the anarchy, lawlessness and political assassinations in Germany, industrial unrest in the USA and the events leading up to the great depression were at hand. According to HPB the prophecy of the coming of the Kingdom of Heaven, long due, is therefore close at hand. There are always those that listen to the instruction from their spiritual Seers and Prophets and who move ever forward, onwards and upwards in life. Then there are those who resist change and any unfolding new dispensation. What HPB states here is that regardless of the resistance from old members, old thinking and the like, the Kingdom of Heaven comes in secret and is unstoppable and one can either constructively assist in the effort or waste time and energy on side issues.

Yet through the night the footsteps of the Angel messengers of the New Day can be heard.

The outpouring of high quality occult Teachings and esoteric Truths during the period 1850 to 1950 was staggering. There can be no doubt that the earth went through its ‘most terrible time of testing’ during this period with two world wars, the ensuing famine, plagues and also the great depression. Yet indeed the many Angel Messengers could be heard in this truly difficult time period.

They are coming quietly, yet steadily and persistently. They come like a thief in the night, because they are stealing from the old forms their life, that which was thought to be their exclusive foundation. And as they come to humanity they must steal away from the old forms their logic, their force, and their supremacy. And the result at first is more inharmony. Yet it is but like a mighty wind that is stirring up the dead leaves.

How beautiful is this prophecy and how has the world not changed in outlook, politically and philosophically over the last hundred years. The leaves have indeed been stirred greatly, exposing the new soil underneath for renewed growth. Today we reap the benefits from the Age of the Outpouring and Truth is available openly to all. Spirituality today is more acceptable to the world at large than it has ever been before.

Soon, ah, so soon, will come the Great Gardener, like a fire, and burn up the chaff. The fire will be the fire of the Law, the fire of conviction, the fire of might and power.

HPB uses the terms 'the Great Gardener' and 'the Law' to refer to the Coming Avatar and the great Karmic cleansing that the world has to undergo at the end of a great cycle, the Piscean Age. We find ourselves currently in the cusp of the Piscean and Aquarian Age. It is during this cusp, that the planetary and group Karma of the nations has to be precipitated, preparing the world for a new phase of growth and ushering in the 'Age in which Satan will be bound for a 1000 years, the Golden Age.' For us to be born into this Golden Age, we would have to be relatively Karma free, how else can one have such an age if the crude are amongst us. It is therefore in our current time period that humanity will suffer greatly in order to relieve this karmic burden and free us all to incarnate into this Golden Age in which great individual spiritual advancement will be possible for all and not just for the Elect.

It will not be perhaps an outer fire - although that too, may manifest because the outer fire destroys. . . .

The outer fire here refers to the great cataclysms, wars and famine that are expected by many groups. If the prophecies are read aright, a large proportion of the worlds current population will pass out of incarnation as a direct result of the closing phases of this great Karmic cleansing.

. . . . but the purifying inner fire, the fire of the heart, of the life, of the words. That is the fire that burns for ever and ever; that destroys ultimately all chaff and prepares the soil for new growth.

The purifying inner fire, that which transmutes the gross into the subtle, the base into the refined, the inner or spiritual Alchemy of the Mystics throughout the Ages.

This is all I have for you tonight. With my great love I bid you adieu.

As transmitted to Harriette Augusta Curtiss, October the 16th, 1928, whilst in full waking consciousness, according to the Independent Method.¹

CHAPTER XII

LESSONS BY THE WAY¹ PART I: THE ANCIENT CONTINENTS

“Science can, it is true, collect, classify and generalize upon phenomena; but the Occultist, arguing from admitted metaphysical data, declares that the daring explorer who would probe the inmost secrets of Nature must transcend the narrow limitations of sense, and transfer his consciousness into the region of Noumena and the sphere of Primal Causes. To effect this, he must develop faculties which, save in a few rare and exceptional cases, are absolutely dormant.”

The Secret Doctrine, Blavatsky, i, 518.

The oft-repeated slogan “See America First” has a greater significance to the Occultist than others would suppose, for to understand the full significance of the widely divergent scenery he will see it must be seen with the inner sense as well as with the outer.

In the miles of broad luxuriant plains of the Mississippi Valley and its tributaries we find the swamps, sands and gravels which give evidence of the vast inland sea which covered those regions during the Lemurian and Atlantean periods, while the rich deposits of alluvial soil show how the distant mountains have been eroded and washed down and their debris spread over the rocks or mixed with the sands to form the fertile soil of the valleys.

In the wide stretches of the “sage-brush country” which extends through several of the far western states; in the long reaches of desert and “sheep country”; in the arid “bad lands” of the Big Horn region of Wyoming; in the wondrous beauties and geological marvels of the Pike’s Peak region and of Yellowstone Park and in the desolation of the immense lava beds of Idaho and eastern Oregon; in all these regions we see the struggle of a new land; of Nature slowly rebuilding a new earth out of the debris left after the destruction of the great Lemurian Continent, long before the upheaval of the Atlantean and American Continents.

The gigantic Third or Lemurian Continent, the home of the Third Great Race, stretched from the remains of the Hyperborean Land (Second Continent) in the Arctic Circle, Norway, Greenland, Eastern and Western Siberia, etc., westward to where the American Continent now stands, and southward across the Indian Ocean, around Madagascar and South Africa in a great horseshoe into the Atlantic Ocean, a prolongation of which land became the geological basis of the far later Fourth Continent of Atlantis. For the “Atlanteans were developed from a nucleus of Northern Lemurian Third-Race Men. . . . Their Continent was formed by the coalescence of many islands and peninsulas which were upheaved in the ordinary course of time and ultimately became the true home of the great Race known as Atlantean.”²

But after the destruction of Lemuria by fire, through terrific and age long volcanic eruptions, it sank beneath the waves, leaving only widely scattered remnants (such as Norway, Ceylon, Australia and a large strip of California, etc.), while other portions were again upheaved in much the same conditions as they went down and were then inhabited by the Atlanteans, thus overlapping both the Races and the Continents. For instance, the gigantic statues on Easter Island in the Pacific are not those of the late Atlanteans who there escaped the destruction of their own

¹ Curtiss, *The Inner Radiance*, Chapter XXXIV, Notes from a trans-continental auto tour made by the authors in September 1920.

² Blavatsky, *The Secret Doctrine*, ii, 348

Continent, but represent the much more ancient Lemurians. Most of the remnants of Lemuria thus remaining today plainly show the action of the tremendous volcanic eruptions which either desolated them or upheaved them, after their submergence, during the formation of the Continent of Atlantis. This is particularly true of certain regions in the Rocky Mountains. And just as the Third Continent overlapped the Second and the Fourth, so the Fourth (Atlantis) overlapped the Fifth Continent (America).

Much of the American Continent is really older than Europe, "only a few portions of which were barely rising from the waters in the days of the highest Atlantean civilization"³ and, before the publication in 1522 of the first map on which America was shown, it was thought to be a part of India. Indeed, the India of pre-historic times was doubly connected with the two Americas. The great cataclysm which sank the larger part of Atlantis occurred soon after the upheaval of America. "The Fourth (Race) born millions of years before the said cataclysm took place, perished during the Miocene period, when the Fifth (our Aryan Race) had had one million years of independent existence."⁴

At the time of its so-called discovery by Columbus, America had for ages been called Atlantis by some of the Indian tribes then inhabiting it. But it must not be supposed that America was unknown to the Ancients, for in those days geography was a part of the Mysteries well known to the sages and teachers but veiled from the ignorant. Not only was it known to the Druids, the Norsemen, the Egyptians and the Japanese, but in the Vedas and other sacred literature of the East there are many allusions to it, it being known as the Antipodes, also Preshkara, etc.

Just as the Continents overlapped and blended into each other, so each Race overlapped and developed from the preceding Race; the Lemurians, gigantic in stature gradually becoming more and more materialized and organized and then differentiated; then the Atlanteans, reaching, during the latter part of the Fourth Race, the extreme of physical expression, gigantic, coarse, hairy, yet intellectually and psychically developed but with little spirituality; and then our present Fifth Race overlapping the Fourth and growing less in stature but more and more in higher intellectual and spiritual development. These ancient teachings are confirmed not only by the biblical account of the "giants in those days, and also after that," but by the finding in mounds and caves here in America of groups of skeletons of men varying from nine to twelve feet in height. And we ourselves have seen the so-called petrified body of a large ancient Indian.

And just as the Races and sub-races overlapped in the past, so do they at the present time. Although the majority of the inhabitants of Europe and America are of our Fifth or Aryan Race and are manifesting in the present *Kali Yuga* or Iron Age, there are already beginning to be found Souls incarnating who really belong to the *Satya Yuga* or Golden Age which will follow the present Iron Age some thousands of years hence. Such Souls are the forerunners of the Sixth Great Race who have voluntarily taken up the onerous task of incarnation in this transitional and troublous era that they may help to prepare and set aside as a nucleus for the New Age all who will listen to and obey the Voice crying in the wilderness of modern life, "Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight." Only when such Souls, as well as all others who can be spiritually awakened, are gathered from the Four Winds can the coming Avatar manifest in the flesh in this era; for although He will reveal His presence to all who are so spiritually awakened and desirous of becoming His disciples that they affinitize with Him, He will manifest bodily only to those whose development belongs to the Age of His public appearance to

³ Ibid. 763

⁴ Ibid. 755-447

the multitude,”⁵ i.e., the Golden Age, although living now under the outward reign of the Iron Age.

This is no more of a mystery than the overlapping of the Continents or than it must have been to the boneless and androgynous Lemurians to see the Fourth Race beings develop among them, with bodies quite differently organized, possessing solid bones, erect posture, separated sexes, etc.⁶ But in the present overlapping it will be not so much a difference in physical structure, although organs and faculties now latent will develop, as in mental, psychic and spiritual development.

This overlapping of the Sixth Great Race with the present Fifth, which has already begun since we have definitely entered into its sixth sub-race, will continue and be increasingly marked all through the sixth and seventh sub-races of the Fifth Great Race. And even when humanity enters fully into the Sixth Great Race, thousands of years hence, many backward or even degenerate remnants of the present Fifth will still remain, but will then be far in the minority, just as there are today remnants of the Fourth (Atlantean) and even of the Third (Lemurian) in the Tasmanians, Australians, Andaman Islanders, etc.

After this brief geological and ethnological introduction we wish to call the attention of our students to some of the lessons revealed to the inner eye in the vast and wonderful parts of the far western states which we have recently traversed.

After leaving the Mississippi Valley country one of the most interesting lessons came from a visit to the homes of the ancient Cliff Dwellers of Colorado (Mesa Verde National Park, Ed.); those mysterious people who lived so many thousands of years ago and who have left such remarkable traces of their lives and habits, preserved in the pure dry air of their now almost inaccessible mountain retreats, yet of whom so little is known to exoteric science as to their origin and fate. By psychometrizing some of their pottery, implements, mummies, etc., we came *en rapport* with their auras and conditions, but we found their emanations and influences so disagreeable that we did not feel like pursuing our investigations further by that method, so we asked *The Teacher of the Order* for an explanation and were given the following facts:

The Cliff Dwellers were the late and pigmy descendants of certain abnormal off-spring of the degenerate Atlanteans who bred semi-human animals to do their manual and menial work, as we have already explained.⁷ Among the services they were required to perform was the embalming and care of the dead. The Atlanteans would not touch a corpse since they considered it both defiling and degrading. We find this same idea among the ancient Egyptians who sprang from a colony of Atlanteans who listened to their spiritual teachers and, warned of the terrible cataclysms which were to put an end to the horrors of black magic practiced by the ruling classes, fled from Atlantis and settled in the valley of the Nile. The tribes of these half-human, half-animal Atlantean servants who had to do with the dead were therefore considered more degraded than those used for house servants, laborers, etc., and hence were outcasts, even to touch whom was pollution. They therefore lived among the sepulchers or in caves and other wild places outside the cities and came in at night to take away the bodies that were to be embalmed.

It was the custom for those who could not afford the complete embalming indulged in by the rich to pay for a partial embalming and for the use of a tomb for a certain period, just as a cell in the tombs built above the marshy ground in New Orleans can be rented for a similar purpose today. After the time paid for had elapsed the embalmers would exhume the bodies, unwrap the mummy cloths and

⁵ Curtiss, *The Message of Aquaria*, Chapter XXXVIII

⁶ Curtiss, *The Voice of Isis*, Chapter XVII., “The Origin of Man”

⁷ Ibid.

after disposing of the disintegrating remains, hang the cloths around their dwellings until used for the wrapping of the next corpse of the poor. This made their dwellings so polluted that no Atlantean would go near them and the people were considered worse than animals.

At that time the Lemurian remnants of the Rocky Mountains were still in a condition of constant volcanic upheaval, with such terrible cataclysms that the whole region was considered an inferno and unfit for human habitation. Yet certain tribes of the outcasts, which had been taught the fundamentals of the Wisdom Religion to the extent of their limited capacity by missionaries from the Great White Lodge, refused to continue their degraded life under their Atlantean masters and fled into the so-called infernal regions and there found certain valleys or rather high cliffs, where they could protect themselves from the beasts of the region and from recapture, and where they escaped the cataclysms which destroyed Atlantis. And it was the descendants of these outcasts, inter-bred among themselves until they became pigmies from three to four feet tall, who composed the Cliff Dwellers whose remains we find today.

Naturally we expect to find some trace of the ancient Sun or Fire Worship among them, and this we do in the circular pit, entered only from the top, which is found in each village. Science thinks this was used to store grain, but it was really a place of worship, traces of the fire altar still being visible. For although degenerate they were by no means lacking in a certain intelligence, as their implements, baskets and the openings of their houses show. The doors used by the burden-bearers were much wider at the top than at the bottom so the bearer could enter without laying down his burden, while the doors used by the higher classes were narrow all the way up.

On this tour we also gained quite a new lesson in regard to the silence, namely, that the Great Silence is something outside of yet including all Nature-sounds, which all Nature feels and vainly strives to understand and express. On the high mountain tops and in the vast stretches of desert and plain we seemed to touch something that was more than silence, for silence or great stillness, dead and ominous, brooded over the "bad lands" of Wyoming and brought no inspiration, for the vibrations of the elemental forces of horror and malignancy still lingered in the ethers around such regions. But in the mountains we seemed to feel the brooding of the creative Breath of Divinity, and in awe we asked: "Is this the Temple of Silence, and can we enter it?"⁸

To find the entrance to this mystic Temple of Silence we do not have to travel to distant places, for it is always near. All we need is to believe, and when we need help knock and it shall be opened to us.

(To be continued)

⁸ Curtiss, *The Temple of Silence*

LESSONS BY THE WAY' PART II: THE LESSON OF THE SAGEBRUSH

“Praise ye the Lord. . . . Praise him ye heavens of heavens, and ye waters that be above the heavens (the Divine Mother). . . . Praise the Lord from the earth. . . . Fire, and hail; snow, and vapours; stormy wind fulfilling his word: mountains, and hills; fruitful trees, and all cedars: beasts, and all cattle; creeping things, and flying fowl”

Psalms, cxlviii

While passing over the many mountain ranges which we crossed on our tour from ocean to ocean we were struck by the number of large trees which grew from out what seemed to be the solid rock, with scarcely a crevice in which soil could accumulate, and so far above ground that roots could not possibly reach the soil below. This was but another corroboration of our teachings in our *The Voice of Isis*² that the life-force of the planet manifests in greatest abundance in the rocks and breathes through the mountains. It reminded us that those who find themselves planted in the hard, rocky conditions of life can nevertheless draw their life-force from the foundation stones of Eternal Truth, even though denied the intellectual and physical conditions which seem to the outer world so necessary as soil for the expression of life in happy and sturdy growth.

In other less rugged regions, where the hills were composed of solidly baked clay, scarcely a sign of plant life could be seen, for solid clay soil is so impervious to both air and water and to the currents of the life-force that little or nothing can grow. For growth comes quite as much from the invisible currents of life-force of the planet as from the nourishment received from the physical soil. This reminds us that we must not rely merely upon that which we receive from without, but that we must ever seek to correlate with the inner currents of spiritual life-force from within; that instead of allowing our lives to become hardened with a clay-like selfishness we must make ourselves firm as a rock, yet porous to the flow of the finer forces that they may find expression through us.

In the Big Horn Mountains of Wyoming where baked clay seems to the passing tourist to be the universal composition of the region, although the marvellous colourings produced by the precipitation of mineral colouring matters presented grand and inspiring sights, yet there was a notable absence of both plant and animal life, save in the few instances in which the hills have been washed down to form soil along the bottoms of the arroyas. And even there the vegetation was sparse and coarse. Indeed, in those so-called “bad lands” there seemed added to the physical barrenness and desolation a brooding sense of horror and malignant antagonism, as though the emanations and thought-forces of the ancient black magicians who occupied the land in long by-gone ages were still hovering about the region whispering of the orgies of black magic and terror which had given them birth and which had not been completely transmuted, purified and redeemed, like the effluvia arising from the decaying debris remaining on the seashore after a great storm.

In the wide lava beds of Idaho and eastern Oregon, the road winds for 20 to 80 miles or more over sharp and jagged volcanic rocks amid the remnants of the titanic eruptions, and past mountains whose entire tops have been blown off, leaving barren and desolate craters. Here we recognized the remnants of Lemuria which had been purified by fire and were now just beginning, here and there, again to become habitable, through the combined efforts of the elements and of man. Indeed, in the

¹ Curtiss, *The Inner Radiance*, Chapter XXXV

² Curtiss, *The Voice of Isis*, p311

very heart of this region we passed one beautiful gem of a ranch extending out into the lava beds whose owner, *we were told*, had in a former life been the chief of one of the later tribes of Lemurians whose evil had helped to bring on its destruction. He had incarnated in this general region many times during the days of Atlantis, and also many times much later as an American Indian, in most cases still following the same impulses which he had so intensified in those ancient days. Only in this incarnation is he working in a definite and constructive way to aid the redemption of the land which his evil forces helped to curse in that far distant past. Thus does the Great Law of cause and effect ever operate. We must each of us become the redeemers of our own creations, sometime, somewhere.

One day, after travelling over a hundred miles through nothing but sparse and scrubby sagebrush with no habitation for thirty or forty miles at a stretch, we became so tired of the vast stretches of drab and dry looking bush and its penetrating odour that we spoke very disparagingly of that humble plant, so much so that *The Teacher* found it necessary to correct our attitude of mind. It was pointed out that the sagebrush is about the only form of vegetation, save the few cacti and yuccas, which can live and thrive under the hard conditions of the desert. As the sagebrush thus overcomes all obstacles to its growth, as it spreads over the vast regions of arid and desolate country, it proves its power to accomplish that which can scarcely be accomplished by any other plant, namely, even though growing gnarled and scrubby it nevertheless has the power to gather up and retain or draw up from the depths sufficient moisture (water, love) to grow and manifest. It thus helps to redeem the soil and make it fit later for higher types of vegetation; for its fallen leaves help to fertilize the soil, and even its death and decay help to form that "humus" or vegetable matter in the soil without which it will not support higher forms of plant life. The sagebrush also helps man directly with certain medicinal and other properties.

We therefore learned, or rather had a greater realization of that which we had known long before, namely, that no matter how humble the form in which the one Divine Life may be manifesting, each form is accomplishing a definite work in the world, working in its own place and way to prepare for a higher and greater form of manifestation of that same One Life. After this we felt like apologizing to the sagebrush for the attitude of contempt in which our ignorance and lack of realization permitted us to indulge. In fact, we came to look upon it with much the same admiration which we feel for the sturdy pioneers who are willing to live under hard and primitive conditions that they may cultivate and improve the soil and make the region habitable for others, in other walks of life and with other qualities to express, who come later and whose work can be accomplished only after the primitive conditions have been overcome. And who shall say that the life-force now manifesting through and learning the lessons of the sagebrush may not manifest in some later age through noble trees growing in the very soil which the sagebrush has helped to redeem and enrich and prepare?

The sagebrush reminded us of the great mass of unenlightened and undeveloped humanity who seem to be toiling hopelessly and apparently wasting their lives in a dreary and drab existence almost as barren as a desert and with scarcely a bright spot of colour or blossom in their lives. Yet even in their lives there are many tiny blossoms of love, for their children, friends, homes, etc., which make an opening through which the Divine Life of the Great Mother-love can flow forth to fill them with the Spiritual Sap and manifest the life expression and experience which their stage of evolution needs to take them their next step onward; to bring forth in their lives the perfume of their highest ideals.

Like a beautiful life amid sordid surroundings we would now and then come upon an irrigated patch amidst the surrounding sagebrush, fragrant with the delightful perfume and refreshing coolness of alfalfa. For alfalfa has to an extraordinary degree the ability to give off large quantities of moisture and life-force as well as perfume, thus markedly cooling the surrounding air. This is a phenomenon which might not be noticed so distinctly did it not surprise us in the midst of an arid waste. This crop alone is doing much toward the regeneration of such lands.

Through all these regions we were introduced to the beginning of reconstruction. Even the rodents, little ground squirrels, gophers and prairie dogs, by their burrowing through the earth and their life in it are helping it to transmit more freely the life-forces. The elements were also everywhere at work slowly washing the disintegrating rock from the core of the mountains, leaving spires and pinnacles and columns, often weird and fantastic shapes like giant heads with gasping mouths striving to breathe, like stretched out hands seemingly lifted to heaven in protest because the elements were transmuting them into soil.

In other regions we found rugged, beautiful, even awe-inspiring canons where laughing streams had cut their way through solid walls of rock and made it possible for man to construct a highway by which he could climb to the heights above. Here we saw exemplified the lesson that the great stream of Divine Life-force is like a pure river flowing through our lives. Even if their outer conditions be seemingly as hard and dense as granite, nevertheless this stream of Divine Life and Love of the Great Mother will wear a passage through them as the water of a mountain stream cuts through the hills. As the rocks break and crumble or are undermined they fall into the stream, but the water only dashes over them. The greater the obstruction the higher the water lifts itself in spray and the more beautifully it reflects the sunlight. The more obstacles it meets the more determination it shows to conquer.

Just so with the life which consciously permits the great stream of the Divine Life-force to make a pathway through it. It may not find all things smooth and pleasant, but no matter what is encountered it knows that it can gather its forces until the obstacle is overcome, each victory developing great power and endurance, and bringing greater joy and greater ability to sparkle in the light of the Spiritual Sun. Hence the lesson we learned from the canons was to let our lives flow like a river, ever fed from the Eternal Springs on high, our aspirations ever pointing upward like the giant pines; ever gladly meeting obstacles, trusting in the irresistible power of the stream within us to overcome them, not for ourselves alone, but that we may help to make a pathway for other feet that shall lead them from the valleys of life to the heights.

Another lesson was learned from the distant mirages in which we seemed to see cool waters for our parched throats, and shady trees to protect us from the stifling heat and burning glare of the desert sun. Although they were only mirages, yet in them we recognized alluring illusions similar to those which come to tempt the untrained psychic to leave the well-marked trail of teaching and philosophy left by the Masters of Wisdom and great Teachers which will lead him safely across the illusions of the Astral World to the Hall of Wisdom beyond. Many today are being tempted by such illusions, due to their close touch with the astral. For just as a mother must be open to the astral that incarnation may take place, so as a New Race is being born, humanity is more open to the astral than before, and many new forces are striving for expression.

Many today are finding themselves tempted from the Path by the many self-appointed teachers in the astral who cry: "Lo, here! Lo, there!" so that the student scarce knows which way to turn or whom to believe and follow. Yet if we truly enter the Silence and ask that the Comforter shall bring to our remembrance all that

was told us of these times, we will at once remember that it was said: "Many shall come in my name . . . and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect." Yet we need not be deceived. Those who come in the name of the Christ are not always or even often in the flesh, but come in the astral to every awakening psychic,³ claiming to be Messengers of Light and pouring into the minds of the psychics plausible tales and great promises, telling one that he is to be a great teacher or another that she has been chosen to redeem the world, etc. To all such, and they are many, let the Comforter, the Divine Mother, bring to their remembrance the answer that Jesus gave to those who came asking, "Art thou he that should come? or look we for another?" His only answer was to point to His works, to that which He had accomplished. And His answer is as true today as ever. "By their fruits ye shall know them."

Hence, unless we see such teachers bringing forth the bread and wine of spiritual truth we must recognize that all their fair promises are but the allurements of the mirage which, if followed, means the terrible suffering of losing our Path across the desert. "Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?"⁴ Spiritual drink (grapes) cannot be gained from the hard, woody fibre of mere intellectual teachings, be they ever so sharp and penetrating, nor can spiritual food (figs) be found on the stinging growths in the astral which seem so green and tempting.

It is not what some astral teacher tells us we will be or will do, but *what we are doing now*, what foundations we are laying, what principles we are following, that counts. Never does one have to proclaim to the world that he is a chosen one; that he alone can turn discontent and antagonism into brotherhood, abolish war and inaugurate an era of world peace. If he is so appointed and has the power, all he has to do is to go quietly about his work and the world will know it by its results.

But whether chosen for a special public work or not, each one can strive to enter the great Temple of Silence and there receive the accolade of divine power and have the love of the Divine Mother fill him. Then he can go forth and express and manifest as best he may that which he has received, and thus fulfil his part as a humble worker with the Great Ones for the enlightenment and upliftment of his fellow men.

(To be concluded)

³ For details see *Realms of the Living Dead*, Curtiss

⁴ St. Matthew, VII, 16.

LESSONS BY THE WAY¹ PART III: NATURE'S SYMBOLOGY

**"Little drops of water, little grains of sand,
Make the mighty oceans and the pleasant land.
Little deeds of kindness, little words of love,
Make the earth an Eden, like the heaven above."**

Little Things, Carney.

"I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills from whence cometh my help."

Psalms, cxxi, 1.

Summer is the season of vacations, of travel and change. Change is essential to growth and progress; change of surroundings, change of ideas, change of outlook and attitude, even frequent changes of costume. All these create new interests and stimulate both mind and body. But the change must be of a constructive nature else its benefit may be lost. Too strenuous a vacation may bring one home tired out and depleted instead of refreshed and invigorated.

Since this planet was created as a great school² for the Soul in which man must learn many vital lessons, if we travel over it with only a sightseer's interest in mere surface conditions we may enjoy its scenery and expand our conceptions of how other communities live and thus improve our minds, but if we travel with our mystic eyes open we will see back of surface conditions into the mysteries of life, into the causes of things; will tune ourselves in with Nature's activities and thus have a better understanding of the significance of the rapid and remarkable changes that are constantly taking place around us.

We all know that this summer (1930) the whole middle portion of our country has been suffering for months from the most severe drought on record since 1874. One explanation is that the areas of high atmospheric pressure which normally sweep across the northern third of the country every few days from one coast or the other, drawing air currents from both North and South, have failed to appear this year. Hence, the cool air currents from the North could not mingle with the warm, moisture-laden currents from the South or from the coasts, and condense their moisture into rain. But a study of the weather map shows that the storm currents have not disappeared, but have only been diverted far to the North across the wastes of the Hudson Bay region where the rain was not needed for mankind.

One scientific reason given for the diversion of the storm track so far to the North is connected with the swing of the Moon far to the northward in successive decades, the extreme swing this year repeating that of 1874, which was also a year of great drought. But this is only the effect, not the cause. The cause is connected both with the wobbling of the Earth's axis and with the crossing over of certain earth-currents,³ which crossing coincides with our entering into the new Aquarian Age. During this transitional period there will be many and great changes brought about by cataclysms, great floods, unusual droughts, famines, strikes, wars and disasters of all kinds, as fully explained in our *Coming World Changes*.

That the drought this summer is not a mere local disturbance of the air currents of this country, but has a planetary aspect, is evidenced by the fact that the drought has been far more terrible in other countries. Recent newspaper reports quote Bishop Claes, the chief missionary Bishop of the Belgian Congo, as reporting that the drought in the Ruanda Province had caused a famine so frightful that it had taken the lives of 40,000 natives! in spite of the fact that many thousands had emigrated

¹ Curtiss, *The Inner Radiance*, Chapter XXXVI, Notes from a trans-continental auto tour made by the authors in September 1930.

² Curtiss, *The Voice of Isis*, 46

³ Curtiss, *Coming World Changes*, 49

to the British territory of Uganda. This terrible disaster to humanity is all a part of the travail which this planet and its inhabitants are passing through during the "last days" of the old cycle; those days of "great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved."⁴ But we must ever keep in mind that "for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened." And we have explained elsewhere just how⁵ this can be accomplished and the responsibility of every thoughtful person in regard to it.

In driving across the parched and sun-baked plains of the middle western states it was brought home to us with great force the vital part which water plays both in the life of all animate beings and inanimate Nature as well. Of the three essential factors for physical life and growth, water, sunshine and food, water is by far the most important, for life can be maintained far longer without sunshine or food than it can without water. For without water, the great solvent and purifier, the food (or soil) cannot be dissolved and assimilated nor the waste products be washed out, so the plant or animal body dries up and shrivels and the life-force can no longer flow through it. Thus do we realize the dictum that, "Life is the basic reality, of which everything else is a form or manifestation."

All this is correspondingly true of the spiritual life. No matter how much spiritual food is provided, unless we imbibe the waters of Divine Love, the great solvent and purifier, the Spiritual Fire will only scorch and wither and the spiritual food which it should vitalize and use for growth cannot be assimilated or our natures be cleansed and purified of the waste products of our minds, our emotions and our desires. "But whosoever drinketh of the waters that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life."

Seeking to imbibe the Christ-love from the universal ocean of Divine Love, and striving to build it into the structure of our lives, is even more important for our spiritual growth and fruitage than water is for the growth and fruitage of plant life. If there is a dearth or drought of love in our lives our spiritual tassels cannot pollinize our actions, and our ears of manifestation and our kernels of demonstration will therefore be few and puny and not at all nourishing, and our whole lives will be withered and barren of spiritual attainment, no matter how luxuriant the leaves of our outer conditions may seem to grow.

But if we have love, no matter how little learning or how little mental illumination we may have, we can grow to the full stature of the inner unfoldment which we have reached and which our environment (soil) and our Karma enables us to manifest. And so we can help to make the human landscape brighter and more cheerful and happy, and bring forth fruits of character which will encourage, comfort and help others. For just as surely as "little drops of water, little grains of sand, make the mighty oceans and the pleasant land," so is it true that "little deeds of kindness, little words of love, make this earth an Eden, like the heaven above." For it is not by outer achievements that our spiritual growth is promoted and our character formed, but by the assimilative and cohesive power of love which builds in little by little the results of the deeds of kindness and the words of love which the Divine in us prompts us to express.

In our *Coming World Changes*⁶ we have described the effect of sincere and earnest community prayer in bringing rain, and how the very lives of both the Hopi and Pueblo Indians depend upon their ability to bring rain annually from what had

⁴ St. Matthew, XXIV, 21-22.

⁵ Curtiss, *Coming World Changes*, Chapters II-III

⁶ Curtiss, *Coming World Changes*, 104

been for weeks a cloudless sky during the drought season to save the corn crop upon which they depend for food. While driving through the drought-stricken states we felt so sorry for the withered vegetation, the thirsty animals and the suffering humanity that in the middle of the morning, without a cloud in the sky, we prayed that if their Karma permitted they should be given rain. Before noon clouds began to gather and in a few hours the first shower for weeks was falling.

In watching the clouds float over the landscape it occurred to us that the earth, the clouds and the sky might be likened to the physical plane, the astral plane and the spiritual plane. The clouds float over the earth much like clouds of astral conditions and forces float over humanity. The clouds may seem too ethereal and unsubstantial to be seriously considered, but under certain conditions they can concentrate and condense until they darken the whole horizon. Although usually so harmless, upon occasion they become so charged with destructive forces as to wreak havoc upon the earth and humanity.

Similarly, the astral world seems so ethereal and unsubstantial that it is hardly worth while considering, yet it too is capable of concentrating such destructive forces as to wreak havoc upon mankind. Yet in both the physical and astral storms, the effect is but the result of man's own destructive creations, as we have explained elsewhere.⁷ But just as there are many beautiful and inspiring effects in the cloud formations, although they too have a significance but little understood or suspected, as they bring cooling shade and refreshing rain to combine with the soil and sunshine to bring forth the crops of the field and the health and happiness of mankind, so are there many beautiful and inspiring effects to be noted and conditions to be contacted in the astral world which do much to comfort, inspire and refresh mankind and help them to bring forth their most fruitful experiences. And even though the clouds do often hide the Sun from our sight for a time, the glimpses of the blue sky we see between them is evidence that the Sun still shines whether we see it or not. Likewise, although unfavourable astral conditions may sometimes overshadow, chill and discourage us, we must never forget that the Sun of Righteousness is forever shining above the clouds, and the deep sky-blue of Divine Love ever arches over us in tender, protecting care, assuring us that *all storms*, no matter how severe, *eventually pass away* and reveal the Sun and the blue sky as friendly and cheering as ever. And if we have faith in the Divine Law and steadfastly hold fast to our spiritual principles and ideals until the storm of discouragement, trial or depression blows over, we will save ourselves much unnecessary suffering.

As we approach the mountains (Rockies) we are at first awed by their vastness and their majesty and we feel our own seeming insignificance. But a little reflection will reveal the fact that we are not insignificant, even in the presence of the mountains, for we are individualized immortal Souls, emanations from the divine Father-Mother, and as such we are Their direct representatives on Earth. The mountains, reaching so far up into the sky, naturally symbolize the heights of spiritual attainment or man's ascent to Godhood. At first sight these attainments seem to loom vast and forbidding before us and we are apt to think that there is so much to learn, so much to attain, and we are so ignorant and undeveloped that the task is hopeless. But if we examine the mountains carefully when we reach them we will find that others have been there before us, intrepid pioneers who have blazed the trails to the heights for us. Indeed, in these days there are splendid highways leading to all the beauty spots and to the richest mines. So today, when many eager, hungry Souls are seeking the Path of Attainment, there are many entrances to the Path pointed out by many reliable guides, and many well-mapped

⁷ Curtiss, *The Voice of Isis*, 116-117, 172

highways of instruction, even broad, well-paved courses of teaching, which will help to quicken our progress and make easy our attaining an understanding of the great truths that seemed so formidable at first sight. Yet ever the top-most heights of spiritual realization must be scaled by the individual initiative, the indomitable courage and the persistent efforts of the aspiring Soul.

But even if we cannot reach the mountains and have to live seemingly upon a dead-level plain, we need not be discouraged. If we cannot go to the mountains they can come to us, not in their vast bulk, but in their essential elements. For as the storms beat upon the heights they are gradually disintegrated and washed down to form the floor of the valleys and the broad alluvial plains. Therefore, if we but seek deeply enough within we will find beneath our very feet and in our own home environment particles of the same granite boulders which form the mountains. Then, too, the air of the higher altitudes is too rare for many of the dwellers of the plains, so they are able to make only brief visits to the heights. Yet no matter in what region we may find ourselves placed by the Great Law, if we will open our spiritual eyes and seek deeply enough, we can find the essence of those eternal truths whose mastering will take us to the heights of attainment.

We often think that as we progress toward the heights that our lives will be increasingly serene and peaceful, but in driving through a mid-summer hail storm four inches deep while crossing a high mountain pass from Cripple Creek, Colorado, it was brought vividly to mind that the heights are by no means always calm and serene. For many are the storms and testings, the black clouds of discouragement and depression, the thunder of our emotions, the jagged flashes of anger, the drenching rains of doubt and the fierce, beating hail of material attractions, which assail the Neophyte until he has passed the four great initiations of the elements, earth, air, fire, water, and has reached the haven of peace above the storm clouds.

These observations may seem to some but trite remarks and obvious platitudes. But what are platitudes? They are not merely dull, stupid remarks, but are simple statements of the eternal verities upon which all civilizations are built and without the observance of which mankind cannot live in peace and happiness. Hence they are absolutely necessary for our communal life. The multiplication table is a platitude to the mathematician and the statement that two plus two make four is a very trite remark, yet we still often need to be reminded of these fundamentals which underlie all mathematics, even though we may have become an advanced authority on higher mathematics.

So do we ever need to let the beauties and wonders of Nature and the events of our daily lives remind us that we are not mere mortals, but are essentially spiritual beings who have temporarily donned the uniform of earth life. But there is no limitation, sickness, lack or inharmony in the Soul. Therefore nothing can prevent the manifestation of the powers of the Soul through the human personality save those things of the earth, earthy, thoughts, desires, deeds, ambitions, emotions, etc., which we permit to intrude and divert our minds from a realization of the beauty and glory and the infinite power of the Christ within.

CHAPTER XIII

THE ORDER OF CHRISTIAN MYSTICS

“Ministers of Christ and Stewards of the Mysteries of God.”

1 Corinthians 4 vs. 1

“By their fruits you shall know them.”

Motto of the Order

Through-out the ages mankind has seen and recorded the birth and emergence of spiritual giants, who walk the earth with us for three score and ten years and then move on, leaving behind a spiritual legacy that goes on in time to inspire millions. Out of such *Teachers* and Their timeless *Teachings* are born the major religions of the world, that give to humanity a guidance and moral basis from which they may receive their inspiration, and so operate and progress spiritually. Each successive new religion emerges from out the previous ones and is therefore more advanced than those that have come before, with Christianity today being the most influential on world affairs.

Whenever a great body of mankind reaches a point where it has either outgrown the symbolic language used to interpret an inspired revelation given to a past generation, or when previous interpretations of the eternal verities have become encrusted with so much that is misconceived and false, or have become so materialized and literal that they no longer reveal the truths they were meant to teach, there is given to the world a new outpouring of truth, inspired by the same Divine Source of all truth, a New Testament for a new dispensation. And invariably those giving forth the New Testament are regarded by those of the old dispensation as heretics and disturbers of the people’s minds.

Religions always start out with a high content of truth and its doctrines are therefore relatively pure, but as time progresses, through priestcraft, indoctrination and dogma, such religion becomes stagnant and needs to be renewed or replaced in its entirety. It is then that the Heavenly Fathers, the Masters of Wisdom, call them what you may, send down to earth an embodiment of the godhead in the form of a human incarnation, called an Avatar or Divine incarnation, who brings down to the physical manifestation a renewed *Teaching* to help, guide and teach a specific part of humanity. Such manifestations of Divine beings here on earth is termed the doctrine of Avatara.¹

It was HPB that first popularised the concept of the seven Rays, seven Rays of light emanating from the one Divine white light, each Ray bringing with it spiritual energies that would suit a part of humanity on its quest upwards to the one Divine light, the limitless light of the Cabalists, the Spiritual Sun. When God said: “Let there be light,”² the one Divine light with its seven-fold division came into being, one Ray, one colour, one new differentiation for each new cosmic day. We are now in the early morning of the seventh day. These colour Rays symbolize the seven great types or classes of humanity with their various idiosyncrasies, differences of opinion and various ways of looking at Divine Truth.

The seven rays span a vast period of time and have various names by which they have been known in the various countries of the world in which they have operated.

¹ Curtiss, *The Voice of Isis*, Chapter X

² Genesis 1 vs. 3

The Gnostic ray was founded by Pythagoras, who went to Egypt and was initiated into the Egyptian mystery school. That school was also known as the Collegium Gnosticum, the Pythagorean School, the Orphean School, the Mystery School of Eleusia and continues on under various names. The Masonic ray has variously been known as the Knights Templars, the Rosicrucians, the Valdenza, the Albigensis, the Cathars and the Bogomils. The ray represented by the Essene order, also known as the Nazarene, the Hassidic, Judaic mysticism and Sabbatianism (not to be confused with the Rabbinate). It used to have its headquarters at Qumran in Israel and it is this order that wrote the Dead Sea Scrolls. The ray of the Sufi, also known as Dervishes. At one stage they were the Mithraic ray, known as Mazdaism, Zoroastrianism and the Baha'i, not to be confused with the present-day order of the Baha'i, which has nothing to do with the original order. The ray of Taoism, which is associated with the Shinto in Japan, Confucianism and Confucius, with Lao Tzu Tung, with Mencius and also with the mystic called Li-Te-Pe. In China, all of these orders existed in the past and exist to this day and the overarching name for it is Taoism. The Buddhistic ray, the mystery school founded by Gautama Siddhartha, later on called the Buddha. It is represented not by the orthodox religion of Buddhism but by the mysticism of Zen in Japan, by Lamaism in Tibet and by the mystery school of Mongolia, the Mongolian Buddhistic Mystics. The seventh is the Brahmanic ray. It is also known as the Tantric ray, the Vedic ray, Yoga and the ray of the Darshanas.

It is within these seven rays, each one representing one of the major orthodox religions on the lower levels, that we find the true mystery schools on earth, representing the Sacred Government and True Priesthood³ that governs the spiritual destiny of all mankind. Such has existed since the dawn of time and life on this world, for as long as there are humans, there will be light to a greater or lesser degree for that humanity to develop and to climb the Jacobs ladder to the Divine realms from whence mankind originated.

Spiritual development takes place on a hierarchical basis and can be represented as a pyramid. On the lowest level we have those that are the least developed and such are most numerous. These however support the next level of beings, the above being dependant on their physical existence on those below, where-as the above provide the opportunities for spiritual growth through the sacrifices made by those below. Such then help to assist those above in their spiritual missions here on earth. As we move to the apex of the pyramid, through the various Rays and Hierarchies that represent *all life*, numbers decrease exponentially until we reach the very top where sits the most enlightened of all, the King of Glory, the Almighty. It is the eternal quest of the seeker to ever better himself and so slowly move up this pyramid through the myriad lives we undergo through successive incarnations on the earth plane. This is the mighty gift of the Most High to mankind, for we have been given free will and have the choice to decide wisely, or, if we will, to decide unwisely and so go astray. Yet nothing is lost in this great scheme of things for we learn both through our mistakes in sorrow, pain and suffering as well as through our wise decisions. For there is but one way, one stream and one flow there-of, and this is forever forwards, onwards and inevitably upwards. Yet in this mighty stream we may indeed find small eddies and back-currents seemingly going against the flow, but these but give colour and dynamic to this great everlasting story of life as we know it and live it day by day. And so we grow and develop spiritually, each and every day, until at last through *conscious personal effort and aspiration* we start to *resemble* the Almighty and become one with Him once more.

³ Curtiss, *The Message of Aquaria*, Chapter XXXVI

In this great scheme of things we find a system that is well run and in good order in which everything has a place and in which everything works harmoniously to achieve this ultimate goal, the spiritualisation of all matter to a higher degree and octave. It is in this system that we find the Sacred Government, that which is forever after the *Order of Melchisedec*³ as mentioned in the Bible and numerous other texts. It is this *Order of Melchisedec*, this *Cosmic Order*, which is made up of and consists of the seven major Rays, each again with its sevenfold sub-Rays and so on, which ultimately finds its expression through a personal Divine Ray within each heart of all of humanity. For just as we have the one Divine light, so is that light represented in the central Spiritual Sun of our universe, in our galaxy, in our solar system and finally as those individual Divine sparks that represent the Most High within each and every one of us. Thus are we ever guided from above through our own divinity within us, through the conscience, intuition or from our Higher Selves, for we have a promise from the Master Jesus that we will not be left comfortless.

And so it is that humanity is never left without a guiding light to assist it onwards, for what would be the purpose to creation if not to cherish, guide and help grow that which has been planted by the Great Gardener. For each and every aspiring heart there will be found some avenue through which it can work out its spiritual ideals and so finally achieve its highest spiritual goal. Such aspiration is open to all children of this earth, and not just for the few, for spiritual growth is our Divine birthright. Even though we may be but the humblest of human creatures, still we have our lives to live, our place to fill, our record to make, and our grain of truth to leave behind.⁴

Thus it is that the High Ones ever send down to earth such enlightened souls that may inspire and guide us to higher things. And ever it is that such enlightened souls will create and found on the earth plane such groups, orders and societies that may best serve the spiritual needs and ideals of mankind that will suit the times. For just as in nature all things are renewed through the seasons and through birth, growth and death, so too must the spiritual groups be renewed from time to time and new blood be injected to stimulate growth.

These Great Souls have always been and still are the Guides and Teachers of mankind, hence those whose reason postulates or whose intuition recognizes such godlike Beings can safely accept Their teachings, for They are in a position to know. This ancient wisdom has never been lost, but because of man's gradual refusal to accept and follow it during his ages of darkness and ignorance it has been temporarily withdrawn from the public teachings and carefully preserved, although always accessible to every Soul who seeks it by the right method and in the right spirit.⁵ And in this cycle of spiritual unfoldment, it is advisable that a few of these Mysteries be at least partially unveiled, that the spiritual discernment of the few may lead to the knowledge of the many.⁶

The Heavenly Fathers, The Masters of Wisdom, call them what you may, ever seek to use any and all opportunities to advance the enlightenment of mankind. Where-ever is found a sincere heart an avenue opens for the Higher Ones to pour down their inspiration, help and love to mankind. Be this through an individual who helps and assists those around and closest to him, the founding of an organization that is to do a charitable work, or the inspiration that is whispered down to those sensitive individuals who can respond to the higher callings and thereby manifest the ancient Divine truths to a spiritually hungering world. All are but one of a great

⁴ Curtiss, *The Message of Aquaria*, p261,262

⁵ Curtiss, *The Voice of Isis*, p228,229

⁶ Curtiss, *The Voice of Isis*, p370

cosmic family, unknown to most in this dense and dark world, in which we but sluggishly respond to the whisperings from above.

But there are some amongst us that do respond to the whisperings from above, and who selfishly sacrifice everything they have, even their own spiritual advancement, to answer the call of the Higher Ones, who make of themselves and all they possess 'a living sacrifice.' And some of these do so again and again, without thought of any reward, who prepare themselves already in the Higher Realms to descend to earth to do a spiritual work for mankind. And it is through such selfless service, encompassing the most noble of ideals, that the Masters of Wisdom are able to pour down onto this earth their boundless and limitless Light, Life and Love through Agents that are willing to take up the call.

ANNOUNCEMENT⁷

"Behold, I bring unto you good tidings of great joy"

To all students of the higher life who truly desire to progress, and who wish the opportunity of coming into closer personal touch with those Masters of Wisdom who through all ages have been the Teachers, Guides and Elder Brothers of humanity, there comes the following message:

In accordance with the geometrical design of the universe, a point is now reached when an advanced Order from the Great White Lodge can be established upon the earth plane. This Order is not an organization in the general acceptance of the term, nor is it connected either with the outer or inner work of any occult organisation now in existence on the physical plane. It is a new and direct output from the Great White Lodge. According to its fundamental principles, only such earnest students can be admitted to it as have proven their devotion to the Masters, and have sent out their cry to Them for enlightenment and help. All such persons are welcomed into this Order, and such probationary lessons will be sent them, from time to time, as will afford them an opportunity of coming into close fellowship and conscious communication with the Masters of Wisdom. Understand this point clearly. *It will be only through your own individual effort, your attitude of soul, and the character of your life that will enable you to place yourself in personal, conscious touch with the Masters. It depends upon no personality but your own.*

No vows, or pledges, are asked of you, for only those are eligible to this Order who have voluntarily given up their lives to the higher law, and have already vowed allegiance to their own Higher Self. Therefore, this Order offers the opportunity of fulfilling past vows and no new ones are required. Membership in this Order will not conflict with any duties of life, or with membership in other organizations, or membership in any religious denomination. . . .

Such was a part of the initial announcement to the world of the founding and establishment of a new Order to serve the needs of pupils with a Western mind set and especially to the tens of thousands or so members of the Theosophical Society who at that time found themselves leaderless with the passing of their Great Teacher, Helena Petrovna Blavatsky. As the gates of the New Age swing open, the Teachings of this Order, which have been given through those who know whence they come, are sent forth to all sincere seekers for their comfort and instruction and to announce once more great tidings of joy.

And it is the Masters of this invisible Lodge, not in the astral but in the higher spiritual realms, who have put forth *The Order of Christian Mystics*, and from whom its Teachings come. This Order is put forward from an entirely new standpoint. Its students are not asked to go to some far distant land or to seek entrance to some ancient monastery. For there they may be told to do without all comforts, conveniences and sanitary arrangements and to live on coarse and frugal fare, to free their minds from attachment to physical things. For the Western type of mind to try to adapt itself to such a radical change of habits and environment, instead of bringing quiet, ease and freedom of mind, it would require years of training of

⁷ Curtiss, *The Voice of Isis*, Announcement, Appendix B

body and mind to accustom itself and become indifferent to the discomforts and rigid discipline of such a life.

If the mind of the average Western aspirant is to be trained for spiritual things, to become quiet, free from disturbances and able to develop its higher faculties and commune with the highest, this can be more quickly and successfully accomplished if he is given a quiet, comfortable and orderly home life in which the comforts to which he has been accustomed are neither luxuries nor temptations; they are taken as a matter of course and are not given a second thought, whereas their absence would cause great diversion of mind. In such a home life he would be subject not to the dictates of Abbot, Priest or Master; nor to the rigid discipline of a monastery, but to the discipline of “living the life” of aspiration and devotion in the midst of the world’s affairs, being “in the world, but not of it” and subject only to the dictates of his own divine Higher Self.

The two systems of Eastern and Western development differ because of a difference in racial thought and habits of life. In the East from childhood students have been accustomed to give obedience to someone in authority over them, but in the Western world the whole attitude of mind is one of freedom and independence. Therefore the Masters back of this Order set before its students not rigid outer observances, discipline and physical requirements, but give them an understanding of the basic principles and laws of manifested life and let each student discipline himself as may be necessary to live in accord with those principles and laws, under the guidance of his Higher Self, each one progressing according to the effort he makes toward self mastery.⁸

The Order pronounced the inception of its work on the 01st of January 1908 and was founded in Philadelphia in the USA, on the new continent and the great hope and aspiration of HPB whilst still in the flesh, for it was her belief and teaching that the new race, foretold and prophesied for millennia, would form and take root from the new continent. That the Order was founded in Philadelphia is not by co-incidence, for in the book of Revelation we read about the seven churches of Asia,⁹ and the Angel of the Lord specifically mentions the church of Philadelphia. Exoterically this is taken as just that, but esoterically the seven churches refer to the seven Rays or the seven mystery schools that are to be found on this earth at any given time. In particular, the church of Philadelphia refers to that Ray which caters for the spiritual mind-set of the Western world, and is a collective referral to all the Orders that have existed for the last few thousand years that have catered for the spiritual development of the Western race, manifesting most prominently through the Gnostic and Rosicrucian societies of the last few centuries. From an esoteric standpoint, the seven churches of Asia refer to the seven mystery or spiritual schools in the manifestation, which corresponds to the Tree of Life of Assiah, the World of Formation of the Cabalists, and therefore not ‘Asia’ as it is incorrectly referred to in the Bible.

It was the mission of HPB to bring to the Western world the pearls of wisdom to be found in all the non-Christian religions of the world, a mission that was completed very successfully as has been shown in this work.¹⁰ Yet, at her passing, it was realised by the Powers that Be that the Western world was lacking a broad-based esoteric interpretation of the mystical truths to be found in the Bible and the Christian religion, as the newly awakened pupils of the Theosophical Society were apt to point out that Christianity was a failure, if compared with the older esoteric institutions of the East.

⁸ Curtiss, *The Message of Aquaria*, p100, 101

⁹ Revelations 1 vs. 4; 3 vs. 7-13

¹⁰ Curtiss, *Personal Survival*, Chapter XI

Therefore one of the main aims of this new Order and movement was to promulgate the Christian Bible as the most important source of esoteric knowledge available to the Western world and to show the great spiritual truths to be found within that religion called Christianity, couched in simple language and recognizing the occult and mystical side of the Christian scriptures. All scriptures and myths are collections of allegories and parables, grouped and arranged to illustrate symbolically some feature of the growth of the Soul. Hence, while not always historically true, as modern research has shown, *they are always universally true*, because they illustrate phases of experience through which every Soul passes during its evolution towards conscious union with the Divine.¹¹ Thus the universal life story of all Initiates being the same.

The teachings of this Order also embraces all modern scientific advances of the modern century, so that it can meet the spiritual needs of any age; for it comprehends and anticipates in the principles of its philosophy all the discoveries, advances and attainments of which man is capable within this world period. More importantly, this teaching takes into account that man has a heart, and that the human heart is as hungry as ever for direct communion with the Higher Life as a *conscious personal experience*, and that to satisfy his mind, a spiritual philosophy that embraces the Western style of living is required, so that man can grow spiritually right in the environment in which he was born.¹²

Internalising the Teachings of this Order will show that through Love and Compassion it is our Divine birth right to bring forth in our lives and heart the Christ-child within, and as more and more take up the call, collectively for all humanity.¹³ Throughout this volume and the *Teachings of the Order*, the term “the Christ” refers to the Universal Christ Principle or the individualized Ray of God within each heart. This Ray is often called the Spiritual Self, the Real Self, the Higher Self, the I AM presence, the God-within, the Christ-within, amongst others.

A further aim of the Order was to prepare the western world for the birth and advent of the coming great World Teacher, the Avatar, which was expected to happen by 1975 and to prepare the way for the establishment of a New Religion for all mankind. For ere such a Divine Being can appear on earth there must be a sufficient number of awakened Souls who not only ardently long for His coming, but who are sufficiently instructed in the Law and developed through love, to recognize Him when He comes.¹

The Order started of its work by a system of correspondence where-by pupils were sent monthly lessons and in return they could correspond via letter and ask questions *directly* to that great world Teacher that was HPB who was *The Teacher of the Order* via its Agents on the physical plane, and *The Teacher of the Order*, under Divine instruction by the coming Avatar. Such a Divine link is made clear through-out the unfoldment of this work.

The manifestation of this Order was deemed to be a major stepping stone for the enlightenment of the Western world, a true continuation of the work of the Hierarchy back of HPB. Such a True Work could only be accomplished by members of the True Priesthood, suitable vessels and agents who could once more manifest the ancient Teachings directly from the Divine realms. Such agents would of necessity have to be in conscious touch with the Divine progenitors of the race, a claim that will be made abundantly clear through-out the work. And through such enlightened Souls who have reached an Initiation high enough to be in *direct conscious touch* with the Teachers of mankind, Divine truths can be given once more

¹¹ Curtiss, *The Voice of Isis*, p75

¹² Curtiss, *The Voice of Isis*, Preface to the Second Edition

¹³ Curtiss, *The Voice of Isis*, Introduction

to a spiritually hungry world. At the heart of *The Teachings of the Order* stood the ancient fire worship, the cold flame, or the means necessary to bring out the Divine light within each aspirant through the upliftment of the base creative energies or Kundalini force, and thereby to open the mystical centres through normal and constructive spiritual development. Thus does this Order claim to represent the Solar Ray¹⁴, the highest Ray currently manifesting on the earth-plane, through Agents who were *consciously in touch* with their Hierarchy.

A prophecy is also made that in time all the other Rays will but work through, and co-operate with the one Solar Ray, in a physical centre or location manifested on the earth-plane, at the start of this great new Age, the Age of Aquarius, as described in the chapter on *Prophecies of the Order & The Coming Avatar*.

Through-out the work, much reference as to the beautiful Teaching of twin souls or complementary mates is made known in a clear and understandable way, and how man and woman should work together to realise their highest spiritual goals under the Divine guidance of their Higher Self.

Each of these Rays must ultimately establish a School of Light, composed of the many who belong to the planetary Hierarchy from which each Ray emanates. This will be accomplished through the efforts of illumined complementary Souls who are sufficiently developed to express, to a greater or lesser degree according to their development, the mission of the Ray. As the Solar Light is the most fundamental and embraces all that will later be differentiated into its separate Rays, and as it is the first to manifest in each era, it is only natural to find that at the beginning of this new cycle the Solar Ray is as yet the only one manifesting through Agents who are *consciously in touch* with their Hierarchy and who are embodying its teachings in a definite School of Light, *The Order of Christian Mystics*, although others are evolving toward such conscious touch and realization of their mission.

As the Law of Duality rules all expressions in the physical world, each of these Rays can be perfectly expressed only through man and woman working together in perfect harmony under the influence of the same Ray, although a Ray may be temporarily, incompletely and less perfectly expressed through only one sex. Yet if one personality alone undertakes to express it without the balancing force of its complementary mate, no matter how sincere or how Divinely illumined that personality may be, the expression is bound to be one-sided, and to make up for the lack of natural and normal balance there will be a tendency to pervert the fundamental Law of Manifestation, the Law of Polarity.

At the present time, the Solar School, as represented by *The Order of Christian Mystics*, is giving forth the fundamental principles of the Cosmic Philosophy which each School will later elaborate and emphasize, just as the one white Light is differentiated into its prismatic colours and yet unites all in perfect harmony.

The Solar School will emphasize and explain the principles of the one Divine Source of all, manifesting through a great Cosmic Scheme or Divine Plan in which each manifested life-expression has its place and its part to play. It will, therefore, present a cosmic outline, an all-inclusive philosophy, which will recognize and accord its true place to every expression of Truth. In fact, it is now preparing all who are ready, and is working toward the founding of a Universal Centre of Spiritual Light and Truth where an ideal community can be established in which each differentiated School will have its place and co-operate with all the others to manifest the Light and Truth to all types and conditions of men.¹⁴

The Agents of the Order were American born, “two children in spiritual things,” Mrs. Harriette Augusta and Dr. Frank Homer Curtiss. It was through Harriette, Priestess of the Flame, as per the main title of this book, that the initial contact manifested directly with that Teacher that was HPB, thereby manifesting a physical link on the earth plane through their Teacher, who, operating from the Higher Planes, is in *conscious touch with, and under direct instruction of the Hierarchy representing the Solar Ray*. She was born, lived and died in Philadelphia. In her middle life she met her complementary mate or twin soul, Frank Homer Curtiss, who would also develop this ability and they thus had a direct, conscious, upward

¹⁴ Curtiss, *The Message of Aquaria*, pp391-392

link with *The Teacher of the Order*, HPB, manifesting a true Occult Order on the physical plane. Through-out the life and work of the Order spanning some 40 years, very little would be divulged as to the personalities of the two agents, their deep humility at work to keep their personalities in the back-ground at all times. Thus did they succeed to put forth 27 volumes of Divinely inspired Teachings, untainted by the intellect and personal colourings of the agents.

Although we emphasized our relation to organizations in our first circular by placing the statement in italics, yet it seems to have been overlooked by many. Therefore we will restate our position more fully herewith, so that in the future there may be no question as to the significance of this Movement and its relation to all others.

This Movement is not an organization because it has no constitution or by-laws, no officers (except the Secretary), requires no pledges and no dues, and does not restrict a member's activity in any society or organization. Therefore it is not antagonistic to any existing organization that is helping humanity, but permits perfect freedom. All that is necessary for membership is to express a sincere desire for help in your efforts for spiritual growth.

Since the treatment accorded to all former agents selected by The Lodge has proved conclusively that humanity is not yet ready to be entrusted with the knowledge of the personalities of the agents through whom these teachings are given, it has been considered best that, on this occasion, they remain incognito; for the agents are of no more importance, from the standpoint of the work, than would be a pipe through which a stream of pure water is conveyed into a parched and thirsty land. Those who are athirst for the Living Waters will drink from the stream, those who are not will pass it by.¹⁵

Ten years after the passing of HPB the Theosophical Society was experiencing a worsening leadership crisis and out of the hundred thousand or so members, thousands were resigning yearly and leaving to form splinter groups and sects or to go it 'alone.' The Theosophical Society in Germany just about came to an end with the three centres in India, England and America vying for supremacy. The Order ensured that it would not become a part of the political infighting of the time by renouncing any ties with the Theosophical Society and stating very clearly that theirs was an organisation that stood on its own, as the Theosophical Society was a broad, public based organisation inspired by an earth-plane teacher, HPB, and the Order was inspired by an ascended Teacher putting forth a new interpretation of the age-old truths, palatable to the western world. Therefore a true Occult Order in the Western mystery tradition, with advanced Disciples and Agents who had a direct link upwards to the Divine. Yet the Order, with its claim to being an all inclusive *Cosmic Order*, went to great lengths to be tolerant and inclusive of all other viewpoints of organisations of the time, and at no time required members to resign any of their current memberships.¹⁶

The Order started of by calling itself *The Order of the 15*. This was based on a deep esoteric numerological meaning as explained in detail in the lesson on *Degrees and Orders*.¹⁷ To the knowledge of the author no similar numerological explanation is extant anywhere on the numerological significance of the various Orders. These are not to be confused with the seven Rays or seven Mystery schools, each which is represented in these varying degrees and Orders. In *The Teachings of the Order*, which follow mainly a symbolical interpretation of the life of the Initiate, two full and complete volumes were set forth pertaining to the mystery of Numbers and how the life and quest of the Initiate follows such system of numerology. These being *The Key to the Universe* and *The Key of Destiny*. These volumes represent a complete and original exposition of the first 22 Numbers, the 22 Tarot Cards and the 22 Letters of the Enochian alphabet. The Order made extensive use of symbolical interpretation of the age-old Teachings and as such, numbers, form and colour

¹⁵ Curtiss, *Letters from the Teacher*, Organisations

¹⁶ Curtiss, *Letters from the Teacher Vol I*, p29

¹⁷ Curtiss, *The Voice of Isis*, Chapter III, Degrees and Orders

are used extensively in their system of teaching. The most profound symbolical interpretation of the life of the Initiate or the spiritual unfolding of the soul is given in the work, *The Pattern Life*, and has been expounded under the chapter entitled *The Universal Solar Myth*.

Going back to the numerical significance of *The Order of the 15*, we start of with the Order of the 36, the sum of the numerals one through eight ($1+2+3+4+5+6+7+8=36$). "Today the Order of the 36 includes all who have imbibed anything of the esoteric truths, and are endeavouring to both live and teach them, be they called Christians, Theosophists or by any other name. . . . The Order of the 36 is the first Order in which the candidate consciously decides to enter The Path which leads to Mastery." All seven Rays and Mystery schools are represented in The Order of the 36, on the bottom strata of the pyramid. Such a numeric exposition as will follow, represents the universal *Cosmic Order of Melchisedec*.³

The Order of the 28 represents the sum of the numerals one through seven ($1+2+3+4+5+6+7=28$). The worthier candidates of the Order of the 36 naturally grow into this Order through the character of their subsequent lives and would typically encompass the inner section of most public occult organisations. Both these Orders represent growth through natural development, i.e., there is no personal instruction for the candidate but rather through books and belonging to esoteric organisations all must fare alike and receive the same Teachings and they will pass through initiations on the inner planes without even being aware of it.

1	Order of the 1
1+2	Order of the 3
1+2+3	Order of the 6
1+2+3+4	Order of the 10
<u>1+2+3+4+5</u>	<u>Order of the 15</u>
1+2+3+4+5+6	Order of the 21
1+2+3+4+5+6+7	Order of the 28
1+2+3+4+5+6+7+8	Order of the 36

The next two Orders are The Order of the 21 and 15, representing the sum of the numerals one through six and five respectively. The Order of the 21 is an intellectual Order and those who are drawn towards geometry, music, colour or mathematical studies are naturally drawn into this Order. Those who have specially developed their love-nature pass into *The Order of the 15*, representing the Heart qualities and especially that quality of Divine Love whereas the Order of the 21 represents the Head and the intellect. It is possible to be in both these Orders at the same time. *The Order of the 15* is the Order of Transmutation or Spiritual Alchemy where attention is given to the transmutation of all the baser qualities into the spiritual gold of Regeneration through the power of Divine Love. *The Order of the 15* represents that group of active spiritual seekers who require personal instruction, and who have outgrown all the former limited organisations. The Order is also called the *Order of the Holy Grail*, the highest of this class are naturally initiated into The Order of the 10 called *The Order of the Flame*. It is not what you believe, but what you bring forth in your life that admits you into full membership of this Holy Order.¹⁸

Since *The Order of Christian Mystics* is a true cosmic Order, ever since its conception it has noticeably followed the trend and laws of cosmic events. It has passed

¹⁸ Curtiss, *The Voice of Isis*, p63

through many periods of partial eclipse when darkness seemed to settle over it, yet like the planet, during those periods of semi-darkness it was gathering greater powers and more wonderful potencies that it might manifest more powerfully in the new day, just as the individual learns his greatest Soul-lessons and has his most vital experiences while passing through periods of darkness or eclipse. And as in the cosmic system, each atom (personality) that is drawn into the onward sweep of this Order has its place and its special end to attain. Again like the Cosmos, the Order is governed by a mighty and immutable law which predestines each Soul who correlates with its force to reach the perfection of Suns, yet gives to each the widest latitude of free-will, as to the manner and the length of time required, to work out his destiny; for all are destined ultimately to reach such perfection.¹⁹

The Order of the 10 represents the sum of the numerals one through four. It is composed of those initiates who have a *direct conscious contact upwards* and who can receive Divine Inspiration and Teachings *directly* from the Masters of Wisdom. That Harriette Augusta Curtiss had reached this level of Initiation will be made clear throughout this work. Her enlightened state was achieved through many lives of spiritual development²⁰ and it will be shown that each and every one of us has to walk much the same path in order to achieve spiritual enlightenment. This work and the works of the Order therefore shows most beautifully the path that each Initiate must tread on many levels and will do much to prepare the seeker mentally and emotionally for the trials, tribulations and great joys that walking the path inevitably bring.

It will also be shown that the remarkable abilities shown by the high Initiates and Adepts of this world, come about because they have reached such a high state, and that it is unnecessary to put in great efforts to develop occult powers as these develop normally through day to day spiritual development and once you are ready for such abilities, they will come of their own accord.

In the first edition of *Letters from the Teacher*, she is given the honorific of “*Priestess of the Flame*” by her Order, being a true representative of the Sacred Government or *True Priesthood* here on the earth plane. No claims were ever made by the Agents to be anything more than Agents of their Teacher. As to the authority and truth of the Teachings as put forth by the Order, the Teachings are in themselves their own authority, and will show itself if studied. No claims are therefore given as to their veracity.

The Order of the 6 will only be manifested on the earth plane with the coming of the New Avatar. The Orders of the 3 and the 1 being beyond the comprehension of mankind at this stage.

The numerical title of the Order created much confusion with its less advanced pupils who could not quite grasp the esoteric significance of its numerology, but who none-the-less achieved much help and growth through its Teachings. Because of this the public name of the Order was changed to *The Order of Christian Mystics*. This then referred to its broad-based Teachings and was used for most of the life of the Order. A third name was also used in time, *The Universal Religious Fellowship, Inc.* and for a time a side shoot *The Church of the Wisdom Religion* came into being. Overall, the main title and sub-title was *The Order of Christian Mystics* and *The Order of the 15* respectively.

As already stated the Order was put forth to promulgate the esoteric content of the Bible and the Christian religion and this it achieved with great success. The Order was also given a prophecy, one of many, that the interblending of many races on the American continent will give rise to a new race, expected by all advanced esoteric

¹⁹ Curtiss, *The Message of Aquaria*, p51

²⁰ Curtiss, *The Key of Destiny*, p135

groups and orders of the world, the so-called Pranic Root Race. Such would be a race of initiates encompassing the most advanced spiritual religion of all times. It is just such a New Religion, open and acceptable by all, the promulgation of which is to be the main work and mission of the coming Avatar. The fundamental Aim of the Order was therefore to assist in the preparation of mankind for the advent of the Coming Avatar.²¹ The promulgation of the western mystery religion, as encompassed in the Christian religion was further expounded.

AIMS OF THIS MOVEMENT²²

The great wave of psychism now sweeping over the land has brought many students to the point where their inner faculties are unfolding. This is a point of great danger, for here the two paths, the Right Hand and the Left Hand, diverge. This Order may be called a wayside House of Rest, placed at the point of divergence of the paths, at whose door every pilgrim who knocks finds welcome, and within rest, sympathy, understanding and encouragement, and also a guide to lead him safely past the many dangers and pitfalls that surround the entrance to the Right Hand Path. This is a personal work which cannot be accomplished by any organization bound by set rules.

Although the Christian Bible is the greatest occult book ever given to humanity, for it contains not only the wisdom of all prior scriptures, but also a prophecy of the future, yet it is the least understood of any scripture, because heretofore all efforts to explain it have been upon a literal, intellectual, material and historical basis and not from the standpoint of its spiritual symbology and esoteric meaning. The Christian religion is universally acknowledged to be the greatest factor in modern civilization, and the time has come for it to take an advanced step through an understanding of the esoteric meaning of its sacred mysteries^a, and by a realization that its teachings symbolize the same vital truths common to all religions, thus taking the first step on the return journey to the one Wisdom-Religion.

As all religions, sects and creeds contain at least a germ of Truth, our aim is to help each one to find that germ *in their own teachings*, and purify and develop it into the Tree of Life in their own garden.

The Christian missionaries are censured by many for forcing what, to their minds, is a superior form of truth, upon people who already have a religion, the inner teachings of which the missionaries have not the faintest idea. At the same time, those who are thus criticizing the missionaries are, in their turn, insisting that all Christian people shall accept certain spiritual teachings couched in terms that belong to another language and another mode of thought. If you really wish to help a people use their language, and the ideas and modes of thought to which they are accustomed, you will thus help them to purify their conception of Truth as expressed in their own religion. This is one of the aims of this Order; to bring to the attention of the Western people, as simply as possible, the pearls of wisdom in the teachings of the Master Jesus; pearls that have been overlaid with wordy misconceptions so long as to be almost unrecognisable. (a) Jesus said to his initiated disciples: "Unto you it is given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God, but unto them that are without (i.e. the uninitiated) all these things are done in parables." *Mark IV, 11*.

Thus it has always been with the one Wisdom Religion, taught by the Masters through all time. And in this Teaching there is always the Inner or Esoteric Teaching, taught and understood by the few, and the outer or exoteric Teaching, available to the many. The inner Teachings are not secret as it is commonly understood, but rather *an understanding of the vital truths*, which can only be discovered by those that make it a life study, even over many lives, devoting all his or her time, thought and enthusiasm to its apparent causes. When seekers whose motives are pure and selfless are determined to penetrate the Inner Mysteries, the door to the desired knowledge always opens. For while it is dangerous to reveal the Inner Mysteries to

²¹ Curtiss, *The Voice of Isis*, Chapter X

²² Curtiss, *Letters from the Teacher*, Aims of this Movement

those whose hearts are unprepared, it is equally dangerous to withhold them from those whose hearts are ready.²³

In its Teachings given through-out its 40 year work, many predictions and prophecies are given. Some have come to pass most accurately such as the two world wars, the great depression of the 1930's, the discovery of Pluto, the many man-made disasters over the years as well as the great climatic changes we are experiencing in our day. These will all culminate in a final woe that will be bigger than all the other woes combined, including severe continental upheavals and changes in the earth's structure, as discussed elsewhere.

The Teachings of the Order are spiritually all inclusive, grand and inspiring. They are eminently constructive and have truly been written "for all ages." *The Teachings* encompass a spiritual philosophy that, even though a few generations have passed, are as applicable to our very own day and age, in which humanity is sorely in need of spiritual, moral and ethical leadership. To be efficient in life's day at school a philosophy should be sought which is so all-inclusive that it explains where we come from, why we are here, what the destiny is to which we are expected to reach, and what our individual place is in the whole mighty scheme of the universe, and how we are to attain it.²⁴

To the more advanced occultist, *The Teachings of the Order* will present a profound teaching on Inner or Spiritual Alchemy and the art of personal transmutation. Much reference is made to the Alchemy of fire and light inasmuch as the teachings thereby present a sublime fire philosophy. The physical, emotional and mental effects and stages in unfoldment of practising this fire philosophy is given ample examples which will be of much comfort and use to those who are experiencing the effects of *Kundalini* awakening in their spiritual quests.

For today there are many thousands who seek to actively accelerate their spiritual unfoldment through disciplines and exercises not meant for the uninitiated but which have come to light in this Age of the Outpouring, and for such, to attempt these disciplines without a knowledgeable Teacher who has walked the way before is but to court disaster. *The Teachings of the Order* therefore constitute a sublime *Cosmic Philosophy* that puts the proper use and awakening of *Kundalini* in its proper due perspective. For it is a mighty power that should be awakened though a daily step by step process of natural spiritual development, so that the rose may unfold in its natural beauty and not be ripped open untimely and but leave a result and product unwanted and unusable by any.

Therefore, to play with these forces which caused the downfall of Atlantis, or for students who are untrained, inexperienced in psychic matters, and undisciplined in mind and body, to try to apply them is to play with a fire which can corrupt and destroy as readily as make alive. . . . While many good and useful fruits of mind and of the *kundalini* discovered by the Atlantean's are preserved in the higher realms, they cannot be properly understood or rightly used until man has again reached the same stage of mental development, but this time with the spiritual growth added which will enable him to re-enter the Garden of Eden and bring forth its fruits for the whole of humanity. Then the Tree of Life will grow on both sides²⁵ of the River of Life and will bring forth its fruits each month for the healing of the nations.

From time to time all Teachings are renewed by suitable messengers and agents, suitable for the times in which we live. For if we are seekers and ready for a specific Teaching, it cannot be withheld, but will find its way into the hands of those who are ready for it.

²³ Curtiss, *The Voice of Isis*, p69,70

²⁴ Curtiss, *The Message of Aquaria*, p185,186

²⁵ Curtiss, *The Message of Aquaria*, pp395-396

“To this great class (of seekers) there comes from out the ages the arcane Teachings of those Great Souls who reached their godlike state before the world was born and who have been the manipulators of the evolutionary law under which this planet and its inhabitants have reached their present state. These Great Souls have always been and still are the Guides and teachers of mankind, hence those whose reason postulates or whose intuition recognizes such Godlike Beings can safely accept Their Teachings, for They are in a position to know. This ancient wisdom has never been lost, but because of man’s gradual refusal to accept and follow it during his ages of darkness and ignorance it has been temporarily withdrawn from the public Teachings and carefully preserved, although always accessible to every Soul who seeks it by the right method and in the right spirit.”²⁶

The Teachings will do much to light within the heart of each and every aspirant the Divine Inner Fire, the Fire of Life and Mind. “The whole universe and all its forms of life are but manifestations of Divine Fire; for this Fire is the cause of motion, and matter is but retarded motion or motion temporarily crystallized objectively into latency. The biblical statement that, “Our God is a consuming fire,” refers to that formless Divine Essence, that invisible “cold flame” whose three-fold aspect constitutes the animating power of the invisible Spiritual Sun whose manifestations we call God, and of which our physical Sun is but a focal point or servant of manifestation in the physical universe.”²⁷

The Teachings of the Order will find especial favour with a broad class of seekers who are thirsty after true esoteric instruction and especially with those who cannot, or will not belong to any establishments now on the physical plane. Its Teachings are so comprehensive, and are elucidated in such simple language, that an Inner Inspiration is formed if such teachings are internalised and as such will help and assist the seeker in his or her own spiritual development. The Teachings are not cold and intellectual essays but are vibrant with understanding, comfort and love and will do much to light the flame of the inner life within the heart of the aspirant. This Order does not seek to tear down or to destroy any old beliefs of its students, but to *expand and illumine them* so that they shall have a deeper, broader and more comprehensive understanding of the Mysteries and the symbolism back of them. Its Teachings add to instead of taking from. They are broadening and deepening; inclusive of others instead of exclusive; constructive instead of destructive.²⁸ This Order does not demand any pledges from its students, but only that pledge to himself and his Higher Self, and then to keep that pledge to the best of the students ability.

The Order of the 15, being composed largely of the reincarnated Souls who in the days of ancient Atlantis were entrusted with the task of preparing a place of refuge and promulgating the arcane teachings, must again take up the reincarnated work; for ideas, teachings and movements incarnate as well as Souls. All who at that time responded to its call will naturally be attracted to this particular movement today, and according to their point of development and the work they accomplished then will they be given a special place and a special work to do in the preparation for the coming of the new sub-race. Many who repudiated the teachings in those days and through the resulting suffering have learned their lessons will through this Order be given another opportunity to retrieve the past and take an advanced step in their spiritual life.²⁹

Everyone traveling this Path has helped to make it just that much easier for those who come after, just as every auto which passes over a rough road wears it down and helps to make it smoother and easier. Those who have attained Mastery

²⁶ Curtiss, *The Voice of Isis*, pp228-229

²⁷ Curtiss, *The Inner Radiancy*, p276

²⁸ Curtiss, *The Message of Aquaria*, p439, 440

²⁹ Curtiss, *The Voice of Isis*, p240

have left a trail of glory behind which those who follow can see as plainly as the children of Israel could see the pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night.

In these days there are many more phases of spiritual teaching given out by those whom the Masters inspire to become their servants and helpers and the guides and leaders of their fellowmen. And the ratio of such help is increasing continually. For example, every student who grasps these Teachings and incorporates them in his life becomes a helper to others ignorant of or less familiar with them than himself. Every such a one is thus utilized by the Masters to spread their Teachings. While the many differing phases of teaching may seem confusing to the beginner, yet the diversity helps greatly to develop his intuition; teaches him to think, to weigh, ponder and discriminate and to follow his guidance from within. Moreover it must be remembered that each one who is sincerely giving out teachings to help mankind is expressing them according to his type of mind and stage of spiritual unfoldment. And since all men belong to the seven basic types symbolized by "the seven churches which are in Asia," each expression of truth will help the many who belong to the same type or who are approaching a similar stage of unfoldment.³⁰

Each one of us can lend our love to this Order, *this Cosmic Order*, to make of it a great fiery stream of Divine Love that shall draw to its Teachings sincere seekers from all walks of life. And it is through the personal sacrifices of the pupils of this Order which advance its work, that these Teachings will be broadcast again to every country in the world as is happening today. As the foundations of this Order rise again from the waters of adversity, through the Law of Sacrifice, its Teachings will once again become a force in this world for love, life and enlightenment.

The fruit that this Order is bearing season after season has been bitterly attacked on several occasions, yet the tree still stands and flourishes and brings forth increasing crops each year. But as Saturn's cycle closes and the gates of the new day are opening and we have an opportunity to establish the Order in a permanent way, all the force of opposition to Light and Freedom is stirred up afresh. Therefore, let no one be dismayed if he finds it again and again attacked by those who stand for autocracy in religious thought and against the spiritual freedom and liberty of conscience and the individual guidance from within which this Order advocates.³¹

Think of *The Order of Christian Mystics* as a garden of roses, a Garden of the King's Delight. Realize that each one who finds in it his true Soul-home has been selected and transplanted into it from his former spiritual environment by the Great Gardener to see if all can grow together in this especially prepared soil and under His personal care. Here we must forget self and our own development in the greater work of helping humanity to meet the "days of tribulation" which are now upon us; for we have been transplanted into this Garden of Souls because we have eagerly responded to His call to do the will of Him who hath chosen us. As we all grow together we shall make this Order a spiritual Garden of Roses whose beauty shall attract the attention and touch the hearts of all who are ready, and whose perfume shall fill the air with the emanations, the very Presence, of Divine Love, bringing comfort to the sad, peace and rest to the weary, cheer to the discouraged, and beauty and love to all.³²

Only those Teachings which are anchored around a rock of Truth will endure and will stand the test of time. By their fruits you shall know them.

³⁰ Curtiss, *The Message of Aquaria*, p105

³¹ Curtiss, *The Message of Aquaria*, p323

³² Curtiss, *The Inner Radiancy*, p119,120

CHAPTER XIV

PYRAHMOS AND RAHMEA

“Thou art a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek”

Hebrews 5 vs. 6

“In each age there appears some few persons whose words and actions demonstrate clearly that they are of an order different from the rest of society.”¹

Manly Palmer Hall

“This Order came into manifestation because of the world’s great need; the need of a simple yet heart-satisfying presentation of the world-old principles and laws of Divine Life. To accomplish its work two ‘children in spiritual things’ answered the call.”

Curtiss, *The Message of Aquaria*, p475

“Pyramos was a handsome young man and Thisbe was one of the most beautiful girls of her time. They lived next door to one another, but unfortunately their parents resented one another. This meant that the two lovers would never be able to marry as they had always wanted to do. They would secretly stand in their gardens and speak to each other through a crack in the wall. This was the best they could do under the circumstances.

One day the two lovers decided that if they were to marry then they would have to run away from home and marry in secret. They both knew that their parents would never approve of the marriage, so this was the only solution. They chose a well known local fountain and mulberry bush as the place where they would meet in the middle of the night. Thisbe arrived at the spot first. She waited impatiently for Pyramos to arrive. While she was waiting, she saw a lion approaching the fountain. It’s mouth was covered in blood from a recent kill and it wanted to drink at the fountain to quench it’s thirst. At the sight Thisbe ran away as fast as she could. In her confusion she dropped the veil that she had been wearing on her head. The lion, after it had satisfied it’s thirst saw the veil lying on the ground. It smelt of people. This enraged the lion. It tore the veil to pieces leaving the blood of it’s recent meal smeared over the tatters that remained of the veil. After the lion had vented it’s anger it slunk off into the undergrowth.

Pyramos now arrived. He could not see Thisbe anywhere. Soon he found the remains of Thisbe’s veil. Distraught, Pyramos decided that he could live no longer, as he now believed that Thisbe was dead. He drew his sword from his belt and stabbed himself with it. Meanwhile, Thisbe had recovered from her fright and returned to the meeting place. When she arrived she found her lover dying from his wounds. She could not bear to live without Pyramos and so took the sword from his body and threw herself upon it. The lovers separated in life were now united forever.”²

It is a teaching in the Western mystery tradition that we were once a part of the Almighty. Through the process of differentiation or the downward arc of evolution we separated from the Divine Union and entered into the manifestation, being the mental, astral and physical worlds. Yet we have within us a Divine Spark, a representative of the Almighty, and this part of us has ever remained in the Divine Realms and it is our aim and inevitable goal to one day join up once more with this

¹ Manly P. Hall, *The Most Holy Trinosophia of the Comte de Saint Germain*, pp25

² Extract from Greek Myths at members.lycos.co.uk

our personal Father-in-heaven or our Higher Self. In the Bible this is represented as the first Adam. All systems of mysticism but help and assist each aspirant towards this end. Yet that part of us that is now in the manifestation differentiated further into a male and female counterpart. "Male and female created He them." This is the story of the second Adam in Genesis. There is therefore a counterpart in the manifestation that is our opposite and compliment at the same time.

We have been created in the image of God and as He is a creator, so we too are creators in our own right. At birth, we start to create our own lower self or ego monster, which we have to overcome through spiritual development. For this lower self is what keeps us firmly bound to the wheel of life and death. Once we have mastered our base lower self through *conscious spiritual development* we will once more join up with our compliment or "twin soul" which is but a pre-cursor to the final ecstatic union with our Higher Self representing the highest initiation achievable by a human being. This phase represents the upward arc of evolution and is out pictured in the Tarot cards of The Lovers and The Sun respectively.

It is this quest or pilgrimage through matter that is so beautifully put forth in all the stories, fairytales, sagas and legends of all races, civilisations and systems of mysticism whereby the aspirant sets off on a quest, goes through many hardships, slays the dragon and meets up with his true love and reigns forever as king or queen in a far-off country.

This is the story of the Initiate and its principles are found everywhere and throughout all human life. The same with the myth of Pyramos and Thisbe.

It is stated that spiritual workers who incarnate for a special mission according to the doctrine of Avatara³ rarely know or are aware of their Mission until much later in their life. Through their daily experiences, inner guidance, teachings from their Teachers and the many miracles and mystical experiences which manifest in their lives they slowly but surely come to a full realization of what they have come to do on earth. For when we are born, we bring with us no memory or recollection of the past, or any of the abilities we may have had in previous incarnations. These are transferred from the mental plane into our growing brain-consciousness over a period averaging 12 years by which age we can be said to be in command of our full faculties.⁴

This is the real sacrifice that advanced beings make in coming to earth to help and to teach humanity, for incarnating on the physical plane means that they have to be subject to all the laws of the physical plane. As they descend from heaven, they take upon themselves the yoke of physical birth and life with all its pain, anger, disappointments, frustrations, betrayals, hard work and the inevitable retribution that is earned by being a part of the physical manifestation. Such earned retribution then has to be paid off in an accelerated way, which brings with it many trials and tribulations, before they can once more ascend into the Higher Realms, at the end of their life and Mission, karma free.

For if they enter transition with debts unpaid, they are bound to the wheel of life and death and their mistakes and good actions become Karma, which can only be paid off in a subsequent life. Just because you have achieved a high spiritual state in previous incarnations does not make of you a perfect being once incarnated, as one is born in ignorance, much like everyone else. Thus it is that Masters such as Jesus, fighting against the unresponsiveness of the physical plane, make mistakes, become angry, impatient and the like and thus earn inevitable retribution which must be cleared before they can ascend once more into the Higher Realms.

³ Curtiss, *The Voice of Isis*, Chapter X, The Doctrine of Avatara

⁴ Curtiss, *The Key of Destiny*, p56, 57

Most probably the biggest enemy that faces the incarnation of an advanced spiritual worker is the fact that such a worker has free will on earth just like any other person. As he is faced with his growing spiritual realisation he may choose right according to the dictates of his inner guidance, or he may, choose unwisely and so be led astray. For the advanced occultist is far more sensitive than the average seeker and may use these powers to advance his own pride, ambitions, dreams and ideals and so fall prey to that most subtle of creatures, the false self or ego. Thus it is that advanced spiritual workers remain ignorant of their earthly Mission until such time as they are strong enough to take their Mission in hand without falling prey to the ambitions of the lower self. This is when one has achieved a high degree of self-mastery. Mastery and control over the thoughts, emotions and appetites of the flesh.

This work is a revelation on the spiritual mission of Harriette Augusta and Frank Homer Curtiss, “two children in spiritual things”, and their life and example follows most accurately the Universal story of the Initiate as put forth in a previous chapter.⁵ They remained true to their spiritual Mission until the very last breath, having helped many, many thousands of people come to a spiritual realisation of their true birth right and leaving behind a most subtle and all inclusive *Cosmic Philosophy, The Teachings of the Order of Christian Mystics*, which has once more been made available to all.

Yet, as the story is told, and as inevitably happens to *all* spiritual workers on the physical plane, they have had to endure the most bitter hostility, disappointments, betrayals, criticisms and disbeliefs which only their simple faith in their ‘Lord from Heaven’ or their Teacher could allay and make them conquer in this spiritually unresponsive physical plane.

For the sacrifices that are made by such Agents in order for them to remain true to their Mission, is unconceivable by the average seeker. And yet, they do so again and again in order to assist their fellow man. More often than not, the physical rewards of such selfless sacrifice but manifests in accusation, resentment, hostility, unbelief and open persecution. This can be attested to by the life-experience of many sages, teachers and Avatars through-out the times. Why then do they do it? What motivates them? And why do they do so time after time? Well may we ask such questions.

The answer to these questions can only be found in a realisation of, and personal experience of, Divine Love and a Cosmic Christ-Consciousness. For the spiritual guerdon or reward of a life of spiritual trials, tests and tribulations, are a growing attainment and illumination, for which the Initiate, once having tasted this, will give *ALL* for its ultimate realisation and full spiritual attainment, for it becomes an all consuming drive to further the work of the Hierarchies above. Once you have glimpsed and tasted the glory of spiritual bliss, of true spiritual development, to help others to achieve the same state, becomes an enlightening and most noble duty.

“This Order came into manifestation because of the world’s great need; the need of a simple yet heart-satisfying presentation of the world-old principles and laws of Divine Life. To accomplish its work two “children in spiritual things” answered the call. They answered because they had dreamed the memory-dreams of their glorious heritage in the Father’s home and their hearts’ desire was that all might know of, realize and share in that heritage which is for all. They answered: “Here we are, Lord, use us. We are weak and poor and small in personality, yet we fear not and can obey, and with Thy help we will do the best we can.” And the reply came from the great storehouse of all wisdom: “The Teachings must be all, and we will supply them. Only be true and faithful and persistent. Keep the personality in the background. Lean altogether upon the Truth and the Truth shall set you free.” These children have made many mistakes, yet they have never faltered, and the Order has gone steadily

⁵ Curtiss, *The Pattern Life*

on growing and ever growing. And it will ever continue to grow, because the Teachings are living spiritual truths which transcend and shall ultimately swallow up the personalities of their interpreters.”⁶

Not much is known about the personalities, history, early days and back-ground of the Founders of *The Order of Christian Mystics*. Such as is publicly known is put forth in this work. They were both ardent Theosophists and lovers of truth and it was through Harriette that the conscious contact with the Divine realms manifested.

Harriette Augusta Brown was born in 1856 in Philadelphia, USA, and a search through the annals, genealogy and obituaries of the USA give little more, an actual birth date and even a clear birthplace being unobtainable. At the time of the death of HPB in 1891, Harriette would have been a woman at the age of 35. Much research has failed to show whether Harriette ever met HPB in the flesh and at what age Harriette became interested in spiritual matters and Theosophy.

Frank Homer Curtiss was born in 1875 and it is unlikely that he ever met HPB as a child. He met Harriette Brown while he was studying his medical degree at the University of Pennsylvania in his early twenties and it must have been here that he started his spiritual career as can be pieced together and evidenced from writings as shall be put down further in this section. By the time they formally proclaimed the birth of *The Order of the 15*, in 1908 in Philadelphia, Harriette was already 52 years of age and Homer 33. By this stage Harriette had already established a direct conscious contact with her Teacher, Helena Petrovna Blavatsky, and together with Homer they had started their work, answering letters and publishing Teachings as received from their Teacher on instruction from their Hierarchy. It can therefore be safely assumed that Harriette, after much arduous and long, long training, attained her ability with a conscious and direct link upwards to the Divine between the ages of 40 and 50. At the age of 51 she married Frank Homer Curtiss and their public work started soon after that.

It is unlikely that they were self taught and it is speculation as to who their earth plane teachers were. However that may be, these two children in spiritual things, through their own dedicated efforts became the successors and intimate disciples of that miraculous incarnation and Teacher that was HPB.

The above excerpt as to what their mission would be, would start of a spiritual career spanning 40 years. Difficulties already started very early in their work, how could it be any different? The betrayals and persecution that is the hallmark of spiritual workers would dog them until their last breath. Yet truly, the Order that they founded would grow from strength to strength, until there was not a country in the civilised world that did not have its pupils there, and that did not but spread its Divinely Inspired Teachings. Theirs was an organisation, unlike the many others that flourished in their time, that was the most enduring.

ORDER 15 DEFENDS ITSELF⁷

No Impropriety in Its Theosophical Researches, Says Pennsylvania Student.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec.22, 1908—As the result of information given to the authorities of the University of Pennsylvania, Dr. Edgar F. Smith, Vice Provost of the institution, has started an investigation into the workings and teachings of an organization which numbers among its members certain students of the university. The organization is known as “*The Order of the Fifteen*,” and its teachings, it is alleged by the university’s informant, tended to overstep propriety. The teachings of the society were called to the attention of the university by Dr. Charlotte Abbey, a physician, who was a member of the organization, and who severed her connection with it when she discovered what she considered objectionable matter in some of the pamphlets alleged to have been sent out by the organization. Some of these pamphlets

⁶ Curtiss, *The Message of Aquaria*, p475

⁷ The New York Times, Dec 23, 1908

are entitled "Purity," "Celibacy," "The Memory of Past Lives," "Prayers," and "Prayer of Consecration." F. Homer Curtiss, a member of the senior class at the university, is the head of "*The Order of the Fifteen*," and among its members are university students and other persons not connected with the university. Mr. Curtiss said to-day that the society was solely for the study of Theosophy. Dr. Smith confirmed the report that the teachings of the organization had been called to his attention and that he had asked several of the oldest professors in the university to make an investigation. Dr. Smith said he had turned over to these professors certain literature issued by the organization without reading it. Miss Harriet Brown, at whose apartments *The Order of the Fifteen* meets, gave emphatic denial to-day to reports regarding it. "There is no society, no inner circle," she said. "A few friends of long standing who are interested in Theosophy meet in my apartments Sunday afternoons to discuss the creed, if such it may be called. We have no regular organization. A gentleman whom I have known a number of years is acting as Secretary, although he never was elected. We have no other officers, and pay no dues. We have some correspondence with those who write to us for information and advice, but we charge them nothing for giving it. "One of the women who came here is 84 years old. Another is 40. We have all known each other for more than ten years. Since the Theosophical Society disintegrated because of the founding of the colony at Palo Alto we have just met informally. "There is nothing in our belief remotely resembling free love and nothing in any of our literature to indicate such belief. The woman who I understand has brought charges against us is merely jealous. She wanted to be one of us and we didn't want her. If she had been welcome she would have been invited, but she wasn't. If we had a society we would have voted on her, but, as we are merely friends, we didn't see fit to have her with us. Then she became angry. We do not always talk Theosophy, but mainly that is our topic"

The Judas principle was clearly at work in the form of Dr. Charlotte Abbey, who, seemingly having been spurned by the 'inner circle' of *The Order of the 15*, turned against them and tried to expose their inner workings to the public, in the hope of undoing the Order. This act is seen time and time again with all spiritual organizations, and should such organization not be founded on a bedrock of truth, it would certainly falter against the onslaught of the unbelievers. "If this work be of men, it will come to naught; but if it be of God, ye cannot overthrow it; lest haply ye be found even to fight against God."

By all accounts the Order started of with a very influential membership, mainly due to the ceaseless infighting of the Theosophical Society of the time. That they tried to operate in secret or at least with as little publicity as possible is clear, but this would not last long.

An investigation by every university and college in the United States of the teachings of "the order of the fifteen," an occult sect modeled on the old Besant - Blavatsky theosophy, with modern trimmings, is now on. The Inquiry follows the action of Dr. Charlotte Abbey, superintendent of the women's directory here, who sent to Provost Charles C. Harrison and the trustees of the University of Pennsylvania, the correspondence between herself and F. Homer Curtiss, a medical student at the university and secretary of "the order."

Dr. Abbey is still a member of the fifteen. The correspondence is rather unprintable, although it would not be in a medical book or one devoted to psycho-therapeutics. Three prominent clergymen of Philadelphia, a score of the foremost society people and literary folk, and students and professors in every big college in the east and middle west are known to be converts of the teachings of the "great white lodge" of the order. The postal authorities, police, and university authorities have the lists of the members and the tenets of the organization will be rigidly investigated. From what has become known the teachings of the order rest upon the effort to raise the sexual relation. . . .

"The great white lodge which is the inner circle of the fifteen" said Curtiss, "has its followers in every big college in the country and in the best social circles of every great city in the United States. Clergymen and many professional men and women are members. The lists are large. Outside of Philadelphia, New York and Chicago have many. . . ."

"Why, it's so respectable," said Mr. Curtiss, "that there is even a bishop enrolled." Mr. Curtiss would not say who the bishop was or where he hails from.⁸

⁸ Chicago Daily Tribune, Dec 23, 1908

The Order of the 15 had hardly come into its own, and already it had to endure a severe public onslaught by its detractors as well as the media. The small group which at that time constituted the inner circle of the Order numbered only five sincere people, with little funds, even less infrastructure and only an indomitable faith in *The Teacher of the Order* to pull them through. Its inner circle was exposed and its membership list opened to scrutiny. The names and addresses of the inner five members was thus published for all with the typical zeal in persecution of the ignorant towards anything new.

It is denied by Curtiss and others of the society that it is other than theosophical in its tendencies. One member went so far today as to deny that the society exists or that there is an "inner circle" which meets at the house of the member in question, Miss Harriet Brown, of Spring Garden Street and Ridge Avenue.

Dr. Charlotte Abbey, who is a middle aged woman and superintendent of the women's directory organization, engaged in charitable work, said: "I do not think that the order has widespread membership in the university, but I believe that there are many intelligent people in Philadelphia who are members. I resigned several months ago because the doctrines promulgated came to include things which are at variance with truly moral ideals. The theory or soul affinity was upheld. Such ideas as that are sickly rot and I determined it best to refer the matter to Dr. Smith to act as he thought wisest."

The members of the "inner circle" of the cult are said to be:

Curtiss, secretary;

Mrs. Valerie Mountain, private teacher, 725 East Woodlawn Avenue, Germantown;

Dr. Rockwell R. Robinson, a dentist, 1621 Chestnut Street;

Mrs. Marion Van Ness, 4601 Springfield Avenue, and

Miss Brown.

Miss Brown is employed as secretary by Heller and Brightly, mathematical and astronomical instrument makers, who have their factory in the same building in which her apartments are. Curtiss also has a workshop in the building.

"We do not teach free love as Dr. Abbey declares" said Curtiss. "We do teach however, purity in the relation of the sexes, and especially in the relation of husband and wife. In our letter touching on certain topics we discussed only relations of husband and wife and not affinities, soul mates, or anything else in the popular and degraded meanings of those terms."

"We believe that Dr. Abbey took the letters of Dr. Smith and put a wrong construction on them."⁸

We will include no more of such published articles in this work but have added these to show the difficulties that the Founders had to endure on a continuous basis as to the promulgation of their work. The inevitable persecution which is the hallmark of all new spiritual teachings can clearly be seen from the above examples, and has been the fate of all spiritual Teachers bringing new light to mankind, Jesus, Blavatsky and this Order being no exception. All awakened Souls feel that there is an inner tuition (intuition) that comes from some sacred mysterious source and thinks its own expression the only true interpretation of the Realities and therefore condemns all others who may use different expressions, ceremonies, symbols and allegories. To endure such condemnation with the utmost of grace, is a sacrifice unconceivable by the ordinary seeker, that true priests and teachers, Gods messengers to man, who understand the Soul-language and translate it for the benefit of man, have to endure in this unresponsive world. Yet it is only through trained seers and seeresses here on the physical plane, Temples of the Living God, that His voice and message can be brought down to a hungry and ignorant world. During the ages when the worship of the Divine Mother reigned, mankind was guided largely by inspired priestesses or Sibyls whose oracles were considered, and often truly were, expressions of the guidance of the Divine Mother, as the records of the Oracles clearly show. For divine inspiration has ever been and ever will continue to be God's chief avenue of expression for the guidance of humanity. But it can be given only through those sincere and devoted Souls whose lives and whose unfolded higher

faculties are truly attuned to varying degrees of God consciousness, and enable them to reach up into the higher realms of God-consciousness and bring down to humanity higher conceptions of eternal principles for its guidance.⁹

The works of this Order bring to the fore most vividly, both in symbolical and real life terms, the life of the Initiate. For once we enter upon the Path, or the way of the cross, we all go through more or less the same phases of experience, and the life of all great spiritual Teachers naturally fall under the same spiritual dispensation.¹⁰ Thus it is always most worthwhile to study the lives and life works of all the great Initiates, for there is but one grand story to be told, whether in myth, fable, legend or real life, and that is the life of the spiritually awakened Initiate. The Founders of this Order had to be thoroughly tested to see whether they would be victorious over discouragement in order to fulfil their Mission to bring a new and lasting Teaching to all mankind.

The shepherds we speak of had to be tested, firstly, as to their faith, for the first years of their work were performed entirely on faith and without any outer recognition, confirmation, encouragement or help, and with very scanty funds. Secondly, as to their courage; did they dare to “make known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child?” Thirdly, as to their steadfastness; would they grow weary and disheartened at the world’s indifference? at the scoffing and ridicule of the Scribes and Pharisees? at the calumny, slander and deliberate misrepresentation of their Teachings? Fourthly, as to the manner in which they spread the “glad tidings”; were they presented so clearly and logically that even the Scribes had to admit that their philosophy was sound, and yet so simply and lovingly that the simplest mind could grasp at least their essential truth and feed his heart-hunger upon it? Fifthly, would they consider their mission hopeless because they did not possess the gifts of the Wise Men but had only love, devotion, faith and divine revelation upon which to rely and to present to the world?¹¹

The Order of the 15 was publicly proclaimed on the 01st of January 1908 in Philadelphia, USA. The above newspaper article was published in December of that same year. At the beginning of their work we know that they were but a handful of people, yet for how long before 1908 they had grouped together, and for how long they already had contact with their Teacher is not known. If we piece together the bits of information at our disposal it would seem that by 1906 the contact was already made and that the instruction was given to the small little group at that time, by HPB, to prepare themselves to found a new world-wide Order that would promulgate advanced spiritual teachings with its headquarters in the new world and continent that was America.¹² But the pressure was already mounting from the side of the unbelievers as these articles clearly show. At this stage Homer was still completing his studies and Harriette was working as a secretary. To achieve such an august task as to found a world-wide spiritual movement at the time seemed to them Utopian.

Yet, as is shown throughout this work, they were not ordinary people and were therefore not subject to the ordinary karma of the group, but clearly they fell under a different spiritual dispensation. It is well documented in many of the deeper occult texts extant today, that messengers such as the Curtiss’ and others, are already trained to fulfil their Mission while they are in the higher realms, to do a very specific work whilst on earth. Yet they are bound to the laws of the physical plane as are all of us, and are born in forgetfulness. It is only during life, for some sooner and others later, that the brain-consciousness develops to such an extent that a clear memory of their past instruction becomes clear to them.

⁹ Curtiss, *The Truth about Evolution and the Bible*, p183

¹⁰ Curtiss, *The Pattern Life*

¹¹ Curtiss, *The Inner Radiance*, p348, 349

¹² Curtiss, *Realms of the Living Dead*, p299, 300

We are apt to place the spiritual leaders of our time on high pedestals, making of them that which they are not, for apart from their more than human abilities, still they are bound to the physical plane and make mistakes for which they earn inevitable karma and retribution. All spiritual workers who come into the manifestation to do a special work or mission, are given the general outlines of the work to be done in no uncertain terms, and are given enough opportunity to prepare themselves in humility to do the work to the best of their abilities. And then it is left to the personality to make as much of a success of the mission and work at hand as they are capable of. For each has to learn by his own free will and the Higher Self never makes an automaton of the pupil, nor sows the seed of final failure by flattery or appeals to ones ambitions, but rather inculcates humility. His training is therefore a process of guiding, overshadowing and the awakening of all dormant faculties. This does not happen overnight and may take many years to happen as can be seen in the lives of other spiritual giants.¹³

So it is written that the Dalai Lama's of the past have been fully aware of who they are already at birth, Jesus only starting to remember by his 12th year what his Mission was, Ramakrishna attaining to such knowing by his early twenties, Lahiri Mahasaya at the age of 33, Sivananda during his early adulthood, Blavatsky in her early twenties when she first met her Master, to give but a few examples.

In the only posthumous publication of *The Order*, a treatise on reincarnation, one can clearly deduce that they had reached that stage where they were fully aware of who they were, what their mission was, what and who they were in the past and what they would be doing in the future. It is stated that their own reincarnation cycle was in the order of every 150 to 200 years. Add to this three score and ten years on the physical plane, this would give an overall re-incarnation period, including life and afterlife, of between 220 and 270 years. This is a general average for the spiritual seekers of our time. It can also be inferred that they had reincarnated together to help and assist humanity a number of times. This but points to the doctrine of complimentary mates or "twin souls" as put forth in their works.

"As we personally have always been anxious to help humanity our own average has been about 150 to 200 years."¹⁴

The above simple sentence clearly implicates them to be of the order of Avesha Avatars. For, by its definition, an Avatar is a human being that has achieved Mastery on the physical plane, that incarnates for the special purpose of helping and assisting humankind spiritually. In *The Teachings of the Order* much reference and explanations as to the doctrine of Avatara is put forth especially as to the coming Avatar, the man of Nazareth, and the necessary preparation of many Souls and groups in order to pave the way for such an incarnation. We have many different kinds of Avatars, some are of the highest order such as Babaji¹⁵ as mentioned in the works of Yogananda. Others come again and again to this world such as Jesus, Krishna and Buddha. Some come to fulfil a once of specific mission such as Joan of Arc¹⁴ who was sent to save a nation and then do not come again. On the lower scale we have the Avesha Avatars, or partial Avatars and it is the authors contention that the Founders belonged to this class of Avatar. For detailed information on Avatars and their work we refer the reader to *The Secret Doctrine*¹⁶ and the lesson on *Avatara*.³

Just as at certain seasons of the year there is a great outpouring of theological students who have graduated from the seminaries, so in the Divine World there are certain cyclic periods when Divine Love and Wisdom is poured out in greater abundance or when it may be said that

¹³ Curtiss, *The Voice of Isis*, p282, 290

¹⁴ Curtiss, *Reincarnation*, p34

¹⁵ Paramahansa Yogananda, *Autobiography of a Yogi*

¹⁶ H.P. Blavatsky, *The Secret Doctrine*

many priests are initiated or receive the spiritual illumination which marks them as true priests. Hence, in every organization and society promulgating the true Divine Wisdom there will arise some advanced Soul who is capable of being directly overshadowed by a ray of spiritual consciousness from the coming Avatar and thus become to that society or organization a direct representative of the Avatar. These advanced Souls are called Avesha, or partial Avatars, for, while they are not the Avatar, in that they are mortal and have a physical personality to contend with, they are overshadowed at certain periods by His divine consciousness.

“Necessarily the messages of the various Avesha Avatars will differ in details, for the ability of such a channel to give out the teaching depends upon such factors as the line of endeavor he is interested in, his race-thought, his mental and spiritual capacity, his habits of life, his knowledge of the laws and philosophy of the higher life and the intellectual training his mind, through which all the teachings must pass, has received. In this way the members of every society and movement shall have the divine truths spoken in their own language wherein they were born, i.e., couched in the terminology, symbols and characteristic methods of expression peculiar to their own avenue of truth.”¹⁷

Avesha is a peculiar relation between a chosen mortal, trained and perfected for this special relation through many incarnations, and a Divine being or a more than mortal Spiritual Teacher, for the purpose of presenting to the world a particular truth, message of philosophy. . . . There can be no deception here, for by their works are they known¹⁸

Nowhere throughout the *Teachings of the Order* do they themselves refer to be special messengers or Aveshas, their deep humility would not allow it. Regardless of their own high spiritual development, their only claim was to be Agents of the Teacher and all lessons, teachings, prayers and mantrams come but from the Higher Realms, and they but the instrument and nothing more.

In a *Letter from the Teacher*¹⁹ we are given an insight into their aversion of divulging any personal information about themselves, a practice that was adhered to throughout their 40 year work. Through long training they had been perfected in the power to transmit truly and with humility, having obliterated the personality, and thereby enabling them to give out only that which is true and everlasting. The Divine Wisdom is constantly being broadcast by the Hierarchies in the Divine, and here and there we find a pure vessel that can receive and bring down these teachings to humanity.²⁰ Through such avenues as seekers we may gain access to this Divine Flame coming down from on high. Especially does this Flame penetrate the hearts and lives of those who are seeking to follow and unfold within themselves the higher inspiration and wisdom.

True humility is always the hallmark of advanced spiritual workers, and by their fruits one may know them. That the Founders achieved their high spiritual state over many, many lifetimes is clearly shown in the following excerpt. And by their incredible love for a hungry humanity, it is shown that such beings come to teach mankind, over and over again. For a *true Teacher* will never leave his or her true pupils alone once the teacher/pupil bond has been formed, and will remain as a guide and teacher until those pupils have found their way back into the Divine realms. So it is that we re-incarnate with those with whom we have set up strong spiritual ties in the past, and do so over and over again. Reading between the lines, the Founders state quite clearly that they have been an integral part of this ancient Order and its Hierarchy since time immemorial.

While history tells us either that King Arthur and his Lady are but mythical characters or that King Arthur was merely a great hunter and chieftain who had to protect his country from marauders, and that his wife was the weaver of the wondrous apparel—spiritual understanding—which each Knight donned ere he took his place around the Table, yet in reality there were two pre-historical characters around whom all the various myths, legends,

¹⁷ Curtiss, *The Message of Aquaria*, pp433-434, The True Priesthood

¹⁸ Curtiss, *Realms of the Living Dead*, p205

¹⁹ Curtiss, *Letters from the Teacher Vol I*, 3rd Ed., 1919, p89

²⁰ Curtiss, *Letters from the Teacher Vol. II*, p77, 81

operas and stories are woven. They were the rulers of the first human dynasty established by the Masters as They gradually withdrew from the outer guidance of mankind. These two were, indeed, King and Queen “by divine right,” a doctrine so little understood and so degenerated in modern times. The court thus established was one of peace, harmony and co-operation and through it the Masters introduced to humanity the perfect and harmonious basic principles of life and government.

Strange as it may seem to some, scarcely believable and almost miraculous, nevertheless it was in those far distant days and at this perfect court of the White Knight and his Lady that many, who today find their true spiritual home in *The Order of Christian Mystics*, made their first touch with the Wisdom Religion now expounded by this Order. There also they first met the *Founders of the Order* who at that time were first given the accolade of authority and were trained in the ability to transmit the Cosmic Wisdom to humanity. And there are some of you today who sat upon or stood behind the twelve seats; who lifted up the Sacred Cup and sipped its nectar; who swore a mighty oath that while life lasted you would ever be true to the divine principles you then understood and espoused, knowing full well that life is immortal and can never end. And as that mystic vow was taken the Light of the Shekina descended like a dove and rested upon the Cup. And because of the descent of the Shekina, as each partook of the nectar there was instilled into the blood of their mortal bodies the Divine Fire of immortal life. For these Souls, even the mention of that ceremony will bring a thrill of joy and a warm glow to the heart.

But as the ages rolled on, life after life and experience after experience gradually overlaid or wiped out the memory of your baptism and your vow. Some of you incarnated in the East, some in the West, some in the South and some in the North. You were born in many different tribes and later on in many different nations. Some of you sat in the seats of the Twelve first in one age and country and then in another, according to the Planetary Ruler to whom you belong or under whose sign you were born, although often not realizing or understanding the position you occupied or why.

Naturally you forgot the ancient ceremony and the ancient training as you sank more and more deeply into matter, for it was necessary for your consciousness to be occupied with the concerns of the outer world until you learned its major lessons. Yet always there was a vague longing as for something you had known and lost; always an unceasing urge to seek and find your true spiritual home again, even while learning the outer lessons of the physical world. This was because your lips had once touched the Sacred Cup, the Holy Grail, and its Wine of Life flows forever in your veins, even though the memory of that great event is denied you until you have reached a certain stage of spiritual unfoldment. Nor can we reveal more of it to you.²¹

The manner in which the Founders received the Teachings is termed *theopneusty* and is classified as a *constructive* method of communication with the Divine which is achievable only after very long and intensive training spanning a number of lives. One needs to have achieved initiation into *The Order of the 10* by which stage the Initiate has a clear and conscious direct contact with a Divine being. This is in sharp contrast with *destructive* methods, as practiced by spiritualists in séances where one allows your physical body to be possessed by discarnate spirits and which constitutes possession. Such methods, constructive and destructive alike, are explained in depth in *Realms of the Living Dead*. It is described further as follows:

“The teachings herein presented are not the result of psychical research as ordinarily conducted, but are the teachings on this subject given the authors by the teachers of the *Order of Christian Mystics* from the Higher Realms, transmitted through Mrs. Curtiss by the *independent method* known as *theopneusty* while in full waking consciousness, in collaboration with Dr. Curtiss, and verified by their personal psychic experiences in the Astral World. These teachings are therefore not a mediumistic report of the experiences of one person and his deductions there-from, but form a *constructive philosophy* derived from Those Who Know, which has been repeatedly tested and proved reliable. (Theopneusty is the mysterious power to hear orally the teachings or directions of a Divine Being. Theopathy is the ability to assimilate the nature of a Divine Being. Theophany is the actual appearance of a Divine Being to a mortal.)”²²

²¹ Curtiss, *The Inner Radiance*, p271, 272

²² Curtiss, *Realms of the Living Dead*, p13

It is through avenues such as these that a True Priesthood is established on the earth-plane from time to time and that the age-old mighty Divine Truths can be brought forth to mankind. “If this work be of men, it will come to naught; but if it be of God, ye cannot overthrow it; lest haply ye be found even to fight against God.”

And so the One Religion, or the Wisdom Religion, is taught to man from time to time by those who absolutely *know*.

In the beginning this one Wisdom Religion was taught by the Divine Instructors, the Sons of God mentioned in *Genesis*, and later by the Sages of India, the Magians of Babylonia and Persia, the Prophets of Israel, the Hierophants of Egypt and Arabia, the Seers and Philosophers of Greece, and by the Master Jesus and the initiated disciples of the early Christian Church, all of whom acquired this wisdom and knowledge through the regular channels, *i.e.*, through the mastery of the flesh and conscious communion and union with the Divine. Nor has it ever ceased to be taught by advanced Souls who gained their knowledge of this divine wisdom in the same way. Never, even during the darkest ages, has the world lacked the testimony of some Great Soul who attained to this divine knowledge in the one and only way, nor will the time ever come when this testimony is lacking.²³

Harriette achieved initiation into *The Order of the 10*, or *The Order of the Flame* as described in the previous chapter. This is the *Invisible Order* so much written about in Rosicrucian literature, to which ultimately all spiritual groupings belong, the grand Cosmic *Order of Melchisedec*. Only such as have a direct contact with the Divine can gain access to this Order. The system of initiation into this *Invisible Cosmic Order* is therefore through personal effort, unlike a traditional initiation ceremony as performed by the various physical plane Orders and spiritual groups. And so, each seeker moves up the steps of the pyramid, in a broad system of initiation starting in *The Order of the 36*, and achieving initiation and entrance to *The Order of the 10*. This Order is necessarily composed only of those Initiates who can receive direct Teachings from the Masters of Wisdom, disciples who truly “sit at the feet of the Master.” This system naturally has its equivalents if compared to the mystical systems of the other six Rays.

To be an Initiate of *The Order of the Flame* is a major spiritual achievement. Many siddhis and occult powers are at the command of such Initiates. For by their very purity and enlightened stage, Nature strives to obey their very will and wishes. Thus they go down in the annals of history as miracle workers and few there be who can comprehend their inner state or nature. A keen study of *The Teachings of the Order* will show that Harriette could communicate with nature spirits, angels, planetary spirits and intelligences, genii and beings in the Divine Realms.²⁴ As a seeress she received hundreds of prophecies for the benefit of mankind.²⁵ She had also reached mastery over the astral realms and could verify the psychic experiences of others and consciously make use of the higher planes to do the extensive healing work that the Order performed on a daily basis.²⁶ In her communications with the nature spirits she was always reverentially addressed as “Priestess”,²⁷ showing the ancient doctrine that Nature is subservient to the spiritually illumined will of man. The manner in which the Great Pyramid was built and some of its secrets are revealed to her by a wind sprite.²⁸ Many other remarkable feats come to light and one can only wonder at such abilities and what it must be like to lead such a life.²⁹ What her full capabilities were is unknown but we may clearly infer that she had reached Mastery over the physical and higher planes and had mastered the path of

²³ Curtiss, *The Voice of Isis*, p67

²⁴ Curtiss, *Realms of the Living Dead*, Chapter XXI, XXII, XXIII, XXIV

²⁵ Curtiss, *Coming World Changes*

²⁶ Curtiss, *Health Hints for Four-Fold Health*, p97

²⁷ Curtiss, *Realms of the Living Dead*, p166,167,168

²⁸ Curtiss, *Realms of the Living Dead*, p169, 170

²⁹ Curtiss, *Personal Survival*, pp33, 34, 47, 48, 135, 136, 139, Chapter XI, etc.

Mysticism. Absolute purity and mastery over the sex-force is the hallmark of all Seers and high Initiates. And through this manifestation the Order once more had a living Soul, a living embodiment through which the Masters of Wisdom could transmit to us their words of encouragement, guidance and wisdom.

We can only hope, pray and aspire that more such avenues may open up to the human race, for by our ardent aspiration we call down the help of the Higher Ones, that they may incarnate in the flesh to help and assist us with our spiritual development, collectively as well as individually. This however happens in direct proportion as we deserve it by our collective effort and aspiration.

The human priesthood may claim “apostolic succession,” or even “direct continuance,” but as long as their only claim to the priesthood is a certain amount of intellectual training or the possession of a diploma from earthly teachers, *instead of the power to see beyond the veil and consciously commune with the Divine Instructors of the race*, they can never become true priests before the Lord. And as long as mankind looks to such an earthly priesthood for Divine Guidance,³⁰ . . . it is no wonder that humanity goes heart-hungry and receives stones when it asks bread³¹

The term priest in its various aspects means an elder (*presbyter*), prince (*kohen*), hierophant (*hiereus*), and prophet. All these meanings go back to the early days of the Race when humanity was taught face to face by the Elder Brothers, the Divine Beings who are the spiritual parents of mankind. As humanity grew in intellectual attainment these Divine Teachers withdrew and left in Their stead the more advanced Souls among men who had been selected, gathered together and trained in the secret sciences until they had passed life’s great initiation and become one in consciousness with their Divine Progenitors.

Such initiated priests needed no credentials, no apostolic succession, no robes or outward show of authority, for they carried within them the memory of the touch of the hand of the Great Initiator and were able to manifest and demonstrate the power of their priestly office and their right to serve forever before the altar of the Most High. Having been set apart and trained in the laws of the spiritual realms and the science of consciously communicating (theopneusty) with the spiritual Progenitors of the Race, the gods, they were able to point out how the physical manifestations of the Great Law must be observed to produce harmony on Earth.

True superiority is always recognized and sought, both for advice and leadership, hence as the High Priests interpreted the Divine Law, they naturally became the governors or kings of the people, while the less advanced priests performed various other functions. This is the basis of truth in the doctrine of the divine right of kings, but it is true only when the king is also a prophet and priest before the Lord.³¹

The wearing of an earthly crown is but a parody on true kingship, for the crown which marks the true Prophet, Priest and King is the radiance of his purified aura and the emanations of his illumined intellect which enables such a one to rule with true justice.

It has been intimated by many advanced Initiates that HPB was a reincarnation of John the Baptist, as her last life and Mission on the physical plane was to prepare the hearts and minds of the western world to accept the universality of all religions, especially the truths of the East. At her passing her Mission continued through various personalities and groups, *The Order of the 15* being one of them. For it is the task of that Great Teacher to prepare the western world for the Coming Avatar, the man of Nazareth, so that when He comes, many minds and groups will be prepared to receive such a manifestation.³² We find ourselves at the beginning of this Aquarian Age in a time where the political leadership of the world leaves much to be desired, having degenerated to its lowest possible expression, rulership by big business and the masses. And so the Higher Ones send down to this earth

³⁰ Curtiss, *The Message of Aquaria*, p431, The True Priesthood

³¹ Curtiss, *The Message of Aquaria*, p425, 426

³² Curtiss, *The Pattern Life*, A Message from Madame Blavatsky

those advanced Souls, true Priests and Kings before the altar of the Most High, to pave the way for ultimate Divine Rule here on this earth.

There is a law which has always manifested in this world that the power of government shifts in cycles according to man's thoughts, hence man is responsible for the kind of government he permits. At first man was governed by the Divine Masters of Truth and Wisdom, or let us say by Divine Rulers. These Divine Rulers were truly kings, kings "by divine right," because they had learned to rule, first themselves, and then the forces of the Earth. They were crowned, not by a man-made crown, but by a crown of radiant spiritual emanations, or a crown of glory, so that all mankind recognized their divine right to rule and gladly sought their guidance. But after certain cycles had elapsed and mankind had grown up and been taught the principles of true government, it had to learn to put those principles into practice for itself. So ultimately the Divine Rulers withdrew to take up Their work in the higher realms, leaving behind certain chosen human disciples (priests) as their representatives.

This chosen Priesthood is able to rule with justice and equity as long as it is in conscious touch with the Divine Rulers. But gradually this God-inspired rulership degenerates into mere priestcraft. Then the rulership is seized by the military caste which rules through force, fear and cruelty. Thus ultimately Church and State are separated. But since such rulers cannot carry out their personal ambitions and selfish schemes without great financial resources, after a long time a cycle is entered wherein the real rulership is in the hands of the financiers or "big business," as in the wars of recent years. The rule of "big business" is destined to be followed by the rule of the people, the masses, whether through republics, democracies or some proletarian form, each form or cycle of rulership overlapping the other for long periods. But ultimately humanity will find that wisdom does not lie in mere numbers; that no multiplication of ignorance can produce wisdom; that even the best of the most enlightened human wisdom is lacking, and that some form of Divine Guidance is necessary, or rulership based on eternal spiritual principles instead of human desires and expediency. Then mankind will again turn to the Divine for guidance when they have had enough of both extremes, inherited wealth and power or ignorance and inefficiency, and seek divinely illuminated Kings once more chosen because of their conscious touch with the Divine, being both priests and kings, to rule over them during the more spiritual age to come.³³

Through-out their life work, the Founders strenuously objected to the forced development of occult powers, stating that such should be developed and come as a result of *normal and natural step by step spiritual growth*, through the opening of the mystical centres in due course, by applying the devotional exercises and disciplines of the Order into ones daily life. They state much against the methods employed by spiritualists in the séance rooms of the world and teach rather the methods through which states of high spiritual ecstasy can be achieved through constructive methods, as achieved by all holy men and woman through-out the ages.

A second form of independent trance is that experienced in true ecstasy. In this condition the Soul has entered into Realms of light and glory where the states of consciousness are so spiritual and exalted that the body and its consciousness is transcended and hence remains apparently lifeless. On the return to normal consciousness after these flights, far from being enervated and depleted by the experience, the sensitive is filled with life and energy, joy and happiness, for he has brought back with him something of the glory and spiritual life-force he experienced in the higher Realms or Worlds. This latter is the condition so frequently referred to in the Bible as being "caught up in the spirit." When St. John was "in the spirit on the Lord's day" he was not under control, nor was Revelation given through automatic writing of any kind.³⁴

Implementing daily spiritual disciplines and exercises into ones life is what sets the Initiate apart from the average seeker. A regular sadhana or regime of such disciplines and exercises is absolutely necessary for positive spiritual attainment. Through-out *The Teachings of the Order* many sublime disciplines and exercises are put forth such as concentration, prayer, Divine invocation and aspiration and every-one will be able to find *some one thing* to assist him in his or her spiritual

³³ Curtiss, *Letters from the Teacher Volume II*, p234, 235

³⁴ Curtiss, *Realms of the Living Dead*, p218

unfoldment. Such methods, if practiced daily, help to build the transfiguration body,^{35, 36} that vehicle required to achieve ultimate Nirvana and which is built up atom by atom, step by step, day by day and life after life.

The following excerpts bring to the fore vividly the method of and leading up to full *theopneusty*, and the accompanying sensations that come with contacting the Divine or ecstatic realms. These are by no means limited to the Founders and can be attested to by sincere seekers who have internalised the Teachings of this Order.

The student can quickly tell whether he has contacted an advanced Spiritual Teacher or merely a disembodied mortal, by the feeling which results, even if his intuition does not reveal it to him. When the Spiritual Teachers are contacted the spiritual force of their auras will be felt like a fire, so that instead of the chill felt on contacting an astral entity a wave of warmth, life and vitality will seem to well up from within and surround him. This warmth is often so great as to make the body break out in perspiration and the wave of love-force is so great that the throat chokes with emotion and the eyes fill with tears of joy.³⁷

For your comfort we will say that in the beginning of our work, when Mrs. Curtiss touched this Divine Realm and the Teachings began to be given out, the tears would pour from her eyes in streams, although she was unconscious of them. They came so copiously that after the lesson her lap would be wet with them, and all this without any consciousness of it and without any emotion. Also Dr. Curtiss, even in his public lectures, when he reached a certain point where his words touched Divine Love and seemed to bring it down to the audience, could at times scarcely control his voice, because of the overwhelming higher forces which caused the apparent emotion. Yet this was not emotionalism, but simply the overwhelming force of Divine Love and the higher consciousness. But continued contact with such high currents of force has long since enabled them to control the seeming emotion.³⁸

Such communication with the Divine at first manifests at unexpected times but once Mastery of this ability has been achieved it becomes a power that can be switched on and off at will, communication on demand. Higher communication is not something that should be strived for, it is an inevitable result of a life filled with high spiritual ideals, love, unselfish thoughts and deeds, and of implementing a definite regime of spiritual disciplines and exercises into ones life. The Higher Ones communicate with their pupils only over waves of selfless love, high aspiration, compassion, purity and humility. And there is a great difference between *constructive* and *destructive* communication methods. For in the former experience one is left feeling vitalised, peaceful, happy and vigorous, even for days afterward and life seems fuller, trials easier to bear and love more abundant. This is the form of higher communion that is to be desired. The latter experience leaves one depleted, weakened, nervous, cross and fretful and it soon shows, ending up in mental deficiency and other nervous disorders.³⁹

The communications and Teachings as received by this Priestess were written down as transmitted by her degree of development and as given by her Teacher without polishing the language into suitable form. The language and style is purposely kept simple. This explains why so many Divinely inspired writings endure through-out the ages and why they contain truths on various levels, both for beginners and advanced pupils alike, as they represent far more than a mere conception by any human intellect.

These communications are all given practically in the wording received and without the intellectual revision, elaboration and polishing which most literary efforts receive before publication. All were received by Mrs. Curtiss while in full consciousness⁴⁰ . . .

³⁵ Curtiss, *The Inner Radiancy*, Chapter X

³⁶ Curtiss, *The Pattern Life*, p237

³⁷ Curtiss, *Realms of the Living Dead*, pp211-212

³⁸ Curtiss, *Letters from the Teacher Volume II*, p105

³⁹ Curtiss, *The Voice of Isis*, p108

⁴⁰ Curtiss, *Realms of the Living Dead*, p253

It must be remembered that all true inspiration is not given in words. The overshadowing consciousness illumines (inspires) the mind of the Seer so that a realization of Divine Truth or the ideal is grasped. This realization must then be given out or uttered by the inspired one in the best language he can command to express or at least symbolize the essence of the realization attained. This explains the difference between inspiration and astral dictation, even from advanced teachers in the invisible realms. Inspiration is by no means a word for word recording of information given by some Divine Being or by some spiritual Teacher or Master; for were it so, instead of being inspired we would become mere puppets, automata or automatic writers, with no need to think for ourselves and without responsibility for what we wrote.

In the Divine Mind there is stored up the ideals of all that is to be manifested, as well as all the truth that has been grasped and expressed by man since the beginning. To the degree that he can raise his consciousness to correlate with the Divine Mind or Reservoir of Wisdom, the Seer can draw upon it and grasp those phases of truth which the great Custodians of Truth deem it wise to have revealed by him at that time; for an impenetrable veil is drawn over all else. Therefore, it depends upon the intellectual and philosophic, as well as the spiritual and psychic, training of the Seer how those truths are expressed, even after further explanation by his Spiritual Teacher. This accounts for the differences in the way various trained Seers express truths in regard to the same subject.

This is the method, together with theopneusty and theophany, by which the books of the *Bible*, and all other great Scriptures, were revealed and later compiled. These are also the methods by which the *Teachings of The Order of Christian Mystics* are received. They are then expressed in the best terms the Agents can use, interpreted, explained and corroborated by examples from science and Nature. The interpretations are further corroborated by quotations from various Scriptures and other recognized and authoritative sources or expressions of the same truths.⁴¹

In a *Letter from the Teacher* to a pupil of the Order a further elucidation as to the agents and their ability to transmit advanced Teachings is given as follows:

You are right when you see in the reply to your letter, wisdom more than mortal and a grasp of the great subject which is quite different from that of most so called teachers who depend entirely upon their own wisdom and who are trammelled by the limitation of world thought. As to the leaders of this movement, they have been chosen by the great Lodge of Masters, not because of any super-human power but simply because through long training they have been perfected in the power to transmit truly, and with humility and a willing obedience to obliterate the personality and thus to give out only that which comes through from the Great White Lodge. . . . These truths are forever being poured out by the Great Ones, but the transmitters are responsible for the clarity and purity of the avenues through which they are given to the world. There is always a personal quality which cannot help entering in, for inspiration is not as so many think, a literal dictation, word for word, from some Teacher on the higher plane, but a broadcasting of Divine Wisdom which is received and interpreted according to the development and ability of those who can receive it.⁴²

The above method was also manifested in the works of Princess Mary Karadja in her short prose-poem, *Towards the Light*, which was also transmitted to her while in full waking consciousness. The author speculates that it was none other than HPB that inspired this first work of the Princess.

The Order had pupils in every major country in the world, and they had the privilege of being able to write and ask questions which were then sent to the Order. These were then answered by *The Teacher of the Order*, through the ability of this Priestess and sent back to the querant. Often the answers received were beyond the grasp of the Founders, being specifically directed to the querant and no one else.⁴³ Many thousands of such divinely inspired answers were put forth by the Founders of the Order, many of which were compiled in those most instructive booklets entitled "*Letters from the Teacher*."

⁴¹ Curtiss, *The Message of Aquaria*, p349, 350

⁴² Curtiss, *Letters from the Teacher Volume II*, pp77-78

⁴³ Curtiss, *Letters from the Teacher Vol. I*, p20

After suffering from a long mystical illness towards the end of her life, Harriette Augusta Curtiss entered transition on the 22nd of September 1932 in Washington, D.C., and followed her Teacher, HPB, into the Higher Realms. She had reached the age of 76.

Dr. Frank Homer Curtiss maintained a successful healing practice until his passing in 1946 and implemented a constructive and truly holistic healing practice, side by side with the highest mystical *Teachings of the Order*. This encompassed specialised dieting, in vogue to this day, radionics, in its infancy, psychic protection, banishments and astral interventions, prayer circles and prayer services in many forms.

Frank Homer Curtiss, many years younger than Harriette, re-married in 1937 to Eleanor Chapman Stevens who helped him to continue his work until his passing. Eleanor had the ability to communicate with Harriette directly, and co-authored the booklet 'For Young Souls' after Harriette's passing. She became the sole heir and executor of Homers estate and keeper of the archives of the Order at Homers passing. Homer entered transition in 1946 at the age of 71.

Together through Hierarchy, Teacher, Order and inner circle they published 27 bound volumes of Divinely Inspired Teachings, some running over 18 editions. They further spent their time transmitting the lessons, spreading the Teachings, answering countless letters, presented the lectures, formed many study groups and gave many demonstrations and services across the USA. This was achieved over a 40 year period of constructive spiritual output.⁴⁴ Such is the hallmark of Divinely inspired Initiates, using every last cent, breath and effort available to them, sacrificing all "to do the will of Him that sent us." By their fruits shall you know them.

Up to the end of Homers life, Harriette continued to call him by the name 'My Beloved' throughout their continued communications. From the strength of the Teachings and piecing together their life and Mission, the twain were one flesh, lifelong celibates, symbols of divine purity, twin souls, Priests and Priestesses forever after *The Order of Melchisedek*.

**From out the Spiritual Sun a Ray,
Held by the magic of the Law in clay.
Who knows what fairest form of all
Shall last – and perfect – on our shoulders fall?**⁴⁵

⁴⁴ Curtiss, *The Message of Aquaria*, p309, 310

⁴⁵ Curtiss, *The Truth About Evolution and the Bible*, x

CHAPTER XV

THE ORDER OF THE 15¹

“The Fifteenth Path is the Constituting Intelligence, so called because it constitutes the substance of creation in pure darkness, and men have spoken of these contemplations; it is that darkness spoken of in Scripture, ‘and thick darkness a swaddling band for it.’ “

Sepher Yetzirah, 30.

“Where is the way where light dwelleth? and as for the darkness, where is the place thereof?”

Job, XXXVIII, 19.

The Order of Christian Mystics was originally put forth under the name of *The Order of the 15*, this being its cosmic and numerical designation. But this name caused so much misunderstanding that it was considered better to use the name of the philosophy which it teaches. Hence the name now used is *The Order of Christian Mystics*, although *The Order of the 15* is still retained as a sub-title. When the Order was first put forth in this cycle it was planned primarily to meet the demands of advanced students only who, having been associated with it in past lives, knew something of its symbology, hence could appreciate the deep significance of its numerical designation at this period of the world's advance. But with the rapid expansion of the work the field of its appeal has steadily grown and widened until now while it still amply satisfies the same class of advanced occult students, yet there are many less advanced who need its help.

The monthly lessons sent out by the Order are in some ways so plain that “He who runs may read,” yet they also contain so much deep underlying and occult lore that the most advanced students find much that is new and much that while very old, old as humanity itself and familiar in principle to all occult students, is nevertheless put in a new light, i.e., the light of the new day. For that which is based upon Eternal Truth is fitted for all time and can therefore be studied from all angles, each angle presenting a perfect picture. Thus every age can find its needs supplied, for every phase of thought in any age can clothe these Eternal Verities in its own dress so that they will appeal to the mind of that Race or, that age. Therefore this Order as put forth in this present age brings nothing new in principle, but proves, by its ability to present world-old truths in language understandable in this present age, because recognizing all the scientific advances, that these truths are indeed like nature, ever new, yet ever old; ever renewed so that each age finds in their beauty, in the perfume of their blossoms, in their fruits, and in their exhaustless supply, a new wonderment, as if made for that day and generation fresh from the hand of God.

Hence the Order today is reaching out among those who are loosely classed as orthodox Christians, yet who are eagerly seeking for a greater understanding of Spiritual Truth and a more Soul-satisfying interpretation of the Scriptures than the Church affords. It also appeals to the many who have formerly been satisfied with the so-called “advanced teachings” of modern origin, but who now require a more comprehensive and all-inclusive philosophy than they have found elsewhere. To these ever-increasing classes the numerical name of the Order means nothing; in fact, instead of appealing to them and leading them to inquire into its teachings, it often turns them from it, hence the name of its philosophy is used instead.

¹ Curtiss, *The Key of Destiny*, pp183-189

In the face of the undoubted power of numbers, let us say that all students who have carefully read and digested the meaning of number 15 will have no difficulty in understanding why an Order bearing the numerical title *Order of the 15* should have been put forth when it was. In fact, had not the Masters of Wisdom made an effort to give to humanity some special form of teaching by which it could understand the shadows and forms, which during this awakening to the dawn of a new day are pressing so heavily upon the world, humanity would be left like frightened children who waking in the chill dark which precedes the coming of day, cry out for some wiser head to explain the terrifying conditions of the darkness, and show that the shadows are not monsters lurking in the darkness to devour them, but only natural phenomena misunderstood.

The Elder Brothers of the Race, who themselves have passed through many similar nights and watched the dawning of many similar days, have therefore in love and compassion sent to the world at this period these special teachings, which are not new or startling, but which go back to fundamental principles for an explanation of present day conditions, thus relighting a torch of Truth that the ignorance of this age shall be less dense and the struggle for enlightenment shall be less discouraging than in their age.

This Order was established at a time when the world was crying out for help. So many were beginning to feel in their lives the overlapping of the three worlds; were having dreams and visions and psychic experiences as a result of their five senses beginning to unfold and respond to the octave of vibrations of the higher worlds. Even in the midst of the gaiety and confusion of Babylon, many had seen the five fingers of a man's handwriting on the wall of the world's banquet hall strange characters which neither the astrologers, the soothsayers nor Wise men were able to interpret. Hence, this Order came like a "Daniel come to Judgment" to read the many riddles; to show the world that the pound of flesh demanded by it cannot be given if its giving shall shed one drop of spiritual life blood.

While to the earlier Races the realms of consciousness might seem to be distinct globes², yet as evolution progresses and the life-wave sweeps upward from its lowest point, the realization grows in humanity that these realms interpenetrate and have their reactions each upon the other. Hence, unless there is some special teaching given out to meet these conditions and explain all the phenomena pressing upon the attention of the world, humanity would be lost in the manifold illusion of the astral world or wander hopelessly in the labyrinth of mental speculation and fail utterly to see that through all realms the Great Ones have blazed a Path and have left a guiding thread which will lead safely through the maze. Without a clear and rational explanation man would also be at the mercy of the outpouring of all his evil creations in the three worlds and be crushed by the seeming hopelessness of it all and, like Job, would be tempted to "curse God and die." This Order therefore presents a logical, reasonable, scientific and Soul-satisfying philosophy which is able to point out both the why and the wherefore of all the changing conditions of the times. And because it can do this it is able also to show the way out and conclusively prove to humanity that the very darkness of the times is a proof that the dawn is at hand. Its mission is to clear away the mental rubbish which the ancient world has accumulated that the fountain of Living Water (the Christ) may spring into everlasting life.

The slogan of this Order is "Know, Dare, Do, Keep Silent"; the word "Know" being implied by the open eye in the center, while the other words occupy the three sides of the triangle in the symbol.³ Every Neophyte who sets out upon the Path of

² Curtiss, *The Voice of Isis*, p207

³ Curtiss, *The Voice of Isis*, Chapter xxxiv

Attainment does so because he has mentally seen the Open Eye and from his inner divine intuition knows it holds a message for him. He must have developed within him a strong consciousness that there is something worth the seeking, hence has aroused the daring spirit necessary to leave the old "primrose path of dalliance" and seek new and unknown regions. It not only takes a firm conviction of the truth of that which he would seek, but it takes far more; it takes courage, determination and perseverance. So many believe and long to attain, yet spend incarnation after incarnation bemoaning the fate that has given them a heart with which to long and a mind with which to aspire, yet has surrounded them with so many seemingly insurmountable obstacles which they call impossibilities. So year after year, and life after life, the longing grows fainter and the obstacles more substantial, until through the stern whippings of karma, the Soul is left naked to do or die, like a boy who is thrown overboard to swim or sink. This is well expressed in the couplet, "He who hesitates is lost."

Therefore to Dare is the first step into this Cosmic Order, and many take it almost automatically, having attained to in past lives. The next step is to Do. At this step many linger, for the great temptation is to dream, rather than to do. But the Do here indicated must be of a very definite character; it must begin with his own life, in overcoming his faults and failings. The Neophyte can never say: "I have accomplished," no matter what work he has done for humanity, until at least to some extent he has accomplished this first overcoming and it begins to show in his life. But we must be lenient in our judgment for, like a floating iceberg seven-eighths of which is always submerged below the water, so with the Neophyte. While his efforts must affect his life, yet the foundation must be below the surface of consciousness. Only such overcoming as has built for itself a strong foundation below the surface will endure the storms and dashings of the waves of life. Therefore, do not grow discouraged, for if even the tip appears above the water know there is seven-eighths below the surface. And even before its tip is in sight, the submerged seven-eighths will do much to hold back the waves.

The hardest lesson of all is to learn to Keep Silent. The esoteric meaning of Keep Silent is not merely to refrain from talking, although it does mean that we should refrain from frivolous chatter, from gossip and criticism. Its chief meaning is that we should keep in touch with the Silence, *in the consciousness of that deep mysterious Silence which makes all our thoughts, works and deeds potent*. It also means that we are not merely to dream of past accomplishments, but are to realize intensely what we have accomplished, and from the past seek to understand the mighty unseen forces which work only in the Silence, without which we never could have accomplished. Hence we must waste none of this precious force in mere talk or dreaming for this is a prolific waste of force. We must obey the mandate of the Christ within who tells us "Let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil." This means not to waste words; not to try to impress on others our degree of advance by telling them of our experiences, or by boasting of our victories or speaking of the qualities we think we have budded into our characters. For if all these things are true the world must see them, and to claim them, even if we are very sure that seven-eighths of them are already built beneath our consciousness, will but draw antagonism and dislike upon us and perhaps the very foundation we have so laboriously built below the surface will be destroyed by the heat of the antagonism thus engendered.

If one word is forceful enough to express our meaning, do not use more. Also let all our conversation be as simple and to the point as yea, yea, nay, nay. Above all, always listen in the Eternal Silence for inspiration which will direct our every word, so that no word we utter "cometh of evil." Vain chattering, either out loud

or mentally in talking to ourselves, will and must disturb the Great Silence so that we cannot be guided by it. “Be still and know that I am God.”

Many persons think they are talking through inspiration because the words they utter seem to be put into their mouths without their own volition, but if we dwell in the Silent Court of the Temple of the Living God we will learn to distinguish between true inspiration, which is the inbreathing of the Divine Spirit, and the parrot-like chatter of astral friends or others who know little more than we, or the thought-force of the community, or that of some stronger, more positive friend. In such cases the words we utter “come of evil.” No matter how good the words, if the method is evil, it “cometh of evil.” True inspiration comes from the Divine Indwelling Christ and is the inbreathing of the Holy Spirit, thus making us one with the Father. Then, like Jesus, we can say, “The words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself; but the Father that dwelleth in me.”⁴ Never try to justify or defend or explain by much argument. Speak the truth to the best of your ability, then rest in the assurance that you have done your best and that time and events will justify you. This is the inner meaning of Keeping Silent or dwelling in the Eternal Silence.

THE MEANING OF THE SYMBOL⁵

The symbol of an Order is its standard or flag. It symbolizes both its source, its object and its policy and sets the standard by which it must be judged. Hence it is important that persons belonging to or coming in touch with any Order or Movement should understand something of the emblem by which it is known on the higher planes.

THE SEAL



“Ministers of Christ and Stewards of the Mysteries of God.”

1 Corinthians 4 vs. 1

This Seal like all true symbols, has many shades of interpretation—all of which are included in the figure—and can be applied to various conditions. These shades of meaning are applications suitable to various conditions and circumstances rather than contradictions. We will take it, however, as the Seal of *The Order of the 15* and endeavour to point out not only its meaning, but also how it can be made a positive help to all who are striving to reach the goal of spiritual attainment over the Path marked out by this Order.

The Seal consists of a double triangle inscribed in a circle, with an open Eye in the center and three five pointed stars in the spaces between the sides of the triangle and the circle.

The circle represents Boundless Space and limitless Time in Eternity. It marks off the space in which creation takes place, or the circle formed by the down pouring of the Great Creative Force, in this case the circumference within which this Order is working. It is much like the circle of light projected by a magic lantern,

⁴ St. John, xiv, 10

⁵ Curtiss, *The Voice of Isis*, p413-417

within which the pictures are to appear. In one sense it is the circle of the Zodiac (the pathway of our solar system) from the twelve Gates or Houses of which issues the radiant light of The Christos represented as focused in the center of the Open Eye. In another sense the circle is the Ring Pass Not (the limit of the auric zone) which every true disciple should put around himself, and whose Gates (corresponding to the centers of the body) he must open and close at will to admit or exclude that which he chooses. Thus the All-seeing Eye (the Absolute) sheds its seven fold creative rays within its creations. In the case of the Ring Pass Not the Eye is the Divine Flame or The Christ-force within each heart. In this Order it is the sacred altar upon which burns the Eternal Flame of spiritual light from whose illuminating rays emanate the inspired teachings.

The Triangle symbolizes the Trinity, and is the universal symbol of Deity,⁶ the three aspects of the Logos, whether taken as the Father, Son and Holy Ghost of the Christians, the Osiris, Isis and Horus of the Egyptians or the more ancient Father—Mother—Son. The apex of the triangle represents the dual creative force of the Logos, separating into its positive and negative rays; the Mother (Isis, or the Holy Ghost), and the right hand line the Father (Osiris). These two send out their forces to form the base line, Horus, the Son, The Christ-principle poured forth and raining down upon the lower world, to manifest in all kingdoms as the Great Creative Principle which shall redeem them.

As used in this seal, the Triangle is composed of two sets of lines, representing either the masculine and feminine forces or involution and evolution. The inner line, the feminine, also stands for Intuition and Love, while the outer line represents Intellect and Wisdom. The spaces between the lines represent the three planes of manifestation—physical, mental and spiritual.

Just as it is impossible to draw an equilateral triangle within a circle without leaving three spaces, so is it impossible for the Trinity to express itself within the circle of manifestation without manifesting the three worlds. Hence these three spaces symbolize the three worlds or three states of consciousness.

Within each of these three spaces there is a five pointed star, representing man with his five senses and five extremities (hands, feet, head). The symbol represents man as existing upon the three planes of manifestation and using his five senses in each of the three states of consciousness. A man using his five senses on three planes of manifestation makes the number 15. Also $1+5=6$, thus announcing through the symbol that this Order is a Sixth Race movement, and that only by teaching man to use his five senses on all three planes can he prepare for the great Sixth Race. As 6 is the number of The Christ (man 5 plus Divinity 1) it symbolizes that this movement is another attempt to bring the teachings of The Christ to humanity. In other words this symbol should in-

spire man to stand erect, and with all his known faculties illumined by the Light of Truth, fearlessly penetrate into the mysteries of his being.

THE MOTTO

The motto of the Order is *Dare, Do, Keep Silent*, hence this must be the measure of its work. These words being placed between the double lines of the triangle show how man can conquer the three planes of consciousness. He must *Dare* to penetrate into the deeper mysteries of life; *Dare* to follow the guidance of his Father-in-heaven and *Dare* to face himself and live up to his highest ideals without regard to the opinions of his friends or enemies. He must *Do* the will of his Higher Self and manifest it in his daily life. He must *Do* with all his heart the duty that his hands find to do, the duty that lies nearest, and *Do* unto others as he would they should do

⁶ Blavatsky, *The Secret Doctrine*, Vol I, p138

unto him. He should *Keep Silent* concerning the sacred experiences of his inner life when among those who cannot understand; should *Keep Silent* concerning his own attainments, also when tempted to criticize others. *Keep Silent* also has reference to that silent hush of the physical and mental activities that must come ere the higher centers can catch and transmit the vibrations from the higher planes. These words form the triple key that will unlock for man the doors of his inner consciousness and enable him to function on all planes and master all states of consciousness.

Taking the seal in its entirety, it shows to an Initiate that this Order is put forth by The Lodge to help man, through the use of his five known senses on all planes, to unfold his higher (unknown) faculties and reach up to the Divine. Many students of the higher life are striving to unfold and use their sixth and seventh senses before they have learned to use their five known senses on all planes. If such a thing were possible it would make a gap in their evolution which nothing could bridge, and they would sooner or later find themselves plunged into the depths of error.

The whole, being inscribed in a circle representing limitless Time in Eternity, shows that the symbol is active within this cycle of manifestation; moreover that it is intended as a direct preparation for the Sixth Great Race.

CHAPTER XVI

A SYMPOSIUM OF THE ORDER OF THE 15⁷

The object of evolution among all forms is the perfect manifestation of the highest type-form of each species. Such a state of perfection is called Mastery in each species. This state has already been attained in many kingdoms. Among the various earths the diamond has reached this perfected state of Mastery. Among metals it is gold. Among trees it is the oak, and among flowers it is the rose. Among animals it is man. Among mankind it is the spiritually illumined Initiate.

Curtiss, *The Inner Radiance*, p111

“Behold, I bring unto you good tidings of great joy.”

For convenience in reference we will here gather together what has been said about the Order in all the various other works.

To all earnest seekers after the spiritual life whose sincere desire is to progress in spiritual growth and unfoldment, and who wish the opportunity of coming into closer personal touch with those Masters of Wisdom who, through all ages, have been the Teachers, Guides and Elder Brothers of humanity, there comes the following message:

In accordance with the geometrical design of the universe, a point in evolution has now been reached when an advanced Order has been established upon the earth plane to give once more a universal conception of Truth, but couched in modern terms and including, the many advances in science, invention, historical research etc., of our modern times. This Order is not an organization in the general acceptance of the term. Its Founders and agents are not pupils of any human teacher or “astral guide”, *nor is the Order connected with either the outer or inner work of any other occult organization now in existence on the physical plane*, yet it aims to include the best in all similar movements.

THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE ORDER OF CHRISTIAN MYSTICS

The Order of Christian Mystics is but one name for a great Cosmic Order which has always existed and through which all Souls who have reached Mastery have passed on some plane, at a certain stage of their evolution. It has been represented upon the earth-plane at certain cyclic intervals in all ages, and has been known under various names, yet always emphasizing the universality of Truth and presenting a Cosmic Philosophy which can be interpreted and used by every sincere seeker after Truth from his own angle of vision, and at any stage of unfoldment he may reach.

Its manifestation upon the earth-plane during the present cycle began on January 1st, 1908, its numerical name, *The Order of the 15*, being then used. But now that the Order is reaching that great class who are looked upon as orthodox Christians, yet who are eagerly seeking more definite instruction concerning the mysteries of the spiritual life, the name of the philosophy which the Order presents is used instead.

The Order of Christian Mystics is a non-sectarian, unifying, spiritual movement, inspired by an unselfish love for humanity and a desire to help mankind recognize the reality, and make practical use of, its spiritual guidance in the daily life.

It is Christian in that it seeks the universal Cosmic Christ Principle, no matter by what name that Universal Principle is known in other lands; and in that it bases

⁷ Curtiss, *The Key of Destiny*, Chapter XXVII, from the first circular sent out in 1908 to announce the Order and *The Mystic Life*, p101-122

its teachings on the Christian rather than on Oriental scriptures. It is Mystic in that it teaches its pupils the mystery of how to come into personal and conscious touch with the Christ-consciousness within, and with the Spiritual Teachers in the higher realms.

It is not put forth to form a new sect or cult to further divide up and separate humanity, or to form another pigeonhole in which to isolate a few followers; nor does it seek to secure a following for any human leader or personality.

It affords a haven of rest for the many weary, storm-tossed souls who have met with disappointment after disappointment in following, one after the other, the great claims made by the popular cult of the moment, for at present the great mass of seekers still run after every forceful personality. The students of this Order are taught to follow impersonal principles, laws and spiritual truths, not personalities.

It comforts and encourages those who are discouraged by the many man-made limitations which seem to hedge about the approach to the realization of the Inner Life or to the personal contact with the higher Spiritual Teachers of mankind; those who have knocked at so many gates and sought in so many avenues only to find that unless they believe as they are told and accept Truth as interpreted by a particular cult and accept blindly the word of those mortals who stand at a particular gate, they cannot hope to enter into a realization of the Divine within themselves or hope for recognition by the Great Ones.

To all such the *Fellowship of the Order of Christian Mystics* brings a message of Freedom, Light, and Satisfaction; Freedom through the Light of Knowledge of spiritual laws and a realization of the graciousness of God to *all mankind*.

“And ye shall know the Truth, and the Truth shall make you free.” The knowledge and realization of the Truth is *unto all people*. There is no exclusiveness or favouritism in Truth. All is open to *those who qualify*, not by outer ceremonies, but by preparing themselves within to correlate with the higher phases of consciousness and realization.

Since all men have their own way of looking at Truth and can accept and realize it best along that line, the Great Teachers of humanity have established the *Order of Christian Mystics* as a great clearing house for all phases of Truth, without the limitations of creed and dogma; an Order in which an all-inclusive philosophy can be expounded and the fundamental laws of manifestation underlying all phases of life, consciousness, and evolution can be presented impersonally to all, no matter what their race, colour, religion or stage of unfoldment.

Therefore the *Order of Christian Mystics* is a spiritual movement, without creed, dogma, rules or pledges. Instead of emphasizing the differences between its teachings and all others, it strives to establish a platform so universal that its pupils can find in it some one thing to which they can agree, even though that one thing be not the same for all. Thus will this Order become a link to join the best efforts of all into one great universal movement which shall spread Brotherhood upon the earth through spiritual understanding.

True Brotherhood does not mean that all must think alike, but that each recognize Truth wherever found and *demonstrate* love and tolerance toward those who find a different aspect of Truth more helpful.

This Order does not ask its pupils to leave any church, society or organization to which they feel attracted, unless they find in this Order their true spiritual home and desire to work exclusively with it. It but seeks to help all to understand the workings of the great fundamental Laws of Life, and thus enable them to do their own work the better, in their own way and place.

It asks no one to subordinate his individuality or to follow any leader, but leaves all free to follow the Truth as revealed to them. It does not require that any of its

teachings be accepted by its students because some authority says they are true, for unless a teaching appeals to the heart and rings true to a Soul it is not true to the consciousness of that Soul. Hence, *no authority is enforced*, except the authority of that Voice within each heart which recognizes and witnesses to Truth wherever found.

Understand this point clearly: It will be *only through your own individual effort*, your attitude of Soul and the character of your subsequent life that will enable *you to place yourself* in personal, conscious touch with the Masters of Wisdom. *It depends upon no personality but your own.*

ORGANIZATIONS

All organizations and movements which receive help from the spiritual-plane have their own particular work to do. Whether they have succeeded in the task set before them, or whether they have failed, is clearly shown by their results, and the same rule must be applied to the work of this Order. But many students have outgrown organizations, having found them too narrow and their necessary limitations too binding. Hence, in this Order an avenue of instruction and help has been put forth that is *not an organization* and which is not limited in its activities.

This movement is not an organization, because it has no constitution or by-laws, no officers (except the Founders), requires no pledges and no dues, and does not restrict a student's activity in any society or organization. Therefore it is *not antagonistic to, or a rival of*, any existing organization that is helping humanity, but permits perfect freedom. It holds out the hand of Brotherhood to each and gives to all an opportunity to *prove* the ideals of Brotherhood and tolerance which they profess.

AS TO OTHER MOVEMENTS

We can but reiterate that while *The Order of Christian Mystics* stands alone, nevertheless it stands for Truth wherever found, its motto being, "By their fruits ye shall know them."

Under no circumstances does it criticize any. If an organization, society or movement has helped one Soul to take one step upon the Path to Mastery, it has not wrought in vain.

"Whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward! . . . Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these, my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

The fact that a movement no longer appeals to you, not matter how helpful it may be to others, is evidence either that your Soul has learned the lessons that movement had for you, even though not mastered intellectually, that it is not your true spiritual home or that the movement, no matter how beautifully conceived and launched, has become tainted with something that is not helpful, or is perhaps distinctly injurious to your physical, mental, moral or spiritual growth. Hence, to remain connected with an organization to which you no longer feel drawn or which you have outgrown, is as detrimental to your Soul-growth as it would be for a flower to remain in a pot which had become too small for it or whose soil had become exhausted.

Each movement that aims to help humanity has its own place and its own work. Colored blocks are necessary in the kindergarten, primers for children, text-books for the training of the mind in school and college. But when the mind has been trained it must then put that training to use in a practical way; in business, under the head of the firm or manager; in art, under a great teacher; in spiritual things, under a Master of Wisdom. In advanced teachings each Soul must use all its experience,

discrimination, and intuition to discover which movement really teaches best how to apply spiritual principles to the development within on the Path to Mastery while still meeting the conditions of daily life.

But remember that, because you are no longer interested in the colored blocks or primers you once thought so beautiful, you are not to despise the children who still cling to them, or find fault with the teachers of the a-b-c's. All have their place, and the children will grow away from the blocks when they have learned their lesson, just as you have grown away from earlier conceptions.

The fact that a teaching attracts and helps you is evidence that it contains the lessons needed by you for the step you are taking. It is not a question of how much ancient, mystical lore or rituals or ceremonies you may know or how many "degrees" you have been put through in other organizations, but how you have learned to *demonstrate the principles* back of all these, in recognizing and correcting your faults, and in growing closer in love and understanding to your fellow men. Every sincere and uplifting movement or teaching has its place and has for followers those who need the lessons expressed in its particular way.

One of the chief objects of this Movement is to correlate advanced philosophical teachings with the orthodox Christian teachings; to form a neutral ground where both can meet and recognize Truth, and to reach the great mass of people who will not join organizations or occult societies of any kind. Our language will purposely be made simple, and the great truths which we set forth, as to man and his relation to God and the universe, will be so stated as to appeal to minds schooled in Western religious thought and which have not delved into the mystic formulas, jargons, and ceremonies which were the vehicles of Truth during the Dark Ages, and on this account we may disappoint many merely intellectual seekers.

Our greatest object is to help to prepare the hearts and minds of mankind for *the near advent of the great Spiritual World-Teacher who is soon to appear, the Avatar*. For He must come, not to any one sect or movement or people, but to all nations and peoples and to all classes whose hearts are prepared to receive Him, both the learned and the unlearned. For the good news of His quick coming must be given "unto all people," not merely to a few intellectual thinkers or occultists. All schools of spiritual thought need this preparation.

While the teachings of this Order are those of the Wisdom Religion, they are not theosophic or rosicrucian in the sense of being put forth by any of the numerous societies bearing those names, for they deal with the Christian *Bible* quite as much as with Eastern or medieval teachings.

There is a real necessity for the various presentations of Truth as given to the world; for just as the climate, flora and fauna of a country, and the language and customs of its people, vary in different parts of the world, so must Truth garb itself in habiliments suited to the modes of thought of the people to whom it is given. There is a deep, occult reason underlying this law, and St. Paul recognized it when he said, "Be ye all things unto men."

There comes a time, however, in all organized bodies giving out spiritual teachings when some students will advance as far or farther than the leaders of the organization. And since it is only natural for such leaders to assume that they are more advanced than any of their students, inharmony and dissatisfaction, or even secession, result.

In the development of all students a point is reached where they need the advanced, *personal* instruction, not of any leaders, *who are themselves but students*, but of One who has at his command all knowledge and all wisdom i.e., a Master

of Wisdom.⁸ It is in answer to this personal need that The Lodge of Masters has put forth *The Order of Christian Mystics* at this time. It comes as a direct response to the prayers of many, many hearts for more light, love, sympathy and *personal guidance*.

As this continent (North America, Ed.) will become the home of a new Race which will ultimately perfect itself by the survival and interblending of the fittest of all the races now existing, so must its religious thought be blended and purified that it may emerge as a pure ray which has gathered into itself the force from all its sub-rays without condemning any.

The Order of Christian Mystics is put forth in an effort to awaken The Christ-love in the hearts of men, rather than to cater to the intellect or the desire for psychic powers; for only those who can correlate with The Christ-power can be gathered together to form a nucleus in which this Power can be individualized on earth. The aim of this Movement is especially to help all Christian people to find the deep, underlying, vital truths common to all religions in their own, and thus truly, and in the only way possible, prepare for an Universal Brotherhood on earth in which each Soul shall find the same vital truths spoken in his own language,⁹ i.e., couched and taught in terms of the religion in which he was born.

SPECIAL OBJECTS OF THE ORDER

1. *Complete individuality through union with the Higher Self.*

The ideal of this Order is one of constant *self-mastery*, in obedience to the personal guidance *from within* and prompted by the ability to help humanity to a greater realization of the Christ-consciousness. This is the acme of individualism, Mastery, for the Soul and the acme of oneness for the Race. Necessarily the fundamental assumption is the possibility of each Soul coming into conscious touch with his Father-in-Heaven.

2. *Personal training in the philosophy of life.*

The personal training is carried on partly on the inner planes and partly by correspondence with the *Teacher of the Order* through the Founders. Such correspondence is open to all who need personal help with the problems of their Soul-life. For adequate reply, the letters should contain not more than three questions. The answers will contain clear explanations of the laws of life which apply to the individual needs of the pupil. Such correspondence is sacredly confidential.

3. *A higher standard of purity on all planes.*

Ere the pupil can attain to the higher stages of spiritual consciousness he must learn to control his thoughts as well as his words and acts. The highest ideals as to the sacredness and purity of the marriage relation and the creative forces are inculcated.

4. *Esoteric interpretation of the Bible.*

The special object of these teachings is to bring to the attention of the world, as simply as possible, the Pearls of Wisdom in the teachings of the Master Jesus, pearls that have been overlaid with wordy misconceptions and dogmas so long as to be almost unrecognizable.

⁸ It is understood, of course, that the Founders do not answer the letters or compose the Teachings, except under inspiration, although their consciousness had to be especially trained to reach up, grasp and correctly interpret and express the wisdom to be transmitted. They are merely Agents of the Holy Ones back of the Order and do not pretend to be the Teacher of the Order. The Teachings themselves are evidence of their sources of Inspiration, Love and Wisdom.

⁹ See Acts II, 6.

Although the Christian *Bible* is the greatest occult book ever given to humanity, for it contains not only the wisdom of all prior scriptures, but also a prophecy of the future, yet it is the least understood of any scripture, because heretofore all efforts to explain it have been upon a literal, intellectual, material or historical basis and not from the standpoint of its *spiritual symbology* and *esoteric* meaning.

This Order gives its students the esoteric key which enables them to apply the underlying laws of every parable, allegory and miracle to their own spiritual growth.

5. *Training the senses to respond to vibrations from all planes.*

The great psychic awakening now sweeping the world has brought many students to the point where their inner faculties are unfolding. This is a point of great danger, for here the two paths, the Right Hand and the Left Hand, diverge.

This Order offers no formulas or general exercises for developing psychic powers, but teaches that all such faculties should evolve gradually *as a natural result* of normal spiritual growth. To seek them in the séance room or to force them through special forms of concentration or negative “sitting for development,” etc., is abnormal. But, as the Soul evolves, the senses must respond to higher rates of vibration and awaken to higher states of consciousness. *When this occurs* the pupil must be taught both how to protect himself from the many dangers of the psychic realm¹⁰ and also how to make the best use of the newly acquired powers in furthering his spiritual growth; for psychic powers in themselves *are not an evidence of spirituality*, merely evidence that the student is opening his five senses to the ethereal or astral world, and all depends upon the use he makes of the powers attained. This is a personal work which could not be accomplished by any organization bound by set rules.

6. *Preparation for the Coming Teacher, The Avatar.*

Like nearly all advanced thinkers and movements along spiritual lines this Order expects a great spiritual Teacher to appear on earth during the early years of this century. The prophecy, ‘Many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many,’ is being literally fulfilled to-day. This Order fully explains the true mysticism and fundamental laws of the Coming that the Elect may not be deceived.¹¹ For just as lightning flashes from heaven as the result of the gathering on earth of certain forces which induce its descent, so must the Coming be the result of the gathering together of the forces of love, tolerance and brotherhood which shall induce its physical manifestation. Hence one of the great objects of this Order is so to train its pupils that, *through their own intuitions*, they may learn to recognize and respond to the influence of that Great Teacher upon the higher planes and not be led astray by personality. For one who requires to be told by another, “Lo! here, Lo! there,” cannot recognize the manifestation when it takes place.

7. *Special training in recognizing the oneness of Truth wherever found.*

Since the human race reflects Truth, as a diamond reflects light, through many facets, Universal Brotherhood can never be achieved by all men thinking alike. Our idea of Brotherhood is universal recognition of the oneness of Truth in its various expressions or unity in diversity, thereby manifesting perfect tolerance toward all. But we must remain firmly grounded in that aspect of Truth which we have chosen *because we have proved that it is the best for us.*

¹⁰ Curtiss, *Realms of the Living Dead*

¹¹ This is fully explained in *The Voice of Isis*, Curtiss, Chapter X, also in *The Message of Aquaria*, Curtiss, Chapter XXXVIII.

A SYMPOSIUM OF THE ORDER OF THE 15 (CONTINUED)¹

**“Grant us Thy grace to carry hence
To all the world this Love:
To help to lead Thy children, Lord
Into Thy courts above”**

Hymn of Consecration, Harriette Augusta Curtiss

All we can say is that it is a direct outpouring of The Lodge-force, and the agents through whom it is manifesting are of no more importance, from the standpoint of the teachings, than would be the pipe through which a stream of pure water was led into a parched and thirsty land. Those who are athirst for the living waters will drink; those who are satisfied with that which is at their disposal will pass it by. Only the thirsty appreciate water.

If a history of the personalities were set forth, with photographs, names, *et cetera*, of what avail would it be? Would it make the message any more satisfying? Would it make the truth any more true? Or would it, as has always happened heretofore, tend to detract from the teachings? Those who had a personal leaning toward the agents would cling to their personalities, excusing every eccentricity and perhaps following some personal bias or weakness, and would waste many words and much force in defending such personalities. Such an attitude has heretofore put many temptations in the path of agents, and has even made them unfit instruments for The Lodge to use. On the other hand, all who did not altogether admire the personalities of the agent would have a target at which to throw stones. To them all the teachings would be tainted by the personalities of the agent. This, and much more has been the sad experience of all past attempts to give out The Lodge teachings. The Karma ignorantly incurred in the past by the treatment of former agents of The Lodge is to be spared humanity this time if possible. As each individual grows into touch with this work on the Soul-plane and displays a right appreciation of the sacrifice made by such agents, and ability to judge the matter impartially and apart from personality, he will learn to know the Agents from the inner rather than from the outer standpoint.

You are quite right in thinking that the teachings are themselves their own authority, for if they did not indicate their source no amount of specious claiming on the part of the agents would avail. ‘If this work be of men, it will come to naught; but if it be of God, ye cannot overthrow it; lest haply ye be found even to fight against God.’

At present we can only say that this Movement is a modern prophet without the walls of the city, crying: ‘Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make His paths straight.’ It is a modern ‘Voice of one crying in the wilderness, Repent ye; for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.’ If that voice finds an echo in your heart follow it; if not, go your way in peace, for your time is not yet come.

Many sincere Theosophists have questioned our Movement by asking why, since it comes direct from The Lodge, it is not given out through the already established channels. We do not desire to have it understood that the formation of this new channel is a reflection upon or a criticism of such organizations; for they all have their particular work. The work of this Order, however, is something quite different, i.e., the interpretation of the teachings of the Master Jesus and the giving of

¹ Curtiss, *The Key of Destiny*, pp199-205

the help required by each Soul after it has reached a certain point of development where the teachings given out to the mass of students as a whole no longer meet its needs. This cannot be done by organizations that are bound by general rules; for their fundamental principle is that all must fare alike and take such general instructions as can be given without regard to the needs of individual pupils. If you will carefully study the chapter on *Degrees and Orders*², you will understand why such laws and rules are necessary for such organizations, and from their standpoint, are right and proper. They must follow their instructions from The Lodge; for those are laws given to all organizations working on the negative side of the cross. Hence they must follow the negative law, i.e., advance can only be made collectively and all must fare alike as to instructions. *The Order of the 15*, however, as you will see from that chapter, is on the positive side of the cross and is put forth to aid those who need personal instruction; those who have reached a point where they can come into personal touch with the Masters of Wisdom interiorly, yet who need instruction and direction in forming such contact. We do not aim to supplant any established movements but should supplement their work in greatest harmony; for we build upon the same Rock of Truth where there is room for all. This is the Law; only he who asks can receive, because the asking opens the doors through which the help can come. . . .

Every Soul has implanted within it, as an integral principle, the power of intuition, just as every mineral, vegetable and animal has the power of selection or instinct which leads it to follow the lines of evolution best fitted for its growth and perfection in accord with its environment. This beneficent provision was not denied man, the highest point reached, so far, in the scale of evolution, indeed, it was given him in far greater abundance than to the lower kingdoms. With it was given the power of reason and free-will, that he might, if he would, know or he might, if he would, doubt and go astray and waste time, a privilege denied the lower kingdoms. . . .

The object of the personal instruction in this Order is to help each pupil to come into personal touch with his own Guru or Teacher, and thus receive his instruction in practical occultism at first hand. There are no two persons who need exactly the same help, and for that reason no Soul who had not reached Mastery would dare give instruction and assume the karmic responsibility for the teachings given. Therefore, when a student is prepared for such instruction the Teacher will be ready to give him personal training. But unless the student has awakened his intuition sufficiently to recognize the Master's presence, and has acquired sufficient knowledge of the laws governing such communications, the message is apt to be misunderstood or even to be meaningless, for he will be unable correctly to interpret it. . . .

The Order of the 15 is the sum of the numerals of 5. The 5 is the great mystical number of humanity, and was held most sacred by the ancients. On their Temples where the numerals were carved in stone the number 5 was inlaid with pure gold. The numeral 5 stands for humanity, hence this Order ordains to help humanity to reach the highest state of evolution. Its Teachings deal with the human every-day problems which must be mastered ere man becomes more than man. . . .

This is the Order of Transmutation or Alchemy. And while geometry and music are touched upon, more attention is given to the transmutation of all the baser qualities, including the elements or inner forces of all life, into the spiritual gold of Regeneration through the power of Divine Love. . . .

The Order of the 15 has always existed, and traces of its various manifestations can be found in ancient and medieval history. All through the Middle Ages, the

² Curtiss, *The Voice of Isis*, Chapter III

number 15 was celebrated with many religious ceremonies and observances, the Order of the Annunciation, held in such high esteem by royalty today and said to have been founded by Count Amadeus of Savoy, being but an adaption to Romish ideas of the ancient *Order of the 15*. The emblem of the Order of the Annunciation is a star on which is represented the annunciation surrounded by 15 love-knots. This also symbolizes *The Order of the 15*, for its mission has always been, even in the darkest periods of the world's history, to announce the possibility of bringing into manifestation (birth) the Christ-consciousness which is brought about by the spread of tolerance, liberty and brotherly love. The Masons, also retain a degree of this Order, called the Degree of the Fifteen, its main objects being devoted to the spread of 'Tolerance and Liberty, against Fanaticism and Persecution, political and religious; and to that of Education, Instruction and Enlightenment against Error, Barbarism and Ignorance.'³ These instances all show that *The Order of the 15* has always been the Open Door through which the Light of the Great Law has reached humanity and shown it how to evolve; above the light of any one candlestick, be it ever so golden or its light ever so brilliant, and how to behold the Divine Law which imparts the Light to all, giving to each as much as his candle is able to manifest in the world. . . .

The Order of the 15 is the *Order of the Holy Grail* whose lessons prepare for the final Initiation into *The Order of the Flame*. It is an expression of the Mother-force, the power of bringing forth. It is not what you know or believe, but what you bring forth in your life that admits you into full membership of this Order.⁴ . . .

In those long past ages (4700 B.C. in Egypt) this Order was born. It was then that the mighty mystic teachings were given to the Race and the meaning of the symbol (Sphinx) foretold to those Souls who were entrusted with manifesting it. And today, as this great Aquarian Age begins its cycle, those Souls must once more gather together their reincarnated students and followers that that which was symbolized in stone may be manifested in the world today, but this time erected in the hearts and lives of men. But in that far off time, seeing the end from the beginning and knowing the impossibility of preserving unmixed with error and misconception the mighty esoteric truths for which this Order stands, they were preserved for those who knew, for those who could understand, in the majestic figure of the Sphinx. Therefore, each one who is today strongly drawn in heart and mind to these teachings was no doubt a follower of them in those ancient days, when the Celestial Teachers descended and gave directions how this sacred Order (then called the Order of the Sphinx but not the one so called today) and its principles should forever be preserved intact until the day of their complete manifestation.

Hence, it is fitting, as the Great Day draws near when the many scattered ones are to be assembled, that there should be at least a few gathered together whose hearts and minds are attuned in perfect harmony, united in love and illumined by understanding, and once more have the Riddle of the Sphinx in its spiritual aspect elucidated for the betterment of mankind.

Just as that stony figure, with its imperishable message to humanity, has stood upon the border of the desert enduring the fierce heat, the storms and the forces of the ages without disintegration, so has this Order endured throughout the ages and its message been given to man in each succeeding cycle. Again and again have the terrific sand storms of worldly criticism and opposition beaten upon it until it seemed almost destroyed and its message distorted and lost sight of. Yet as its day dawns in each cycle the winds of heaven blow away the accumulated sand and those who belong to its tribe are gathered under its banner and are once more

³ Pike, *Morals and Dogma*, 160-171.

⁴ Curtiss, *The Voice of Isis*, 61-63.

thrilled and enlightened and fed by its mystic message. And just as none can look into the eyes of that great stone image, with their human gaze piercing the desert depths, without feeling a thrill of awakened inner sight, so today none who were once its followers can look into the Eye of the Order (the center of its symbol) without feeling a thrill as its rays pierce the darkness of their understanding and bring light into their conditions.”⁵

Thus is it found with those who at this stage are brought by the Great Law into touch with the *Order of Christian Mystics* after having toiled through the wilderness of all other teachings. Those who truly belong to it, whose enlightened intellect and quickened heart have enabled them really to grasp its teachings and correlate with the great currents of force back of them, are contented to rest in it, for in it they have found and recognized a manifestation of The Christ and know it to be their spiritual home, hence feel no inclination to seek elsewhere. But there are many others who come to these teachings, as they do to many others, seeking for just the expression of spiritual truth and the currents of force to which their stage of unfoldment will enable them to respond. These may stay with us a shorter or longer time and then find their home elsewhere. Many, on the other hand, after going forth again into the intellectual wilderness, return and here find rest and satisfaction. But all are welcomed as honored guests, and such as do not become ‘Children of the Household’ are cheered on their way when they depart with a blessing and a hearty ‘God-speed’ and a sincere hope that they may soon find the Christ manifesting in some other spiritual home so that they may rest on His bosom and go no more out.”⁶

⁵ Curtiss, *The Message of Aquaria*, Chapter XVIII

⁶ Curtiss, *The Message of Aquaria*, 144

CONCLUSION

“Have we not all one Father? Hath not one God created us?”

Malachi 2 vs. 10

**“O star of wonder, star of might, Star of wondrous beauty bright, Godward
leading, still preceding, Guide me with thy radiant light.”**

Curtiss, *The Pattern Life*, p66

So what then can we say about *The Order of Christian Mystics*? Its *Founders*, seemingly ordinary mortals, yet strange and mysterious at the same time, Priests and Priestesses forever after *The Order of Melchisedec*, have come and gone, much like many before them. They have brought to the world much Light, for which as Lightbearers they have had to pay, once more, a high price through unending sacrifice of *all*. Misunderstood, persecuted and crucified by worldly opinion, through long suffering, with much daring, courage and faith in their Divinely appointed mission, they have once more entered transition where they continue to guide and inspire and watch over the seeds they have planted whilst on earth. Yet we can be sure that as they have promised, they will come again and again, silently and with humility, as do all such manifestations of Avatara.

The Teacher of the Order has arisen once again, sphinx-like, to put forth a set of sublime teachings to pave the way for Him that comes, an unending veritable John the Baptist, hewing the way, making straight His paths. Together, through Hierarchy, Teacher and Disciples, they leave behind a set of Divinely inspired teachings that will stay as a testimony to Divine inspiration and will no doubt help to assist many to come with light, love, comfort and enlightenment.

The Teachings of the Order are almost as voluminous as those that were put forth under the pen of HPB and this should not be surprising. Through it all, in the words of the Founders and those of *The Teacher*, they are and were but Agents of the Lodge. Transmitters of spiritual knowledge, not the generators of such, and never did the Founders or *The Teacher* ever claim infallibility or pretended to be infallible. Through their own determined spiritual efforts, spanning many lifetimes, they have developed themselves to such a degree that they are of use to the Lodge to do such works. Such is therefore their *karmic right* and we should not wonder at such things, but take the message there-from to assist us in our own spiritual quest upwards. For they, in coming down to the earth plane to guide and teach mankind, have made of themselves a ‘living sacrifice,’ and few there be who can rightly appreciate such utterly selfless effort in order to assist their fellow man.

“He who says he has realized the Divine within himself, yet only as power for his own upliftment, and who uses it only for his own advancement, has never even approached that realization . . . For even God and His Archangels cannot manifest in the human kingdom except through us as Their instruments of expression. They are our Archetypes and we Their counterparts, Their mystic shrines, temples of the living God.”²

Of *The Teachings of the Order*, these are in themselves the only *Authority* and if such are studied with a sincere and open heart, the personalities of the Founders and their Teacher, who are themselves but agents of Higher Powers, will ultimately be swallowed up and should not detract from the truth which is to be found in *The Teachings*, for these are what are truly important. It is through *The Teachings* that each and every Soul may find that *one thing*, which will give him the courage and

¹ Curtiss, *The Voice of Isis*, p73

² Curtiss, *The Inner Radiance*, p18

inspiration to drive his or her own spiritual development forwards, onwards and inevitably upwards and so draw closer to that invisible *Spiritual Sun*, so beautifully out pictured in the Tarot Cards of *The Lovers* and *The Sun*.

The Lords of Karma apportion to the Soul, in exact justice, as much of the fruits of the causes we have set up in the past as each Soul is strong enough to conquer and work out. It is the Inner Guidance of the Christ-consciousness, sitting in the midst of our faculties, who gives us the light to recognize these conditions and the power to work out and conquer them. Thus, out of bitterness shall come sweetness, out of seeming evil shall come good, and out of experience shall come wisdom. Thus does the Christ within drink of the Cup of life with all mankind in loving sympathy and compassion as we pass through the adjustment of the inevitable results of our thoughts, words and deeds. . . .

As the Sun is the light, life and glory of the zodiac and of all Nature, it should remind us as we see it each day that the Spiritual Sun or the Christ within should be made the light, life and glory of our lives and our natures. Then we will see the doors of our temple of the higher spiritual consciousness swing open and will feel a mighty love fill us. Then we will hear the Still Small Voice, like the soft sighing of a summer breeze, whisper: "I am the herald of the dawn of a new day, a new spiritual springtime in your life. I bring you the Christ's message of light, love and peace, and call upon you to awaken to your opportunities and to the reality of your inner spiritual life."³

The *Teachings of the Order* form a comprehensive system of Mysticism that can safely be followed by all, requires no dues or loyalty to any organisation or leadership, except that loyalty to ones own Divine Inner Guidance. The works are so comprehensive, that even after many years of study, both the beginner and advanced student can receive much help from such *Teachings*, the true hallmark of all works that are Divinely inspired, for these shall endure to the very end, and by implementing *The Teachings* into our lives we may manifest the Divine qualities of true Soul unfoldment.

It is therefore our duty and our privilege to learn to utilize our divine powers of will, wisdom and love here in the physical world. And since we are Sons and Daughters of God we must learn to live like Gods; must practice thinking and speaking and acting as near as we can imagine Gods would do here and now. We must strive to manifest that absolute poise which results from an inner quietude. Manifest serenity under all conditions because of our realization of our high destiny: manifest self-control because the Real Self controls: patience and no need for hurry cause we realize the timelessness of Eternity in which we live; purity because of mastery of the flesh: radiant health without because of Life Divine within: cheerfulness and happiness because of our inner joy: kindliness of speech and act because of our great love: a melodious voice because it has lost its power to wound: a quizzical humour because of our understanding of man's foolishness: tolerance because of man's ignorance: courage because of a realization of our immortality: a soft answer that turneth away wrath because we do not respond to in-harmony and realize man's spiritual childishness: words and deeds of helpfulness and comfort because of our great compassion and our desire to help others: unselfishness and charity because of our inner store of riches.⁴

As to the compiler of this present work, he has but found much light, understanding and guidance from the *Teachings of the Order of Christian Mystics*, and therefore naturally desires that such *Teachings* be disseminated to as many people as would gain profit there-from, as these *Teachings* form such an all-inclusive and sublime *Cosmic Philosophy*, that they will continue to guide and inspire seekers for centuries to come. And it is always difficult for the small to write about the great, but this should not detract us from doing so, for verily, every avenue of help that assists but one single individual, is a jewel of great price for that unfolding Soul. And in as much as that great reservoir of the Divine finds such expression through sincere seekers who are but pipes funnelling water to a parched desert, each follows his Inner Guidance to further the work of Those above.

³ Curtiss, *The Pattern Life*, p124, 125

⁴ Curtiss, *The Inner Radiance*, pp15-16

That this work exposes a profound story which is woven around that world Teacher, that strange and mysterious personage that we all know as HPB, will come as a surprise to many, and may evoke scorn, hostility and even open disbelief from some. Yet, for those that care to study the matter, the truth is self-evident and we should give thanks that such a work as this is put forth in response to the heart cry of many who ask in the Silence as to the life, times and continued works of that Teacher that was HPB. We have heartily put forth this work in answer to such aspirations.

The author contends that the *Teachings* as espoused by this *Cosmic Order* will form the basis of the New Religion that is to be inaugurated by the Coming Avatar. That such Avatar is amongst us, from the strength of the prophecies given in this work, and through the signs of the times, we shall have to wait and see.

There are many thousands of letters and a number of lessons issued by the Order which are out of print and therefore have not been published through the normal channels. In the preface of the little book, *Gems of Mysticism*, there is a promise that "... lessons of the Order now out of print ... will all ultimately be produced in book form." We can but hope that through this new publication on the work of the Order, these lessons will come to light for the delight of all who cherish such Divinely inspired Teachings.

And to the many people who currently study *The Teachings of the Order* we can but pray and hope that such a work as this will put the physical manifestation of the work of this Order in due perspective, and but give faith and confidence in occult teachings and works in general, to show that we are not left without comfort or guidance, but that such is open to all who will but stretch out their hands and ask for it.

The Teachings of the Order, if followed with an open heart, do not require from the seeker any great open works, but only that Great Work of opening the heart and mind of each individual seeker to the Spiritual Sun, his own Divine Higher Self. In open trust, humility and sincerity, the seeker may go far in achieving his Divine birth-right, until such time as we wait for the gods to once more walk amongst us, and teach us again face to face as of old.

In closing we can but thank our Priestess, through her efforts of many lives, for bringing to us yet another set and system of Divine spiritual instruction and inspiration, so necessary in the day and age in which we live.

And the Waters of Punishment, Mercy and Cleansing, what are they but the tears wrung from man's eyes through suffering? Because he has lost his way in the darkness and is so blinded by their scalding flood that he cannot see the benevolence of the Vast Countenance expressed in the zodiac.

A certain advanced disciple had a vision in which she seemingly was taken to Paradise and ushered by the Angels into the Presence of this Vast Countenance, which seemed to fill the entire universe with its radiance, permeating every atom of her being like a subtle fire and enchanting all her senses like an intoxicating and most fragrant perfume; like a luminous Light, and a sound of almost overpowering rhythmic music lifting, falling and throbbing through the universe; hence an appeal to every sense, even senses not known on earth. Before this Vast Countenance the Angels bade her kneel, then brought to her broken bread which they bade her eat, telling her this was composed of all the tiny grains of effort she had made to feed the children of men with the Bread of Life which she had cast on the waters and forgotten, or which had only brought her bitter disappointment and sorrow.

Yet every grain of that spiritual bread had been gathered by the Angels and ground fine by the Mills of the Gods and was now returned after many days as spiritual Bread and given her to eat. They then brought her a cup filled with a bright, sparkling golden liqueur, which they told her was extracted from all the tears of sorrow, disappointment and repentance she had shed on earth through her long pilgrimage of lives. These had been carefully gathered by the

Angels and preserved and decocted into the Wine of the Spirit, the true Elixir of Life, which was now given her to drink.⁵

When HPB compiled *The Voice of the Silence*, she dedicated that work “To the Few True Mystics in the Theosophical Society.” May *The Teachings of the Order of Christian Mystics* find fertile soil in the hearts and minds of seekers everywhere.

So Mote It Be.

Dare, Do, Keep Silent
Motto of the Order

⁵ Curtiss, *The Key of Destiny*, p135

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS

REFERENCE WORKS USED IN THIS WORK

Teachings of the Order of Christian Mystics
“The Curtiss Books” freely available at www.orderofchristianmystics.co.za

1. The Voice of Isis
2. The Message of Aquaria
3. The Inner Radiance
4. Realms of the Living Dead
5. Coming World Changes
6. The Key to the Universe
7. The Key of Destiny
8. Letters from the Teacher Volume 1
9. Letters from the Teacher Volume 2
10. The Truth about Evolution and the Bible
11. The Philosophy of War
12. Personal Survival
13. The Pattern Life
14. Four-Fold Health
15. Vitamins
16. Why Are We Here?
17. Reincarnation
18. For Young Souls
19. Gems of Mysticism
20. The Temple of Silence
21. The Divine Mother
22. The Soundless Sound
23. The Mystic Life
24. The Love of Rabiacca
25. Potent Prayers

Supporting Volumes

26. The Seventh Seal (by Jeanette Agnes).
27. Towards the Light (by Princess Karadja).

THE VOICE OF ISIS

By The Teacher of The Order of Christian Mystics

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chapter I	Life's Duties
Chapter II	The Cycle of Fulfilment
Chapter III	Degrees and Orders
Chapter IV	The Wisdom Religion
Chapter V	Concerning the Doctrine of Hell Fire
Chapter VI	The Eleventh Commandment
Chapter VII	Narcotics, Alcohol and Psychism
Chapter VIII	A Study of Karma

Chapter IX	The Self
Chapter X	The Doctrine of Avatara
Chapter XI	A Study of Reincarnation
Chapter XII	Power
Chapter XIII	A Brief Outline of Evolution
Chapter XIV	The Law
Chapter XV	World Chains
Chapter XVI	Purity
Chapter XVII	The Origin of Man
Chapter XVIII	The Symbol of the Serpent
Chapter XIX	Purification vs. Deification
Chapter XX	The Memory of Past Lives
Chapter XXI	The Cycle of Necessity
Chapter XXII	The Path
Chapter XXIII	Earth's Finer Forces
Chapter XXIV	The Light
Chapter XXV	The Two Tables of Stone
Chapter XXVI	Healing Prayer
Chapter XXVII	The Silence
Chapter XXVIII	Nature's Mystic Alphabet
Chapter XXIX	The Word
Chapter XXX	Illumination
Chapter XXXI	The Symbol of the Salt
Chapter XXXII	Thou Shalt Not Kill
Chapter XXXIII	Prayer of Consecration. Concentration Hours.
Chapter XXXIV	The Meaning of the Symbol
Appendix A	How to Form a Study Class
Appendix B	Announcement
Appendix C	Special Information
Appendix D	How to Join
Appendix E	Requirements
Index	

THE MESSAGE OF AQUARIA

The Significance and Mission of the Aquarian Age

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Preface	
Chapter I	The Mystic Life
Chapter II	The Sign Aquarius
Chapter III	Are These the Last Days?
Chapter IV	Comets and Eclipses
Chapter V	The Law of Growth
Chapter VI	The Birth of the New Age

Chapter VII	Jacob and Esau
Chapter VIII	Mastery and the Masters of Wisdom
Chapter IX	Mother Earth
Chapter X	The Four Winds
Chapter XI	The Three Johns
Chapter XII	Children of the Household
Chapter XIII	Children of the Household (concluded)
Chapter XIV	Man, Know Thyself
Chapter XV	Orderly Sequence
Chapter XVI	The Spiral of Life
Chapter XVII	Life Waves
Chapter XVIII	The Message of the Sphinx
Chapter XIX	The Second Woe
Chapter XX	The Day of Judgement
Chapter XXI	The Law of Sacrifice
Chapter XXII	The Sheep and the Goats
Chapter XXIII	The Mystic Oak
Chapter XXIV	The Diamond Heart
Chapter XXV	The Diamond Heart (concluded)
Chapter XXVI	Faith and Works
Chapter XXVII	Crossing Jordan
Chapter XXVIII	Crossing Jordan (concluded)
Chapter XXIX	Taking Jericho
Chapter XXX	The Vain Show
Chapter XXXI	Lucifer
Chapter XXXII	Lucifer (concluded)
Chapter XXXIII	Mars
Chapter XXXIV	Mars (concluded)
Chapter XXXV	The Spiritual Birth
Chapter XXXVI	The True Priesthood
Chapter XXXVII	A New Testament
Chapter XXXVIII	The Mighty Angel
Chapter XXXIX	The Soul's Guerdon
Chapter XL	The Soul's Guerdon (concluded)
Appendix	Prayers of the Order of Christian Mystics
Index	

THE INNER RADIANCE

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Preface	
Chapter I	The Inner Radiance
Chapter II	The God Man
Chapter III	As in the Days of Noah
Chapter IV	Spiritual Co-operation

Chapter V	Man and the Zodiac. Part I. The 12 Signs
Chapter VI	Man and the Zodiac. Part II. The Constellations
Chapter VII	The Lord from Heaven
Chapter VIII	The Soul Language
Chapter IX	Transmigration. Part I. The Doctrine
Chapter X	Transmigration. Part II. The Atoms
Chapter XI	Cosmic Causes of World Conditions, and the Remedy Part I. Planetary and Karmic Factors
Chapter XII	Cosmic Causes of World Conditions, and the Remedy Part II. The Remedy
Chapter XIII	The Mystic Rose
Chapter XIV	The Great and the Small
Chapter XV	The Lords of Karma
Chapter XVI	Redemption
Chapter XVII	Reliance
Chapter XVIII	The Great Work
Chapter XIX	King Desire
Chapter XX	The Mystery of the Elements
Chapter XXI	Man and the Elementals. Part I. Earth and Water
Chapter XXII	Man and the Elementals. Part II. The Air
Chapter XXIII	Man and the Elementals. Part III. The Fire
Chapter XXIV	The Realm of Be-ness
Chapter XXV	Saturn and Cyclic Law
Chapter XXVI	God, Man and the Planet. Part I. Their Relation
Chapter XXVII	God, Man and the Planet. Part II. The Book of Remembrance
Chapter XXVIII	The Third Eye
Chapter XXIX	The Mount of Attainment
Chapter XXX	The Round Table
Chapter XXXI	Divine Fire. Part I. The Fire of Life and Mind
Chapter XXXII	Divine Fire. Part II. The Buddhic Fire
Chapter XXXIII	The Glory of the Lord
Chapter XXXIV	Lessons by the Way. Part I. The Ancient Continents
Chapter XXXV	Lessons by the Way. Part II. Lesson of the Sagebrush
Chapter XXXVI	Lessons by the Way. Part III. Nature's Symbology
Chapter XXXVII	The King of Glory
Chapter XXXVIII	The Christ Star. Part I. The Five Points
Chapter XXXIX	The Christ Star. Part II. The Shepherds and the Wise Men
Chapter XL	Preparation
Appendix	Prayers of the Order of Christian Mystics
Index	

REALMS OF THE LIVING DEAD

A Brief Description of Life after Death

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	
Chapter I	The Reality of the Astral World
Chapter II	The Rivers of Life and Death
Chapter III	The Seven Realms
Chapter IV	The Realm of Reflection
Chapter V	The Astral Double
Chapter VI	The Awakening
Chapter VII	Astral Helpers
Chapter VIII	The Ethereal Realm
Chapter IX	The Vital Realm
Chapter X	The Desire Realm (Obsessing Entities)
Chapter XI	The Desire Realm (continued)
Chapter XII	The Eighth Sphere
Chapter XIII	The Elementals
Chapter XIV	The Fairies
Chapter XV	The Psychic Realms (The Mental Realm)
Chapter XVI	Independent Methods of Communion
Chapter XVII	Subjective Methods
Chapter XVIII	The Telepathic Method
Chapter XIX	The Inspirational or Spiritual Realm
Chapter XX	The Divine or Ecstatic Realm
Chapter XXI	Independent Communications
Chapter XXII	Independent Communications (continued)
Chapter XXIII	Independent Communications (continued)
Chapter XXIV	Independent Communications (continued)
Appendix	Some Fundamentals in the Psychology of Narcotic Drug Addiction
Appendix	Prayers of the Order of Christian Mystics
Index	

COMING WORLD CHANGES**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Foreword	
Chapter I	The Prophecies
Chapter II	Geological Considerations
Chapter III	The Philosophy of Planetary Changes
Chapter IV	The King of the World
Chapter V	The Heart of the World
Chapter VI	The Battle of Armageddon
Chapter VII	The Remedy
Index	

THE KEY TO THE UNIVERSE*Or a Spiritual Interpretation of Numbers & Symbols***TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Foreword	
List of Illustrations	
Preface	
Chapter I	The Origin of Numerical Systems
Chapter II	The Symbol of the Circle and the Serpent
Chapter III	The Circle as the Egg and the Cat
Chapter IV	The Circle as the Aura and the Ring Pass Not
Chapter V	The Symbol of the Circle with the Inner Dot
Chapter VI	The Number 1
Chapter VII	The First Hebrew Letter, Aleph
Chapter VIII	The 1 st Tarot Card, The Juggler
Chapter IX	The Number 2
Chapter X	The 2 nd Hebrew Letter, Beth
Chapter XI	The 2 nd Tarot Card, The High Priestess
Chapter XII	The Number 3
Chapter XIII	The Number 3 (continued)
Chapter XIV	The 3 rd Hebrew Letter, Gimel
Chapter XV	The Number 4
Chapter XVI	The Number 4 (continued)
Chapter XVII	The 4 th Hebrew Letter, Daleth
Chapter XVIII	The Number 5
Chapter XIX	The Number 5 (continued)
Chapter XX	The 5 th Hebrew Letter, He
Chapter XXI	The Number 6
Chapter XXII	The Number 6 (continued)
Chapter XXIII	The 6 th Hebrew Letter, Vau
Chapter XXIV	The Number 7

Chapter XXV	The Number 7. Gestation
Chapter XXVI	The Number 7. Perfection
Chapter XXVII	The Number 7. Perfection (continued)
Chapter XXVIII	The 7 Principles of Man
Chapter XXIX	The 7 Pleiades and the 7 Rishis
Chapter XXX	The 7 th Hebrew Letter, Zain
Chapter XXXI	The Number 8
Chapter XXXII	The Number 8 (continued)
Chapter XXXIII	The 8 th Tarot Card, Justice
Chapter XXXIV	The Number 9
Chapter XXXV	The Number 9 (continued)
Chapter XXXVI	The 9 th Hebrew Letter, Teth
Chapter XXXVII	The Number 10
Chapter XXXVIII	The Number 10 (continued)
Chapter XXXIX	The 10 th Hebrew Letter, Yod
Chapter XL	The Joy of Completion
Appendix	Prayers of the Order of Christian Mystics
Appendix	On Other and Higher Uses of the Creative Force (sex force)
Index	

THE KEY OF DESTINY

Sequel to "The Key to the Universe"

TABLE OF CONTENTS

List of Illustrations

Foreword

Preface

Chapter I	The Number 11. A New Beginning
Chapter II	The Number 11. The Initiate
Chapter III	The Number 11. Reincarnation and Transmutation
Chapter IV	The Number 11. Introduction to the Hebrew Letters The 11 th Hebrew Letter, Kaph. The 11 th Tarot Card, Strength
Chapter V	The Number 12. The Manifested Universe
Chapter VI	The Number 12. The Twelve Tribes
Chapter VII	The Number 12. The Twelve Disciples
Chapter VIII	The Number 12. The Great Work
Chapter IX	The Number 12. Fruition
Chapter X	The 12 th Letter, Lamed. The 12 th Tarot Card, The Hanged Man
Chapter XI	The 12 Labours of Hercules
Chapter XII	The 12 Labours of Hercules (continued)
Chapter XIII	The 12 Labours of Hercules (continued)
Chapter XIV	The 12 Labours of Hercules (continued)

Chapter XV	The Number 13. The Manifestor of the Universe
Chapter XVI	The Number 13. The Saviour God
Chapter XVII	The Number 13. Necromancy
Chapter XVIII	The Number 13. The Great Deep
Chapter XIX	The Number 13. The Snake Divinity
Chapter XX	The 13 th Letter, Mem The 13 th Tarot Card, Death
Chapter XXI	Number 14. The Mental Foundation
Chapter XXII	The 14 th Letter, Nun
Chapter XXIII	The 14 th Tarot Card, Temperance
Chapter XXIV	The Number 15. Man the Creator. The Awakening
Chapter XXV	The Number 15. The Devil
Chapter XXVI	The Order of the 15
Chapter XXVII	A Symposium of the Order of the 15
Chapter XXVIII	A Symposium of the Order of the 15 (continued)
Chapter XXIX	The 15 th Letter, Samech The 15 th Tarot Card, The Devil
Chapter XXX	The Number 16. Victory
Chapter XXXI	The 16 th Letter, Ayin The 16 th Tarot Card, The Lightning Struck Tower
Chapter XXXII	The Number 17. The Disposing Intelligence
Chapter XXXIII	The Number 17. The Celestial Hierarchies
Chapter XXXIV	The 17 th Letter, Pe The 17 th Tarot Card, The Star
Chapter XXXV	The Number 18. The Second Initiation
Chapter XXXVI	The Number 18 (continued)
Chapter XXXVII	The 18 th Letter, Tzaddi The 18 th Tarot Card, The Moon
Chapter XXXVIII	The Number 19. The Number of the Sun
Chapter XXXIX	The 19 th Letter, Qoph The 19 th Tarot Card, The Sun
Chapter XL	The Number 20. The Dispenser of Wisdom
Chapter XLI	The 20 th Letter, Resh The 20 th Tarot Card, The Judgement
Chapter XLII	The Number 21. No Number
Chapter XLIII	The 21 st Letter, Shin The 21 st Tarot Card, No Number
Chapter XLIV	The Number 22. The New Jerusalem
Chapter XLV	The New Jerusalem (continued)
Chapter XLVI	The 22 nd Letter, Tau The 22 nd Tarot Card, The World
Index	

LETTERS FROM THE TEACHER VOLUME I**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Dedication	
Preface	
Part I	The Masters of Wisdom and Their Work
Part II	Concerning the Order of the 15
Part III	Prayer
Part IV	The Astral Plane
Part V	Phenomena
Part VI	Dreams and Visions
Part VII	Health and Disease
Part VIII	The Sex Problem
Part IX	Spiritual Growth and Development
Part X	Miscellaneous
Appendix	Prayers
Appendix	Announcement
Appendix	Circular of Information
Appendix	Organisations

LETTERS FROM THE TEACHER VOLUME II**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Preface	
Chapter I	Health and Disease
Chapter II	Psychic Conditions
Chapter III	Karma
Chapter IV	Coming World Changes
Chapter V	Concerning the Order of Christian Mystics
Chapter VI	After Death Conditions
Chapter VII	Prayer
Chapter VIII	Communication and Guidance
Chapter IX	Financial Problems
Chapter X	Reincarnation
Chapter XI	The Sex Problem
Chapter XII	Marriage and Divorce
Chapter XIII	Discouragement
Chapter XIV	Jesus and the Christ
Chapter XV	Miscellaneous
Appendix	A Prayer for World Harmony
Index	

THE TRUTH ABOUT EVOLUTION & THE BIBLE

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	
Chapter I	Science
Chapter II	Materialism
Chapter III	The Law of Manifestation
Chapter IV	Creation
Chapter V	Creation (concluded)
Chapter VI	Manifesting the Creation
Chapter VII	Manifesting the Creation (concluded)
Chapter VIII	Adam and Eve
Chapter IX	The Garden in Eden
Chapter X	The Trees in the Garden
Chapter XI	The Serpent Power
Chapter XII	The Serpent Power (concluded)
Chapter XIII	Unity in Duality
Chapter XIV	The Twain One Flesh
Chapter XV	Summary
Chapter XVI	God. Part I. The Three Fold Flame – The Father
Chapter XVII	God. Part II. The Chariot of Fire – The Divine Mother
Chapter XVIII	God. Part III. The Christos – The Son
Chapter XIX	The Image of God
Chapter XX	Emmanuel
Appendix	Prayers of the Order of Christian Mystics
Index	

THE PHILOSOPHY OF WAR (3RD EDITION)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Preface	
Chapter I	A Spiritual War Bulletin
Chapter II	World Peace
Chapter III	Why War?
Chapter IV	Various Aspects of War
Chapter V	Permanent Peace, God's Plan
Chapter VI	"The War" or the principle of Resistance
Chapter VII	The Battle of Armageddon
Chapter VIII	A World-Wide call to Prayer
Chapter IX	A Prayer for World Harmony
Chapter X	The Symbology of the Stars and Stripes
Index	

PERSONAL SURVIVAL

With Physical Proofs

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Preface	
Chapter I	Cosmic Philosophy
Chapter II	Problem of Incarnation
Chapter III	Problem of Reincarnation
Chapter IV	Spiritual Contacts
Chapter V	Death Understood
Chapter VI	Effects of Prayer
Chapter VII	Prayers for the Dead
Chapter VIII	Graduation
Chapter IX	Animal Survival
Chapter X	Theosophist's Claims
Chapter XI	A Message from Madame Blavatsky
Chapter XII	Physical Proofs: General Subject
Chapter XIII	Spirit Photographs and Skotographs
Chapter XIV	Hand Writing and Psychographs
Chapter XV	Materialisation
Chapter XVI	Direct Voice
Chapter XVII	Fingerprints and Wax Gauntlets
Chapter XVIII	Automatic Writing
Chapter XIX	Telegraphic Messages etc.
Chapter XX	Polyglot Languages, Cross Correspondences and Book Tests
Chapter XXI	Houdini's Test Message
Chapter XXII	Apports, Asports, Transports, Levitation, Poltergeists etc.
Chapter XXIII	Letters from Hell
Chapter XXIV	Letters from Heaven
Chapter XXV	Conclusion
Index	

THE PATTERN LIFE

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Preface	
Introduction	
Chapter I	Interpretation of the Gospels
Chapter II	The Annunciations
Chapter III	The Immaculate Conception
Chapter IV	The Birth of the Christ
Chapter V	The Wise Men and the Star
Chapter VI	The Shepherds and the Sheep
Chapter VII	The Manger and the Swaddling Clothes

Chapter VIII	The Gifts of the Wise Men
Chapter IX	Herod and the Wise Men
Chapter X	The Flight and Massacre
Chapter XI	Twelve Years of Age
Chapter XII	The Baptism, John
Chapter XIII	The Baptism, The Christ
Chapter XIV	The Baptism, The Jordan
Chapter XV	The Temptation, The Fast
Chapter XVI	The Temptation, The Tempter
Chapter XVII	The Marriage Feast in Cana
Chapter XVIII	The Betrayal
Chapter XIX	The Crucifixion
Chapter XX	The Three Days in the Tomb
Chapter XXI	The Resurrection
Chapter XXII	The Ascension
Appendix A	The Astronomical Events
Appendix B	Symbolical Interpretation
Appendix C	Birth Dates
Appendix D	Inaccuracies and Contradictions
Index	

FOUR-FOLD HEALTH

*For the Purification and Health of the Body,
Mind and Emotions*

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	
Chapter I	Mechanical Factors in Health
Chapter II	Breathing
Chapter III	Constipation
Chapter IV	Acute Diseases
Chapter V	Food in General
Chapter VI	Compatibility of Foods
Chapter VII	Cooking
Chapter VIII	Various Suggestions
Chapter IX	Mental Influences
Chapter X	Emotions
Chapter XI	Spiritual Influences
Chapter XII	Food Combinations
Appendix A	Food Combinations
Appendix B	Short Bibliography
Index	

VITAMINS

Their Origin, Sources and Specific Uses

Part I	General Considerations
Part II	Vitamin Sources and Effects
Summary	

WHY ARE WE HERE?

And Other Essays on Cosmic Soul Science

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Foreword	
Chapter I	Why Are We Here?
Chapter II	The Object of Physical Existence
Chapter III	New Dimensions
Chapter IV	With Courage and Faith
Chapter V	Old Clothes
Chapter VI	Ideals
Chapter VII	The Woman's Age
Chapter VIII	Smile, Smile, Smile
Chapter IX	The Cloud Upon the Mountain
Chapter X	All Conquering Love
Chapter XI	The Heaven World
Chapter XII	Christ in the Daily Life
Index	

REINCARNATION

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	
Part I	The Doctrine
Part II	Why and How
Part III	In the New Testament. Objections Answered
Part IV	Scientific Evidence and Physical Proof

FOR YOUNG SOULS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Preface	
Chapter I	Your Origin
Chapter II	The House in Which You Live
Chapter III	Tolerance
Chapter IV	Criticism
Chapter V	Two Selves

Chapter VI	Personal Survival
Chapter VII	Forgiveness
Chapter VIII	Reincarnation
Chapter IX	Why We Suffer
Chapter X	Giving
Chapter XI	Love
Chapter XII	Thanksgiving

GEMS OF MYSTICISM

INDEX

Foreword	
Chapter I	Spiritual Growth
Chapter II	Duty
Chapter III	Karma
Chapter IV	Reincarnation
Chapter V	The Christ
Chapter VI	Masters of Wisdom
Chapter VII	Miscellaneous

THE TEMPLE OF SILENCE

CONTENTS

Dedication	
Chapter I	The Temple of Silence
Chapter II	The Great Silence
Chapter III	Entering the Silence
Chapter IV	The Scientific Method
Chapter V	Noon Silence Period

THE DIVINE MOTHER

CONTENTS

Foreword	
Chapter I	The Divine Mother
Chapter II	The Bringer Forth
Chapter III	The Waters of Life
Chapter IV	The Comforter

THE SOUNDLESS SOUND

Dedication	
Foreword	
The Soundless Sound	

THE MYSTIC LIFE

CONTENTS

Foreword	
Chapter I	The Mystic Life
Chapter II	The Path of Discipleship
Chapter III	Illumination
Chapter IV	The Mystic Christ
Chapter V	The Daily Life

THE LOVE OF RABIA

A Tragedy in Five Acts

CONTENTS

Preface	
Act I	The Battlements
Act II	The Mountain Side
Act III	The Temple Crypt
Act IV	The Love Philtre
Act V	Scene 1. The Rite of Naked Sword
	Scene 2. The Flaming Pyre and the Prophecy

POTENT PRAYERS

Prayers of the Order of Christian Mystics

Preface
Introduction
Potent Prayers
Index

THE SEVENTH SEAL (BY JEANETTE AGNES)

Preface	
Introduction	
Chapter I	What Shall We Say of Matter?
Chapter II	The Lost Word
Chapter III	“Things Which Have Been Kept Secret From the Foundation of the World”
Chapter IV	Reincarnation
Chapter V	The Christ
Chapter VI	Masters of Wisdom
Chapter VII	Miscellaneous
Index	

**TOWARDS THE LIGHT
(BY PRINCESS KARADJA)**

Note

Preface

Towards the Light

