

The Temple Artisan

October-November-December, 2003

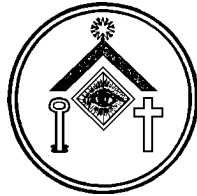
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Behold, I give



unto thee a key.

THE STAR OF CHRIST

Rise up and sing for joy, ye peoples of all lands, for over you now shines the Light poured forth in golden glory from His Star, the Star of Christ, new born, to bring to you fulfillment of the hope of days gone by, when first He came to claim His Heritage of Love.



THE EDITORIAL MIRROR

November 15, 2003, marks the 105th anniversary of the founding of the Temple of the People. It took deep, abiding faith and love for this Great Cause, undaunted courage, steady endurance, and determination of will to launch the Temple movement. All Temple members coming in later had the way paved for them by this sacrifice. It is our privilege and responsibility to carry on the work of preparing our hearts and lives to be open to the in-pouring force of the Avatar. We must, in turn, serve as a vehicle or distributing center for these Lodge forces.

The Avatar, the Christ, is the supreme embodiment of the Law of Love, which law is the very center of our teachings. Obedience to the principles which radiate from it will not only further individual evolution but will increase our privilege to serve in the Master's great work toward Universal Brother/Sisterhood. Like charity, brother/sisterhood begins at home. Perhaps our sense of belonging, of being enfolded and nurtured within our Temple Family, may be a faint indication of what it could be like to live in a world operating under the Law of Brother/Sisterhood, which is the living practice of the Law of Love.

We must hold strong in our allegiance to, and faith and trust in, the Lodge and each other. We must reaffirm our pledges, our recognition, and acceptance of the Lodge and the tremendous body of teachings we have been given. With conscious self-endeavor we must focus our minds, our bodies, and our souls on the Temple work, imbuing every aspect with mutual understanding, voluntary yielding, and helpful interchange with each other on all planes of being. Individually and as a group we have constantly sent our appeals, efforts, ambitions and aspirations for closer, more intense relationship to the Lodge of Masters and God. If we are still and listen in the Silence, we will know beyond all shadow of doubt what we must do. In the Silence will come the realization that each of us is charged to truly see the Spirit of God within ourselves, our friends, neighbors, strangers, and families, as well as every other part of the manifested universe, and our response to every atom must be from Spirit to Spirit. This is our Temple work.

In this way we build into The Temple a greater measure of joyful endurance, holding power, peace, and awareness of the Unity of All.

— Eleanor L. Shumway
Guardian in Chief

*I will endeavor to realize
the Presence of the Avatar
as a Living Power in my life.*



Interior, Blue Star Memorial Temple

BLAMING THE GOLDEN RULE

Have you ever noticed that when things aren't going our way, we tend to blame everybody and everything except ourselves? Even when faced with an overwhelming body of evidence, we resist acknowledging our responsibility, preferring seclusion within the boundaries of our denial. Why is it so difficult to accept responsibility for our own inappropriate behavior and mistakes? Or conversely, why is so difficult to forgive the errors and misdeeds of others?

It seems to me like there is a whole lot of blaming going on. Just open a newspaper, turn on the TV, listen to the radio or talk to a friend. If blaming were gold, we'd be the richest planet in the Universe. Of course, it's no secret that accepting responsibility can have huge consequences, like upsetting our goals and ambitions. In fact, it may even cost us the game. We live in a world where winning and controlling the thoughts and actions of others, for the benefit of ourselves, is the name of that game. How many of us are really aware of our true motives, while the forces of fear and self-preservation are influencing a good deal of our thinking?

In the past, and perhaps even today, there were those who endeavored to transform lead into gold. Suppose for a moment that the discovery of this process became public knowledge. Would it make the world a more peaceful place? Better yet, would there be any benefit to the world, if the alchemists were to discover a process for transmuting fear into love and expanding self-preservation to instinctually include concern for one's neighbors?

Most certainly, humanity could thrive without one ounce of gold. But without Love, our prospects for long-term survival would be called into question. And for this we can blame the Golden Rule.

Looking back, it was the many references to the Golden Rule that attracted me to the Temple Teachings. After reading all of the Temple pamphlets, it was mostly the Golden Rule that I was able to relate to, since even the term "Theosophy" was new to me at that time. What I thought was meant by the Golden Rule back then and what it means to me right now is what I hope to share with you this morning.

Quite frankly, it doesn't surprise me one bit that there are so many of us who aspire to some other version of the Golden Rule.

You know the ones I mean. "Do unto others before they do unto to you," or "Whoever has the gold makes the rules." Actually, these parodies seem more in line with human nature than the one true Golden Rule, which can be found treasured by most religions around the world.

Here's the one I'm most familiar with: "Do for others what you want them to do for you. This is the law and the prophets." This comes from The Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 7:12. It's interesting to note how this passage from the New Testament honors the wisdom contained within the Old Testament, while restating the Golden Rule.

When I was growing up, I never thought of the Golden Rule as a religious or spiritual law, at least not in the same category as the Ten Commandments. The only gold that I can recall being mentioned in the Old Testament had to do with the golden calf and its relevance to the Second Commandment: "Thou shalt not make unto thee a graven image, nor any manner of likeness, of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; thou shalt not bow down unto them, nor serve them; for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate Me; and showing mercy unto the thousandth generation of them that love Me and keep My commandments."

Now to me, that was a Law, a religious Law. After learning about this Law as a child, I could only imagine that only a fool would ever consider worshipping an idol. Hopefully, for all of our sakes, this commandment doesn't apply to the celebrities that seem to captivate our attention with the greatest of ease.

In the pamphlet *Temple Answers* we find, in response to the question, "What are the Teachings of the Temple?", the answer, "They are lessons and treatises that explain for us today the age-old truths, laws and principles that have always governed our lives and environment, all kingdoms of nature, the universe, its creation and growth."

Further into the pamphlet we find in response to the question, "Can these laws be challenged or rejected?", the following: "Truth and Law are eternal, no more to be challenged or subjected to rejection by any age level of humanity than are laws of gravity, chemistry, biology, mathematics or the Golden Rule."

So here was my first encounter with the concept that not only is the Golden Rule a Law, but it's a Law like the Law of

Gravity. How could that be? Jump off a tall building and you fall to the ground, experiencing in all likelihood a fatal injury instantaneously. Do unto your neighbor what you would not like to have done unto you and you will more than likely live to see another day.

So what's the deal? Chemistry, biology, mathematics and physics all seemed compatible with my scientific understanding of the Laws of Life. Obviously, the Golden Rule must have belonged in some other category or classification of Laws. Religious perhaps, but scientific, I thought not.

After reading all of the Temple Pamphlets it wasn't long before I came across the Rules of Discipleship. Here I discovered another set of Ten Rules or Laws, some of which reminded me of the Ten Commandments. While the Ten Commandments have always impressed me as being Religious Laws, some of the Rules of Discipleship felt more scientific to me. For example, the ninth Commandment states, "Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour," whereas the fifth Rule of Discipleship states that "Thou shalt not speak falsely, unnecessarily or critically against thy neighbor and so put in action the converse force of creative sound and word; for the Higher Law will reverse the action of the force thus directed and bring back upon thee, with intensified strength, the results of the broken Law." Which one sounds more scientific to you?

However, it is in the preamble and the first Rule of Discipleship where we might find the legal status of the Golden Rule: "God is Love, and Love is the fundamental source of Being. Therefore, if thou sin against Love, that sin is against God." This is followed by the first Rule of Discipleship, which states, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart and mind, and thy neighbor as thyself. This is the highest law."

Whether religious or scientific, it sounds to me that not only is Love required, but it must necessarily be the authority behind the Golden Rule. Hmm, do you realize where this is leading me? If God is Love and Love is the authority behind the Golden Rule, then it should follow that I might as well blame God or Love for the troubles in my life if I'm so willing to blame the Golden Rule.

Lord knows that I wouldn't be the first to lose my faith in God. Certainly, I can see how easy it would be to blame God for one's self-inflicted problems, especially when one is in denial. But what about a problem brought on by someone else? How can we blame God or the Golden Rule, when somebody else did us

wrong? That doesn't sound very fair. And what about those of us who don't even believe in God? Who are they going to blame?

Taking on that last question first, I would like to assume that most nonbelievers believe in the Laws of Nature. You know, those apparently purely scientific disciplines known as chemistry, biology, mathematics and physics, to name a few. To the best of my knowledge, one of the main tools or keys used to unlock the secrets of nature, through scientific discovery, has been the use of formulas or equations. That's right, equations. Like Albert Einstein's $e=mc^2$, in which energy is put equal to mass, multiplied by the square of the velocity of light. Now that's an equation! But, besides considering various kinds of factors, the one basic characteristic which all equations share in common is that in order for any of them to work, they have to be in Balance, as in 2 plus 2 always has to equal 4.

That's right: in Balance. If it can't be balanced it remains a theory, even if not incorrect, and it can't be called a fact. So, instead of blaming God, or Love, for things not going our way or coming out as we had planned, why not blame being out of balance for all of our unrealized hopes and dreams?



Hiawatha Lodge

When we look around us with a reasonably open mind, we can usually find the requirement for Balance in everything we see and do. Also known as the Law of Polarity, or what the East

has referred to for thousands of years as the Yin and the Yang, everything in our Universe, from a pebble to a star, is subject to this Law of Balance.

How can we know this Balance within ourselves?

At the beginning of conception, after two distinct and separate single cells unite for a common purpose, these two cells, now one, begin an amazing transformation through the process of differentiation and diversification. In what appears to be a magical event, all kinds of cells begin to form, develop and evolve. What is most fascinating to me is the instinctual cooperation experienced in perfect Balance by all of these cells.

The next thing you know, we have millions of heart cells working together with other heart cells now as one organ, working together with the millions of lung cells who are also working together with themselves, all in perfect harmony for the good of the entire developing and evolving child. Whether you want to call it Love or Balance, all of the cells in our body seem to be living by the Golden Rule, don't you think? Although I wouldn't blame you if you disagreed; for it is difficult to imagine our liver cells consciously doing for our kidney cells what our liver cells would want our kidney cells to do for our liver cells were our liver cells kidney cells themselves; and vice versa. Nevertheless, I believe that this is happening whether we think about it or not, due to the Laws of Nature, so long as we remain in Balance.

Conversely, what happens to our bodies when, for some unknown reason, just a few brain cells become selfish enough to form a tumor of their own? Of course, this isn't in the best interest of the rest of the cells, let alone of the body as a whole. Hard to picture a few of our brain cells conspiring, than maliciously deciding to do their own thing at the expense of the rest of the body. It is difficult as well to imagine our liver and kidney cells consciously choosing to cooperate with each other.

When we observe the workings of Nature, however, we can discover that all the other forms of life may be in fact functioning much in the same way as the cells that make up our bodies do. In other words, existing and surviving by the grace of instinct.

As a participant in urban sprawl, now severely encroaching upon the once-sacred domain of the local floral and fauna of our county, I find myself having to make choices where the deer, ground squirrels and gophers have none. If I'm not willing to accept responsibility for having invaded their territory, with the understanding that they will try to devour practically anything

that I may wish to plant, why can't I blame the Laws of Nature for this major inconvenience in my life? Can we really fault the deer for eating our roses any more than we can hold a group of malignant cells accountable for forming a tumor?

It's remarkable how good I can feel, when my body is in balance. What's even more astounding to me, however, is how my mind can entice me into ways to throw my body out of balance. I know that I'm not the only one dealing with this phenomenon. It's what elevates us above the cells in our bodies and the animals in our yards. We have come to know this as free will or the power to choose.

And there, I think, lies the basic difference between the Laws governing Nature and the Golden Rule. In order to be subject to the Golden Rule, you must have acquired the freedom, if not the responsibility, to choose. Whether we like it or not, we are subject to these Laws and Rules. For thousands of years there have been those of us who, through resourcefulness, ingenuity, hard work and persistence, have found the ways and means to overcome the Laws of Nature. From mastering fire to creating the wheel, the human race has been able to adapt and work with these Laws. Getting around them if you will.

On December 17, 2003, we will be celebrating the centennial of the first powered flight by the Wright Brothers. When I think how it only took about 63 years, from that first flight, to putting Neil Armstrong on the moon, I can't help but to be in awe. So much for blaming the Law of Gravity for keeping us stuck here on the ground.

So, we as humans can choose to change our lives, whereas the cells in our bodies and the plants and animals are forced to adapt to our will or suffer the consequences. True, the plants and animals and the cells within our bodies have been known to adapt, not by conscious choice, at least not as we know it, but through a very long process of evolution, which may take millions of years. Yet, in less than 100 years, mankind went from learning how to fly a plane, to going to the moon and way beyond. It's amazing what we can accomplish when we work together for a common goal.

Although many of us are making wiser choices about the foods we eat and the amount of exercise we get, our daily activities and means of making a living may be polluting our environment and throwing everything out of balance. Our personal beliefs and selfish behaviors may be making it rather difficult for

some of us to live near each other. And yet, even though we know that the cells in our bodies have no choice but to instinctually work together for the good of our health, many of us are popping pills like never before in order to maintain our personal balance.

The glorious gift of the freedom to choose may be creating malignancies and disease that we may not be able to undo. It can take many years before an addiction can start causing one to feel pain. When we don't honor the Golden Rule, the results are the same.

Let's pretend for a moment that the earth is our body. That every country is an organ like our heart, lung, liver or kidney, until we've accounted for every body part. Only one country per organ is allowed. Now if we assume that within each country, now an organ, every person, animal and plant is a unique cell of that organ, with a certain and specific duty, we may be able to visualize our earth as our body, a body held accountable to the Golden Rule. While the cells in our body are unable to choose, it only takes a wayward few to throw us out of balance. We know this to be true.



Grounds

We may be in denial about how our behavior is influencing a couple of selfish cells within our own bodies, but let there be no mistake that all it takes is less than a few selfish people to wreak

havoc anywhere in the world.

Near the turn of the last century, while trying to expose the true motives of the railroad barons, Ambrose Bierce described politics as "A strife of interests masquerading as a contest of principles," and also that politics was "The conduct of public affairs for private advantage." Doesn't seem like much has changed, does it? Yet there are still those of us who have mastered the ancient art of pulling the wool over the rest of our eyes.

While humanity may have been able to conquer the Law of Gravity, selfishly using our Divine right to choose, this will eventually make it impossible for any of us, no matter how well off, to live in peace anywhere, unless every last one of us lives by the Golden Rule.

But whose Golden Rule shall we use? Even when we exclude the parodies mentioned earlier, do you think, for example, that the democrats would do for the republicans what the democrats would want the republicans to do for the democrats were the democrats republicans, and vice versa?

What would you want somebody else to do for you that you would do for somebody else? How many of us want the exact same thing? And is it in the best interest of us all? When I wanted ice cream as a kid, there was chocolate, vanilla and strawberry. It's unbelievable how many choices we have today. But is the Golden Rule really about what we want when it comes to doing things for each other?

Right now there seems to be quite a bit of strife going on around the world. We, the United States of America, have a general who has recently been put in charge of tracking down terrorists. He claims that we are a Christian nation, because our foundation and our roots are Judeo-Christian.

In the name of Christianity, this general claims to have a God bigger than the God of Islam and has been given authority to destroy our enemies. Yet if we advocate the teachings found in the Sermon on the Mount, our patriotism is questioned and we are labeled a communist. While all of this is going on, our Supreme Court will be deciding if the reference to God in our Pledge of Alliance should be considered unconstitutional.

At the recent opening of the Organization of the Islamic Conference summit, in Malaysia, there were those in attendance who were using the Koran to justify their hatred of the Jews.

Judaism, Christianity and Islam would do well to study the life cycle of the coral reef. Generation after generation flourishes

and survives on top of the generation that came before. It is remarkable to me how we can forget those who have helped us along the way. In my mind, Christianity evolved out of Judaism and Islam evolved out of both Judaism and Christianity. Why isn't there an exchange of honor and gratefulness coming from all of these groups of people?

Not to put the focus on ourselves, but while we are so worried about who controls the oil in the Middle East, there are many of us who have become very dependent on that oil because we can't afford to live near where we work. I'm sure you've noticed the exorbitant cost of health care; a necessity in order to have the access to all those pills we are becoming more and more dependent on. While I could go on with the list of all of the different dysfunctional behaviors we are collectively exhibiting on a scale beyond our individual selves, life seems to be getting more and more unmanageable on a very, very grand scale. Perhaps we are approaching a very significant crossroad, during this present time in all of our lives.

Seventy years ago our country was right in the middle of the Great Depression. San Francisco was about to experience our country's first general strike. While people were starving, some of the largest growers were destroying their crops, dumping them into the bay, in an attempt to preserve their profits. FDR was president, promoting his social programs that many of us still rely on today.

In 1934, Upton Sinclair, a socialist turned democrat, was remarkably close to becoming governor of California. Back then there were those of us who weren't convinced that FDR wasn't a socialist himself. With so many farms and factories being idle as a result of not being able to generate a profit, Mr. Sinclair was promoting an innovative idea he called "Production for Use," as the centerpiece of his EPIC program: "End Poverty In California." Simply put, the program would have afforded the unemployed the opportunity to cooperate with each other in order to produce their own food and make their own clothes.

Although Mr. Sinclair's ideas were very popular with many people of modest means, it only took three very powerful individuals, employing corrupt and unethical means, to pull the wool over the voters' eyes. Thank God business depends on the educated worker; otherwise, our public schools and libraries might not have been allowed to exist.

Back then, as today, we still believed that competition and

the free market economy are the only way for a few of us to have the opportunity to become much richer than the rest. And while this system has brought us many luxuries and conveniences, it has also done much damage to our land, air, water, plants, animals and, for that matter, to many of us as well. The individual and collective challenges our society had to face in order to overcome the Law of Gravity were more about our external endeavors. Had we failed to overcome the Law of Gravity, we probably just wouldn't be traveling as much.

I have come to realize that the Golden Rule is a Universal Law in a league of its own. The Golden Rule can't be conquered or ignored. Eventually we all must become one with it; we must live it. To do this, we must do the work within ourselves. Yes, we can choose this Balance within ourselves. While God and Nature have given humanity plenty of time to get it right, forever is not an option. We should be most grateful for the time we've had.

Guess what? Blaming the Golden Rule isn't an option either. Blaming God or Love or Balance or Nature would be like addicts blaming their drugs for their problems. But then, of course, you all already knew that. The good news is that we don't need an alchemist to show us the way. When we honor the Ten Commandments, when we abide by the wisdom found in the Sermon on the Mount, when we practice the Rules of Discipleship, when we apply the eternal truths underlying virtually every religion found in the world, we are living by the Golden Rule. Our political responsibility must be to aspire to the Golden Rule.

Behind the Golden Rule of every religion is a power greater than ourselves. And to the nonbelievers who do not believe in a power greater than themselves, I say: I'd rather hang out with an atheist who acts like a Christian than be with a Christian who acts like an atheist.

— *Rick London*

PREPARATION

Contemplating the word “preparation,” I soon realized that a word, like any force, cannot be thought about by itself, for to isolate any thing is to lose the fluidity of energy and so to create too firm a structure in mind. Unwrapping the vast possibilities for “preparation,” I traveled on its road and soon felt that preparing for and reaching a goal are one and the same thing: it is the journey of the desire unfolding, beginning with the thought, gathering about oneself the requisite tools, applying those tools to the job at hand and gradually creating a finished form.

This thought led to some of the things we do in a day, often without thinking about them. When we are over-hungry we can gulp our food down in an urgent quest to satisfy our stomach. We find we are fulfilling the need of the solar plexus energy center, but we have missed out on the subtleties that are produced by our higher energies: the smell of the food that transmits itself directly to the brain from the nasal cavity; the sense of the texture of the food experienced by the throat; and the sensation of mind that this food is, ultimately, feeding our body, healing the cells, and giving us energy which is transmitted by breath and mind. Often when we are full, and we eat, we experience none of these, but satisfy only the lower-manas desire brought about by an emotional need according to a variety of emotions. So, again, in preparation to experience the wonder of each of life’s offerings we need to prepare ourselves to maximize our experiences.

When we are decorating a room (or watching someone else do it!), we see the need to prepare the walls, floors and ceiling in such a way that their very foundation will be a beautiful canvas for whatever we choose to place over them. Preparation is often very unglamorous, sometimes making us dirty and tired. Often we do not feel more spiritual in our endeavor of preparing anything. When we put the paint or the wallpaper on the walls after good preparation, what a joy comes to us: the smoothness of line, the hidden cracks and holes gone from view, and we see, and offer our friends, the beauty of our work.

Preparation of anything in life requires us to have patience and determination initially so that we lose the need to grab at things, at items. We need to control the child in us who wants instant gratification; and to endure a little longer. Or, to use another metaphor, we need to take the reins of the wild horse within us and guide it instead of letting it guide us. And so we become

the veteran of life, realizing that, as we are able to reach points of consciousness within our natures, we also have the ability to put them on “hold” and stop them overcoming us with lesser desires. Then, when they no longer have a hold on us, we can place them down in the light of Being and continue on our way to further adventures with our mind.

Children grab at brightly colored toys, wanting to possess them for a short while. Grownups grab at power, at intellectualism, at possessions and so on until we realize that we do not need to grab at any thing, that by grasping at the nearest desire to hand, we put up the very barriers that deny ourselves future experiences. An adult often grabs at a mental concept, believing this is the ultimate way of seeing things. As we experience life more and more, we know that there is no black and white — but vast variations of light forming many ways of seeing things.

As disciples, our need for preparation is very important. We need to prepare and maximize our ability to talk to people, to feel the world, to serve at every opportunity. To do this we need techniques which show us how to become more of Ourselves. Patience, silence, quietness are the necessary tools to help us still the thoughts and feelings we feel are so important at the time. Endurance, training, learning are the apparatuses that will stretch out our minds so we do not allow ourselves to become crystallized with particular points of view. Application, service, and new experiences help us to polarize our abilities in a diversity of service in everyday life.

All these techniques enable us to grow, to expand, to experience the universe and our place within the wonder of life. These are techniques and tools only — steps which will eventually disappear also as we become merged in wider circles of being, with greater views of the Law of Life, with truer love for every living element and cell as we become filled with more understanding and compassion, and recognize our unity with every thing that is indeed our brother and sister.

— *Elaine Wight*

HARMONY

Let us take for our meditation the idea of "Harmony." It is based on coordination of forces. There might be operations in music that some would call inharmonious, and yet that dissonance is a part of the harmony because it is coordinated. Let us bear in mind that harmony does not mean goody-goody actions or conditions. We must take humanity as a whole, and not pick up one detail which might, from a single angle, be called inharmonious.

Nature illustrates that. She does not hesitate to throw up a mountain or throw down a mountain. Looked at from one angle it may be a discord, but from another angle it is a bit of harmony.

Let us make a practical application of it to our daily lives. We must be true to ourselves; strike our own note; be true to the whole and the God within ourselves; true to ourselves and the Higher Self; true to the whole orchestra of humanity; and still strike our own true tone — that tone which is our own real Higher Self. Thus we will manifest throughout life a mentality which is most beautiful and which belongs to our Ray, the Hierarchal Ray which is brought into expression through us. There is not an ugly character in life that could not be brought into beauty, if it would strike its own note.

A story is told of a musician who was passing a church one day and heard singing. He entered the church. But he was a very accomplished musician, and it was painful to him to hear that choir. The singing was very discordant. He was about to leave disappointed when he caught one note. He heard one voice singing true and that one voice kept its tone in spite of the discordance about it, and it soon swung all the voices into harmony, perfect harmony, perfect harmony and perfect tone. That is what I mean.

Another illustration of another character might seem inappropriate. General Grant, in one of the battles of the Civil War, was sitting at the edge of a wood, smoking his inevitable cigar. Things were going very badly for his side, and aide after aide dashed up to report how badly things were going. He made no comment, sat there imperturbable, calm, poised, confident. After six or seven reports had come in he said to the last one, "Go back and tell General ____ 'Never mind what General ____ is doing to us, just think of what WE are going to do with him.'" He had his own plan, his own note. He held his ground, and won.

Harmony is a power quality, something that you can hold. With it you are invincible. The forces of disharmony may bank up against it but are transmuted and changed into harmonies. All life is a process of transmutation. We take the crude elements of God into our bodies and transmute them into something alive. All nature is doing this transmuting work. This is our work as human beings, as entities. We must transmute and transform the hells of this world, transmuting lead or baser qualities into the higher. In proportion as we are conscious of Nature's plan for raising everything to a higher scale by the forces of her harmonies, we can, by attuning ourselves with those forces, work with them, and they will work with us. We have the Power of the Infinite Good, Infinite Light and energy behind us. There is nothing we cannot do. Anything we want to do we can do; anything we want to be we can be, if we sound our note with the Universal Song of Life.

Each one has the power to find that key-note.

The power of Harmony — let us take that into the Silence.

— *W. H. Dower*



University Center

THE CHEERING SPIRIT

Faith, love and compassion, and their opposites, are definite grades of substance into which the mind may vibrate as it raises or lowers its key-note of desire. The universal law of demand and supply operates on all planes. Those who go about with eyes and senses lowered to the ground looking for evil and filth will certainly find it. Nature has her garbage heaps, and the scavengers will there be found sorting over the filth and rubbish for whatever is akin to their own desires. These scavengers move about in all grades of society, and their functions must not be contemned — for they are a necessity to nature in working out her plans. Such can easily be recognized by the noisome odors of slander and gossip that cling to them as a result of their calling, no matter how much outer perfume of sophistry they may use. They never consider the excellences of those about them, but seek at once to look into the back yards of people around them for the possible garbage heaps. They are then at home in their own stratum of consciousness, and are oblivious to all else.

As good may be loved into life where it did not exist before, so evil may be evoked into being by hate or envy. Every human being is a path or avenue to God — a ray to and from the Central Sun, by means of the planes of which each one is composed. If the best and highest in each one is demanded, the inner forces are impelled to outer expression. If the worst is demanded, obstructions are thrown up which darken the outer and impede the radiance of the Light within. The forces of Infinite Life are ever at work loving into being the divinity latent in the meanest forms — even in a lump of mud. Sometime that mud, transmuted, will glow iridescent with the power of the Eternal. If all truth and love were to pass from the humanity of any world, the sun would darken for that world, for the balance of forces would be disturbed, and the Great Law can only supply according to the demand. If no truth were asked for, no light could come.

“If some one obstructs you by force, welcome the rebuff and own no pang utilizing the hindrance for exercise of virtue in another form. Endeavor, remember, was subject to reservation, and you did not aspire to impossibilities. To what then did you aspire? To the endeavor just such as it was. Gain that, and the object for which we were sent into the world is realized. But one thing is of real worth: to live out life in truth and justice, with charity even to the false and unjust.”

Fragrant flowers of light bloom from the Heart of Being. Wreaths of sound mellowed in sorrow's depths vibrate in souls attuned to the great hymn of life and love. Mountain peaks of melody — sentinels of the soul's up-reaching aspiration to mix its life with God — arise from the praise of blended lives. The fingers of love and sacrifice alone may sweep the strings of the universal harp of faith and charity — arousing sweet incense of harmonies that ascend to the footstool of the Gods — to return as blessings for humanity.

— *Teachings of the Temple, Vol. 3*

THE AVATARIC COMING

Love is a white light of beauty.
It is closing upon the souls.
It is constantly building friendship.
It is shining deeper and deeper understanding, comradeship.

The Avataric Conception is upon us.
It is above us, glory in the heavens;
It is beneath us, embryonic powers;
It is about us, beauty of perception;
It is within us, growth, wisdom's growth.

Out over the universe its marvels spread vastnesses,
Wings of beauty upon each one.
In through creation it impels love, ever increasing love.
Over the earth it is flowering wisdom, fructifying that seed.
Within the hearts of men it is the blessing of true love,
high growth, faithfulness.

— JOV

TO OUR CHILDREN

Although this letter was written in 1969, the writer expresses the timelessness of our hopes for our children:

Dear Expected Grandchild:

I have drawn close to you while knitting a baby blanket in honor of your arrival. As I knit, I contemplate the world into which you will be born. My human heart could be apprehensive with premonitions of conditions that are developing in humanity today, if judgment were to be made on outer conditions alone. Yet my soul thrills at the opportunities for spiritual growth that will be yours at this period of humanity's unfoldment. By the time you reach your spiritual maturity for this incarnation, it may be assumed that there will be a leveling off from the impact of tremendous changes taking place now.

Some of these changes are not necessarily progress. Some seem to be going nowhere. But a growing, unfolding consciousness of mankind is seeking newer and better forms through which to function. Hopefully, as we collectively blunder and stumble through these changes, a better understanding of the Divine Plan or Purpose will emerge and some spiritual discrimination will surface to show the way to stability and continuity in the affairs of man.

You will be a part of the responsibility to help stabilize conditions of humanity. It is to be hoped that you will learn young enough that all stability must start within yourself. You bring to your job all your strengths and all your weaknesses garnered through many lifetimes. Your effort will be to stabilize and synthesize these forces within yourself so you may become an effective instrument for channeling the constructive building forces of life to your fellow man.

As an incarnating soul, you have all the characteristic qualities, attributes, and powers that are symbolized by such abstract terms as the twelve houses of the Zodiac, the twelve cosmic divisions, the twelve grand divisions of the great Temples, of the Pyramids and of your own body. The Temple Teachings here in Halcyon have helped us to break down these abstractions into terms that we can more easily understand and work with, more meaningfully. The twelve forces or principles are called: Love, Will, Wisdom, Knowledge, Faith, Hope, Truth, Justice, Loyalty, Honesty, Service, and Obedience.

You will be relating and interrelating, acting and reacting to these forces all of your life. To the extent that you build these qualities into the fabric of your life will these, in turn, pour inner strength to you.

As a soul you have chosen to come in at this point in humanity's evolution. Through your spiritual maturing you will find your point of responsibility toward the advancement of the Brotherhood of Man.

And so, dear grandchild so close to incarnation, may the protective forces of Light overshadow you and your soul endeavors, as I hope this blanket will give protection and comfort to your infant body when you make your advent in the very near future.

With deepest love from your grandmother,

— *Roberta Shumway*



The Open Gate

TEMPLE ACTIVITIES AND NOTICES

Convention notes: During the Convention of 2003 we received many greetings from friends and members around the world. From the group in London came words that express the thoughts and love that poured in from Germany, Russia, and many points around the United States. "We ... offer the Temple the best of our lives, the effort that goes into learning and giving, and the gentle smile that comes from our understanding. We endeavor to continually improve ourselves, to give the finest we are made of to our days, and to send constant love to all who are in need. We give our thanks to the Masters, the Guardian in Chief, the Temple at Large, all who work within the Temple's auric radiance, and to this wonderful world."

Comings and goings: Natasha Rykman's mother, Nina, has been with us for several months, but leaves soon to visit Russia and New York before coming back. Sergey Moiseyev's mother, Nadja, has come for a long visit from the Ukraine, as has Svetlana Kravtsova's mom, Tonia. Tonia arrived here in Halcyon with Aleksey, Svetlana, and the two boys to move into The Open Gate, their new home. Natasha Rykman and son Simon visited Europe this summer, staying with friends. Perry Pederson is enjoying his retirement with a fishing trip to Colorado and a caddying trip to Florida. Nashoma Carlson has been to Texas to help her sister recover from an accident involving her horse. Several people have had wonderful weekends in San Francisco, staying at Natasha's apartment while she comes back to Halcyon. Eleanor Shumway visited family in Ukiah and Clovis, California, for several days. Friend Jeanne Riegg of Santa Barbara and son Bob Riegg of the Bay Area made a special trip to visit the Center in November. Annie and Will Dunbar relaxed at Big Sur for a few days. Debra Rowlands flew to Austin, Texas, to attend the ceremony of induction into the Cowgirl Hall of Fame, of her aunt, Sheila Varian. Karen and Will White have been busy replacing the storage building at their home. Cecelia Page spent two weeks at Thanksgiving time visiting family and friends in the San Francisco area.

Temple Birthday celebrations: November 15 marked the 105th anniversary of the founding of the Temple in Syracuse, New York. In commemoration, the opening of a new show of works by local artists in The University Center in the afternoon was followed by a potluck dinner and birthday cake in Hiawatha Lodge. On Sunday, the newly formed and well rehearsed choir

helped to present the Choral Service in the Temple. The Choral Service is a blend of prayers, inspirational readings, and original Temple music. It was a fitting tribute to this important occasion.

Hiawatha Lodge was the setting for our community Thanksgiving Dinner. About 40 people gathered in the afternoon for turkey and all the trimmings, as well as relaxed visiting.

Temple groups: There are groups in New York City; London, England; and Moscow, Russia, as well as in several locations in Germany. Anyone wishing more information about these groups can call the Temple offices in Halcyon.

The University Center Gallery is open every Saturday from 2 to 4 p.m. "Expressions," a show of works by local artists, is on exhibit until February 15. Another show will open March 6, 2004. Please call the Temple office at (805)489-2822 for information.

William Quan Judge Library serves Temple members, residents of Halcyon, and friends with an interest in Theosophy or who are doing research involving some of our special collections. Our library is staffed by volunteers; hours are Mondays, 9-11 a.m. and 6-8 p.m., and Fridays, 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Other hours are by appointment through the Temple office.

The **Temple Healing Service** is held at 12:00 noon each day in the Temple. All are welcome to attend.

Sunday Services are held at 10:30 a.m. in the Temple. The Feast of Fulfillment (the Communion Service of the Temple) is celebrated on the first Sunday of each month. "Enter The Silence," a prayer and meditation meeting, is held on the last Sunday of each month. Speaker present programs on other Sundays. The public is cordially invited to all services.

A **Meditation Meeting** is held in the Temple each Sunday evening from 7 to 7:30.

Study Classes under the auspices of Temple Officers and various Temple Orders are held regularly in the University Center on Tuesdays and Fridays at 5:30 p.m. N.B.: Lately we have been using the Lodge instead. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Speakers in the Sunday services were: September 14: Eleanor Shumway, *Peace: Teach it, Learn It, Be It*; September 21: Eleanor Shumway, *Other Voices, Other Times*; October 12: Linda Rollison, *Questions About God*; October 19: Rick London, *Blaming The Golden Rule*; November 9: Eleanor Shumway, *Here We Are!*; November 23: Marti Fast, *A Week in the Life*.

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