Manuscript Lecture

No. 30



Subject: Errors of Modern Occultism and their Remedy

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FUNDAMENTAL ERRORS IN MODERN OCCULTISM.

(And their Remedy)

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Fundamental Differences between Modern Occultism and Ancient Wisdom.

The ancient masters taught that the attainment of wisdom was the result of gradually unfolding the various centers of consciousness and attuning them to the various worlds of Nature. This process was carried on under the personal instruction of a teacher who consecrated himself to the needs of each individual student and assisted each according to his own needs. Nothing was revealed to the seeker that he had not properly prepared himself for, and in this was his sanity, health and poise--maintained through many very trying experiences.

One of the greatest fundamental errors of today is the idea that the temple has thrown upon its doors and that sage and fool alike may enter. Some fools have entered and come out again raving maniacs and babbling idiots. THE WAY IS FOR THE FEW who are willing to labor for it, and not for the many who seek it for what it can give them. Many times one student has said to another, "I think it is very wrong to have secrets, and if I am a child of God what right has man to keep me out of God's temple?" Some students become very angry when they are told that there are doors that they must not try to open. They want to be free from all bonds and limitations. They do not realize that the only reason that they are not permitted to enter is that they would be destroyed by their own shortcomings. MODERN OCCULTISM IS IN MANY CASES TEACHING MAN THAT HE CAN HAVE ANYTHING THAT HE WANTS, AND DO ANYTHING THAT HE WISHES TO. They say that a God of love will not allow them to be injured and that they will be guided, etc., every particle of which teaching is wrong. Man cannot safely claim anything that he has not earned. He cannot safely go anywhere except where he carries his letters of introduction, nor can a God of love prevent him from burning himself if he plays with fire. Everyone is not privileged to have the truth, everyone is not privileged to see the light. Only those may enter the Temple of Wisdom who have prepared themselves according to the Law. You may attend all the classes that you wish to but any teacher who offers you Truth without long years of preparation, or promises to take you into the temple until you have made yourself worthy to enter therein is himself a fool and a murderer, for those he takes in will never live to come out again. Many modern occult teachers with their developing exercises, meditations, etc., like the Piper of Death, are leading their students to destruction, and man, seeking wisdom, follows--dancing and laughing--to his own doom. The answer is plain. Seek not that which you have not prepared yourself for and ask for nothing save that which you know that you have honestly earned. Each must build his own temple of initiation, the temple of his own soul, raised without the voice of workmen or the sound of hammers. When this is done, the spirit of the great Initiator will enter it and lead the student to the feet of the Liberator. There is no other SAFE way. Haste is fatal.

Renunciation as a Factor in Soul Growth.

Among students of Modern Occultism there is an idea prevalent that is hopelessly erroneus. It is simply this--that if they will renounce everything and become spiritual students, that God will take care of them. The ancient Wisdom never taught a poor man was more virtuous than a rich man. There is no sin in possessing things. The crime is in the use of the things possessed. The things that the students must

renounce are not worldly possessions but rather those habits, inclinations and material traits of character which wealth and luxury is prone to produce. Here are some things that must be renounced--none of them are possessions, but rather attitudes:

Your sense of possession. Nothing in the universe is yours. You are loaned many things but possess none of them.
Renounce your right to judge and rule others. This is a thing which you taken upon yourself, which rightly belongs to the gods alone.
Renounce your life and the world you live in, realizing that honor is above all things--PLAY THE GAME OF LIFE FAIRLY WHILE YOU ARE IN IT.

Of course in the last analysis God never ceases to care for His children, but many feel, as did the prophet of old, that the manna of their daily needs is going to fall down from heaven. This is undoubtedly one of the main reasons why occultism is looked upon with askance by many people. They see that it only produces failures in this world. It produces people who beg for their meals, try to find someone to pay their rent, and go around day after day without a dime in their jeans. Many students have an idea that they are highly advanced because they are broke, but this is not the case, and it is not right to make others support you or shirk your responsibilities because you are studying things supernatural. Another great mistake for which people suffer every day is the idea that when they get something, God has given it to them. God did nothing of the sort. Some poor person right here on earth dug down into his pocket and shared with the student the fruitage of honest toil. Every individual who does not work for themselves can only secure wages when some other poor creature goes out and earns it. Modern occultism seems to produce trained beggars who honestly convince themselves that they have a right to anything that other people have.

It also seems that our "spiritual students" have lost the power of stick-to-itiveness. They are sky-walkers in every sense of the term. No matter where you put them, you cannot depend upon their being there, and they break their word perpetually. Most of all, they will not accept responsibility. They will not fall into the ranks of life and stand side by side with creation. They seem to feel that they are too good to do the labors of ordinary mortals. The majority are not practical, far from systematic, and without the one-pointedness which builds for success. They have been told they are one with God, consequently they are entirely too good to mis with men.

From all walks of life come the reports that new-thought students make the poorest possible employees. They cannot seem to take orders, and regardless of how little they know they firmly believe that everybody ought to listen to them. Most of them are very self-centered needless to say, and have such firmly set ideas on how everything ought to be done that they will not and do not cooperate with any existing system. This is very unfortunate. They should express the best that the race is, but instead of that they demonstrate plainly that, with given authority, they would soon destroy everything.

New Thought, in the majority of cases, is a battle of personalities. Each little group standing by and swearing by a personality and idolizing a teacher, but few if any getting the actual kernel out of the problem. Every little while there is war in metaphysics when the devotees of conflicting luminaries tear their hair over the omnipotence of their respective teachers. If there is idolatry and paganism any where in the world today, it is among those people. Each one of them look upon their teacher as a god incarnate and bow down low to kiss the

hem of his garment. They think they recognize the personified spirit of light itself in some poor little struggling human creature who is trying to give a message to the world. Six months of this, surrounde by gushy individuals who have gushed seven times a week for years, wi make a conceited fool or a raving maniac out of almost anybody, and unconsciously the students destroy by their own foolishness and cheap veneration many young teachers who might otherwise have been valuable workers.

Another trouble is that these "teachers" are mostly wanderers--travelling from one city to another. Students cannot follow them all over the country, so the result is a new teacher every day. He believ this will make him broadminded but the trouble is his mind is not big enough to digest all the conflicting stories--the result is he goes insane, or gets so he can't think at all. Places where this endless kedlidescope is found become perfect Babels, for if there ever was a confusion of tongues it is there. Its vibrations are forty-eleven times cris-crossed, until the thing becomes a spiritual hash, undefinable, and unmentionable. People who live on this hash become as hashified as their source of nourishment. Their minds are mixed up, their souls are mixed up and their statements are mixed up, and they mistake this complication for intelligence and decide that,(not knowing what they are) they must be great souls, illuminated and inspired.

Great minds will seldom allow themselves to be involved in this maelstrom. There are some honest ones who are trying to unravel this mystic maze and get people on their feet again. The average metaphysician hears so much, reads so much, that he has little time to think, and having no actual foundation to stand on except the shifting sands of a thousand different opinions, he has no rock upon which to build his house. Of course it is very hard for a person just entering these lines of thought to make his decision amidst a hundred dissenting creeds and fashions. In the majority of cases he just listens to all of them and accepts all of them and the result is soon contradictory, temperamental, uncertain and irrational, as would naturally be expected under such conditions. Occultism should not be studied in this way. You must have your rock before you start to build, one that can not be outgrown. Realizing that without a more intelligent system than this failure is inevitable, a few metaphysicians are working to remedy the problem. This failure is not an individual disaster alone, but becomes a racial disaster. The seeds of shiftlessness grow like weeds and these people in whom the practical side of their natures has been strangled, innoculate thousands of others with similar ideas.

Many of you have read the story of a man without a country and of how he longed to see and hear some word from the nation he had betrayed. Among our metaphysicians there are many who have no god, no faith, and no spiritual guidance. They pride themselves upon their independence, they feel that because they have left the orthodox churches they have made a great step forward, but many of them have stepped from the frying pan into the fire. They are more narrow, creed-bound, and autocratic in their hetrodoxy than they were in their orthodoxy. They do not realize and they do not understand, They claim to know their god but the diety they have found is too complex, too tremendous for their poor little minds. So it produces the new thought fervor--that spiritual fanaticism--the same sort of feeling that sweeps over a great evangelistic revival. It seems that it is very easy to become obsessed with the spirit of new thought in metaphysics. People become absorbed by it, they give everything to it, give up their families, neglect their children, sell their property, and cease to live as men and women to become blinded followers of a light greatly magnified by their own religious fervor. It is very sad, because fanatics never think, therefore are incapable of learning anything.

There are God-intoxicated people who have become absolutely obsessed by the magnitude of the divine plan. They are celestial inebriates, intoxicated with the realization of divine power, and not a few of our most modern students are in that condition. They mean well, they aspire to the highest, but they feel that there is this great power hanging over their heads, and that they must do something with it. Sometimes the religious fanatic cries, waves his arms in the air and yells, perchance he rolls down the sawdust trail or chews the corner of the pulpit stand. But these are not a sign of true religion--they are just emotional excesses wherein man, the thinker, turns the rulership of his being over to his sentiments, passions, emotions and pent up feelings. Most of these new thought students are therefore nervous wrecks, living on the edge all the time, and quivering inside incessantly with the excitement caused by the emotional awe and wonder of their new-found God. They are thus incapable of any really intelligent decision on problems of importance.

We tell you these things, not in the spirit of criticism or jest, but as the doctor who advises his patients,--stating scientific facts which he knows are true which the patient may accept or reject at will. As one who carries certain responsibilities in this line of work, it is necessary as part of my duty to explain these things. Many of our dear friends are not doing the things they should do, are not making the growth they should make, because of the fact that their systems have been broken, their concentration dispersed to the four winds, and their practical and gumptional outlook on life destroyed by metaphysical training. We do not want you to feel that you are not warned.

True metaphysics is a boon to humanity, but that phase of it where a thousand different cults are exploded by fifty different people, one on top of the other, to a group of persons incapable of judging the merit of them, we condemn as being unsafe, unsane, and unsatisfactory.

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(These notes contain a number of errors in grammar and punctuation,-due to the fact they are just notes from the lectures, not yet edited)