# Manuscript Lecture

No. 6



Subject: THE MASTERS
PART ONE

BY

## Manly P. Hall

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# THE MASTERS.

## Part One.

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## The Philosophy of Mastery.

A MASTER IS ONE WHO EXCELS IN THE SCIENCE OF BEING.

Wherever there is an art or science developed there are a certain number who excel in it through concentrating their efforts and focalizing their energies upon it. There are master craftsmen in every work in the concrete world. Having served long apprenticeship, their experience has given them a fine touch, a certain something undefinable yet ever present in those who are familiar with and in harmony with the labors they perform. Many people spend thousands of dollars and travel great distances over land and sea to study at the feet of a master craftsman. There are but few master artists, master musicians or true philosophers in the world at any one time and we respect and reverence these shining lights who stand before the world as the acme of human excellence. It matters little the line of the undertaking for there is as much science and art in driving a rivet as there is in painting a masterpiece. There is something in the soul of man that seeks perfection and the adjustment of human endeavor with cosmic possibility.

If these things be true in material living, as we see it is, then why is it not also true in spiritual matters? Are there not apprentices in the school of life as well as in shipyards and in shops? Are there not master craftsmen in spiritual things as there are among builders of bridges and hewers of stone? Are not the three grand divisions of human craftsmanship equally applicable to the sciences of the soul as to the sciences of wood and stone? There is no reason under the sun why they should not be and the true student of the science of being realizes that the analogy between human life and the divine plan is perfect.

So as the student of music crosses the ocean to study with one whose fingers have brought strings of steel to life, the pupil of things occult, in spirit or in body, crosses the ocean of ignorance to study at the feet of the Masters of Wisdom whose fingers bring not only strings of steel to life but play celestial melodies upon the strings of the human soul. If we would be a master of men, we must learn from the Masters of Men; if we would be masters of life and its problems, we must learn from those who have lived it to the end; if we would excel in the science of the soul, we must learn it from the Master Craftsmen who are slowly molding the dark abyss of chaos into the glorious garden of the Lord.

## The Noble Threefold Way.

In the crafts of the world there are three grand divisions which divide ignorance from omnipotence, three steps which, like the Masonic ladder, lead from helplessness upward to self realization. In material crafts they are the apprentices, the workmen and that glorious master craftsman who towers above all others. In this world there are millions of apprentices in the various walks of life and hundreds of thousands

of workmen, but out of the seething mass of struggling human life each age only brings the master's touch to one or two. Only a few see the ray of light and climb upward to greater things; the rest are contented to labor in darkness and to plod along - ignorant of their own power and indolent in its expression.

There are three great paths open to mortals here below by which they may achieve immortality in things spiritual and honor and respect in things material. These three are called the Noble Threefold Path which winds in and out amidst the clouds of chaos and finally brings union with the light of truth. Let us now consider this upward path which all must walk if they would reach the goal of human superiority and spiritual supremacy. No living thing can hope to be greater than his arts for his arts are the expressions of his God. But perfection is gained when he perfects within himself a consciousness capable of expressing his dreams. Man's labors glorify him only when he glorifies his labors - and when he crowns the humblest task it adorns him as a precious jewel.

The Three Paths.

The Way of the Madonna:

The path of the Immaculate Conception and divine parenthood is one of these most noble ways and we may say of those who take it - they are washed in the waters of purification. It may be called the path of duty but only when duty has become a joy. It is the path of the mystic within whose being has been born the christ-child of the soul. It is the path of meekness and of love, of faithfulness and of trust, of beauty and of compassion. It slowly transmutes the one who walks it until in body and in soul he is purified until he radiates the same soft glow that surrounds the head of the Madonna. Meek, tender ways, the hand of friendship, the mother love and the father protection marks his path. Those who walk it in this world are in truth bringing into this vale of broken things a glorious star of hope and light; they carry in their hearts the same child of radiance that the Virgin carries in her arms. Those who walk the way of service and purity can not go wrong for, though the path is beset by sorrows and the dark clouds ofttimes obscure the light, this way leads surely to the Master's heart and prepares the way for better things.

The Way of the Sage:

As the world must have its workers, so it must have its thinkers who through the ages inspire men to nobler works and bury one by one the nations of the earth (for it is a great truth that all peoples are buried by their philosophers.) Deep in meditation the sage seems to unite himself for a moment with the mind of the Infinite, thinking thoughts and dreaming dreams no mortal dares to think. So amid his books or among his pupils the sage spreads the wisdom of his God while the mystic whispers of His mercy. Only the philosopher can know the thoughts of the Divine and only the mystic can feel the heart-throbs of his God. This second noble way of the sage will some day bring man closer to the realization of his God through the knowledge of the ways of the Almighty. Surrounded by his pupils, the philosopher is sowing seeds he may not live to see bring fruit but through the ages that are to follow the harvests are gathered and the work goes on; people then unknown listen to his words; children then unborn are lighted by his lamp. For the work of the philosopher is to remove the veil of the unknown before which the mystic must kneel in prayer. Each attains his end — one in thought, the other in prayer. One prays to his God by showing man His works; the other by bringing souls to offer on the Altar.

The Way of the Warrior:

Then comes that path which is known as action. Like the knight of old the soul of man rides out conquering and to conquer, to slay the demons of darkness and with the sword of light to strike at the heart of the beasts of passion. The warrior is the worker of the world. While the mystic kneels in prayer and the philosopher sits amid the clouds of his reasoning, the warrior is fighting the battle which makes the world a place where dreams may come true. The mystic labors with his faith, the philosopher with his knowledge, and the warrior with his hands.

And these three are the most noble paths by which all perfection is possible. Within each living soul are these Three, each striving for expression, each capable of bringing closer the day of liberation, each in his own way seeking to save his world by the only powers that it is his own to know. And those who aspire to mastery must learn of these immortals hidden within their coil of clay who wait patiently for the opportunity of immortalizing the garment that they wear.

Those who would be with the Immortals and become masters of the science of the soul must walk all these paths as one, for only in all is completion. The masters of the craft of the soul are the ones who with fingers numbled with experience built from the base substance of their own being a glorious dwelling place. These three immortal sparks within man's being glorify each the other when they walk their paths in companionship toward the true end of all things.

The Attainment of Mastery.

Knowledge comes only to those who prepare themselves to receive it for the Lord will only enter the temple that is prepared as He has directed it. The price of knowledge is responsibility and those unwilling to shoulder burdens must not seek illumination. Upon the realization of this truth rests the great steps of occultism. The powers that the student receives are only loaned to him; he is accountable to a Greater for them and unless each is applied to its fulness the student fails in his task. The veil of the unknown must remain forever before the gates of the temple until with the sword of his own spirit fire the student can rend it.

The Masters of Wisdom.

The Masters are not superphysical beings but are Craftsmen from the world of men who have reached the goal we are all seeking. They have lived the life and learned to know the doctrine. They have devoted their egoic evolution to the perfection of certain qualities and powers and therefore stand head and shoulders above the average individual. Compared to men, they are gods but compared to God they are only a step above men. In their varying degrees they are just as human as we are but they are old in experience which is the measurement of age. We call them the Elder Brothers. Each one of us may be what they are for they have all been what we are. They are made from no better mold or finer stamp but are diamonds polished through ages of conscious development.

In order to help the races who wander still in darkness, those who have seen the Great Light return age after age to labor with man and help him to attain to that great ideal which glorifies the entire. Each of the Masters is on a different path but each is laboring for

the good of all. Regardless of color, race or caste, they strive for a single end. Like loving parents they come to point the way and ease the path for their younger brethern. The only way that those below can learn of the Divine is for one of their own people who has gone before to return and tell of the way. The divine compassion of the gods, pouring through the hearts of those who have attained, sends them back into the battle to rescue others who have fallen by the way. The one who goes forward for himself alone goes nowhere, but those who would assist the weaker gain all.

The Masters of Wisdom ask no worship from man, no veneration, but their hearts are overjoyed when we will just listen to the words they have to say. Man's duty is to respect them but not to make idols of them. They ask nothing of us but it is our privilege to cooperate with them for the advancement of all. Man has the privilege of offering himself to these Masters that the work of salvation may go on. When he makes this living sacrifice he takes the first step towards his own mastership. Many offer themselves but few are accepted for it is only those who are useful and intelligent in their daily living who are of value in the plan.

The mere fact that we are good does not make us eligible. We must be proficient in something. If we know the human body we can cooperate with the Masters in healing, if we know the laws of being through us the Masters can give them to the world, while the thoughts of the gods flow through the brain of the thinker. But if we know nothing about anything we are useless for man's value is based upon his attainments and accomplishments. When we develop qualities useful in the plan the powers that be will accept us; but we must ourselves make the first move by qualifying to serve with knowledge, judgment and compassion.

We may take the path any time we will that leads us to mastery. We may join those Elder Brothers who guard and guide the destiny of men when we realize that the key to mastery is effort. Conscientious endeavor in whatever walk of life we may be leads to excellence — and excellence in any line, be it sweeping streets or digging ditches, is the mark of mastery. When we have a gift or power, developed through the ages to great excellence, that quality entitles us to know the Masters. And when we dedicate that quality to the unselfish development of the world we are then very close to the Masters. When we have learned of them the proper use of that quality, the time is not far off when we will be admitted to that inner circle where those are who have excelled since the beginning of the world.

(To be continued.)

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