

The Temple Artisan

July-August-September, 2008

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Proceedings
of the 109th Convention
of the
Temple of the People
August 2-10, 2008

The Temple Artisan

July-August-September, 2008

Behold, I give



unto thee a key.

THE TEMPLE OF THE HEART

In the Inner Temple of thy Heart, on the Mystic altar of Compassion wrought therein of essences distilled of holy aspiration, of anguished prayers, of sacrificing Love and Service of countless lives in aeons past, burns a Living Flame of Life fed by the quenchless Love of God, commingled with the fragrances of thy noblest ideals of Beauty, Truth, and Service to all thine Other Selves, and uniting thee with the Divine in all creatures throughout the Seven Worlds of Being.

If thou wouldst keep the noxious weeds of self from choking life's pure stream 'twixt thee and God, then each day offer thou thyself on that Altar Flame of Sacrifice in the Inner Temple of thy Heart, whatever be the pain, so that the dross of all thy lower selves be burned away, leaving thee each day an Image true and splendid of the Shining One within—Thine Own True Self Divine.



THE EDITORIAL MIRROR

In this year's message to the Convention, the Master has pointed out, "If you would accomplish your divine mission, the self of matter must be relegated to a secondary place, instead of, as now, occupying the first place in thought and ambition. The paradox is, you must work in harmony with the self of matter, the self of emotion, the self of mind, and the self of spirit. It is through these parts of yourself on the physical plane that you experience all things which the Higher Self builds firmly into place in the Real, or Eternal, Self. Daily, hourly, what will be your choice?"

We must always choose for balance. The idea that we advance the self of Spirit, at the expense of the self of matter, emotion or mind makes no sense. We cannot ignore any part of our nature—all must be in balance. The sooner we can function the connection with everything else in the Universe, the sooner and the easier will that balance be obtained.

"The Power of Little Things," this year's theme, presents many viewpoints on this power we have all experienced in our lives. It helps us to focus on the importance, the sacredness of the little things in our lives that have such far-reaching effects.

May we walk together in Love, Light, Joy, and Peace.

— Eleanor L. Shumway
Guardian in Chief

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

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE 109TH
CONVENTION
OF THE TEMPLE OF THE PEOPLE**

SATURDAY, AUGUST 2, 2008

- | | |
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| 10 am | Clean up of Temple and University Center |
| 12 noon | Healing service |
| 2-4 pm | Open House, Hiawatha Lodge, University Center,
Temple, W. Q. Judge Library and Halcyon Store |
| 7 pm | Informal Opening, Hiawatha lodge |

Olga and Simon presented very special musical offerings on the viola and piano. Ivan led us all in singing Bless This House, and Susie and Chris explained how the Silent Auction would run all week as we all bid on treasures to raise money for the Library Roof Fund.

Sunday, August 3

10:30 am Formal Opening, Temple

Opening remarks by the Guardian in Chief: I want to extend to all of you a warm welcome to the formal opening of the 109th Convention of the Temple of the People. As we gather together on the first Sunday of August each year we create a magnetic matrix through which the Masters pour their force for the health and safety of the whole world. How we use this force, not only on this day, but every day, determines the effectiveness of our work. It is our responsibility to carefully and consciously absorb the energies given to us at this time, and then, in turn, give that energy expression in our daily lives. Every thought, word, and deed becomes charged with Divine Love just to the extent that we are a conscious part of this sacred process. By so doing, we in turn are nurtured as well.

Invocation given by the Guardian in Chief: In the name of the Great White Lodge and by the power vested in me as the

Guardian in Chief of the Temple of the People, I hereby open this 109th Annual Convention by invoking the guidance and blessings of the Powers that rule the destinies of worlds and races, the Brothers of the Fire Mist, the Dhyani Chohans and Dhyani Buddhas, and the Masters of Love and Wisdom, on all proceedings and all who participate in person or in spirit in the Convention for the benefit of all humanity, promoting the Brother/Sisterhood of all Creation.

Master's Message to the Convention

August 2008

Greetings to My Sisters and Brothers, My Children:

With a clasp of my heart, the cords of which are lovingly entwined in yours, I greet you. Convention time, once again, brings us together, giving us the opportunity to reflect on the years gone by and to renew our pledges to our Higher Selves. Even I must do as you do. The gathering of the High Forces on Inner Planes generates tremendous energy that must be channeled into the Force Fields of creation. This is, in part, your assignment in the Temple Work. In the current cycle of time, I have endeavored to guide you in your quest for the Holy Grail of spiritual unfoldment. I am asking you to choose what you will do. Time and time again I have pointed out there are no short cuts in this quest. Together, let us review, yet again, some of the signposts I have placed for your direction.

Remember: You are not your lower self, you are not your noisy brain-mind. The real YOU has control if you choose to exercise it. But, the lower self has a method of self-hypnosis all its own, by means of which it is able to practice a phenomenal degree of self-deception. Overweening self-appreciation burns out every detail of the figure of which it forms a part save that which ministers to its vanity or worldly interests. Consequently, it deprives itself of the help it might otherwise have gained to reach an altitude far beyond its present imaginings. The choice is yours.

Over and over I have told you that comparatively speaking, it is of no consequence what you were or what you had done before you took your first pledge to your Higher Self and the Guardians of the Path. It is of infinite importance to you what

you have since done, may do today or next year, for you have been placed, by your own desire, in the bulwark twixt the conscious evil of the world and the cradle of the spiritual good, the Light of the World now on its way here through the hearts of all humanity. If the materials of which the bulwark is built are poor and faulty, it will be breached at the first onslaught of the enemy. Every Master of the Great White Lodge, every Savior, from Krishna to Jesus, has taught that there is absolutely no area of neutrality between spirit and matter, between Christ and Belial. In the armed conflict between the Light and the Shadow, the battles are ever won by Love. Again, the choice is yours.

If you have ever understood what the Temple truly is, have ever felt the hands outstretched to you or seen the light in the eyes of the Hierophant, the light ever shining to dispel the darkness on the path to the Temple gates, you will no longer question your desires; you will at last enter that path by taking up your end of the load others are now carrying for you, and, if karma permits, will carry it to the foot of the Stone of Sacrifice on the Temple Altar, the end of the Path. The choice is yours. I cannot, may not, choose for you.

For a constructive cycle has opened in which you can build slowly and securely something far more satisfactory and enduring than you have heretofore built; and it is to that building, the building of the Great Temple of Humanity, that you are irrevocably pledged. There is no race, no sex, no creed or division of any kind in the Great Temple, of which We hope this outer Temple will one day be a perfect reflection. Your personal responsibility is as great as is your opportunity for attaining to knowledge and power. Again, and yet again, it is your choice, now, not at a more convenient time.

If you would accomplish your divine mission, the self of matter must be relegated to a secondary place, instead of, as now, occupying the first place in thought and ambition. The paradox is, you must work in harmony with the self of matter, the self of emotion, the self of mind, and the self of spirit. It is through these parts of yourself on the physical plane that you experience all things which the Higher Self builds firmly into place in the Real, or Eternal, Self. Daily, hourly, what will be your choice?

Study the teachings I have sent to you over the past one hun-

dred and ten years. But, I warn you most emphatically, do not simply study them, do not simply talk of them in unending phrases, but live them, live them, live them.

Children of my Heart, my Life, heed my words, heed my love.

*Your Father, Brother, and Teacher,
Hilarion*

12 Noon Healing service
4 pm Potluck picnic, Hiawatha Lodge

Monday, August 4

10:30 am Music program by Ivan Ulz, Lodge
12 Noon Healing service
2 pm Tea, Lodge
7 pm Officers' Reports

Officers' Reports

Report of the Treasurer

"And with thee, my Disciple and child, I, Hilarion, thy Servant and Master, offer to share my Love, my Labor, my Sorrow, my Suffering, the Cross of my Human Woe, the Crown of my Spiritual Joy."

These concluding words to the Pledge to the Order of the 36 acknowledge the formidable challenges and aspirations intrinsic to the spiritual journey. Clearly, neither Masters nor humans spring effortlessly into a state of perfection, and we are tested, tried, and tempered over lifetimes of experience, to grow ourselves into better, more evolved, compassionate beings. Living these human lives of ours demands endurance and courage as we "stumble on along life's pathway" toward the divine. What gives us the hope and strength to face the trials that come the way of the spiritual seeker?

The root of the word Alchemy means "the art of transformation," and one of its original goals was to change the common

into the precious, as in turning lead into gold. When metal is heated, it causes impurities called dross to separate out as scum on the molten surface. It is the exertion of high heat or chemical burning that forms the dross into a layer that can be poured off, leaving only the pure element.

We—all of us—fit into the great pattern of this universe, because we—all of us—have a cross to bear of some kind or another. Spiritually and figuratively, we can consider alchemy as a means for understanding life's lessons and, as a result, elevate and grow from everything learned in the School of Hard Knocks, or what the Temple refers to as "the burning of the dross from our lower natures."

Our shortcomings shape us, by leading us into the fires of temptation and trial, hammering, challenging, pruning, leaving no room for anything but the truth of our connection to The Light and to one another. In this ultimately compassionate school, the tenderest, most difficult, embarrassing secrets we hold locked in our hearts can be transformed as we humbly hand the dross over and give it up to God. When the Light flows into the darkness of doubt, our fragility becomes our strength, helping us to better accept, understand, and become one with our highest and best selves. In a way, those crosses to bear are potentially our greatest Temple Treasure, as we realize that we truly are One with God, one with all good, one with our brothers and sisters on this path.

Our years on this planet are blessed with life and loss, joy and sadness, despair and hope, antipathy and tolerance. It is through honest acceptance of our poles of opposites, of the seemingly irreconcilable dimensions of our humanity, that we learn the art of transformation. The healing balm that makes it possible is the love of God pouring over us, in a never-ending source of compassion and strength.

"And with thee, my Disciple and child, I, Hilarion, thy Servant and Master, offer to share my Love, my Labor, my Sorrow, my Suffering, the Cross of my Human Woe, the Crown of my Spiritual Joy."

—*Marti Fast*

The walls of separation continued to fall during the past Temple year 2007/2008. The steady hypnotic that bad things happen only to others, received its death blow. The fires of suffering encroached on all in equal measure. On three continents or more, 850 million people were facing starvation. Every day, 18 thousand children die of hunger.¹ Three billion people—about half of humanity—are malnourished or lacking critical nutrients. 35 million Americans² live in so-called “food-insecure households,” including 13 million children.³ Natural disasters of unheard of kind, proportion and frequency ravaged all corners of the earth, with millions dying in fiery infernos and floods, tsunamis and earthquakes—from China to California, from Burma to Wyoming, from Bangladesh to Bavaria. Wars consumed victors and victims alike, the uranium ammunition used by one side infesting with radioactivity everyone on the battlefield. Humanity became ever more conscious of the horrible nature of evil, and its duty toward its weakest members. More and more people realized the great truth uttered by Mahatma Gandhi⁴—that the measure of a society or nation is the kindness it extends to its animals, its children and its elderly. More and more people demanded the introduction of free universal healthcare in the United States, free education for all, and the breaking of the dictatorial power of money that controls the planet, and can make everyone needy or miserable or put them out of work—as it does now by forcing all beings on planet earth to struggle with, and sink beneath, the maelstrom of starvation due to the unheard of, intentional increase of the price of oil, and of food—one through the constant threat of ever new wars, the other, through the non-production of food crops, and substituting for them crops for fuel production.

The end of a cycle has come. It is not the “end of the world” of exotericism where the physical dead rise from their physical graves to go to a material heaven, but a restructuring of the human race; increased spiritual awareness for those who are able to

1 United Nations estimate.

2 US Department of Agriculture, 2006.

3 Magdoff, Fred: *The World Food Crisis*, in: *Monthly Review*, May 26, 2008.

4 Gandhiji's satyagraha, or non-violence, can best be understood by studying the source of his inspiration, Count Tolstoy's prohibition of retaliation—the core teaching of Christ in the New Testament.

leave behind the limitations or the Berlin Wall of personality, see the oneness of all mankind, and act accordingly—for the good and advancement of all, regardless in what shape a monad is enclosed or imprisoned. The separation of the sheep from the goats means that those responsible for the destruction of the earth and everything on it—those who de-forest every few weeks a rain forest of the size of France, and destroy all the beautiful, divine lives in it—shall be, karmically, left to their own devices, until they are presented with the final bill by the elemental forces they themselves have freed. A new race of humanity—the sixth sub race of the Fifth Race—is being born, which the “goats” will be unable to join, being forced to repeat classes in the older race until the lesson is learned and further advancement becomes possible.

After 80 years, the full manifestation of the Avatar, with the Holy Presence in the heart of every atom, does indeed drive on with relentless force the separation of sheep from goats—certainly not in the sense that annihilating a so-called enemy could be good, but simply by increasing awareness until the point is reached where the people cannot be deceived. As below, so above: this danger of falling for imitators has remained the worse trap for the units of the Theosophical Movement. Templars can never fail when they remember the Violet Star’s answer to a member who was eager to study the effluvia of some imitation organization. “The Temple recognizes only Blavatsky.” When thinking of the Temple Mother, HPB is never far.

In terms of Temple work, more and more vital service was rendered by our Russian brothers and sisters. The Temple influence reached far and wide, permeating all society. As a sign of most important effort for establishing a true Brotherhood of Man—at least among Theosophists, among whom brotherliness should be more than natural—individual Temple members at the Center have reached out to other theosophical groups, participating with the physical labor of their own two hands in the up-building and maintaining of centers established by independent Theosophists, the Adyar Lodge and others. Nothing can be more important than extending the right hand of Brotherhood to our brother and sister Theosophists.

The prophesy by the Red Star still holds: a time will come

when it may seem that the Temple would go out of existence—but it will come back with full force. Master has said: “No matter what the seeming, the Temple cannot, will not fail. Remember, I promise you this.”

—*Istvan Balogh*

Report of the Inner Guard

Good evening to each of you. Where did the last year go?

We are gathered together to celebrate a new Convention. Once again we are reminded of how loved we are and how important we each are to the Masters as well as to each other.

I have served for a number of years as the Inner Guard of the Temple. As I have been going over the preceding year in my mind, it occurs to me that we are each the guardian of our inner being. In keeping with this guardianship, this might be the perfect time to examine our motives and actions, renew our pledges, and fine tune our plan for the upcoming year.

Every day, we need to take time to allow the Masters into our everyday life. Thinking time. Growing time. Introspection time. This is the time for action. There is no more time for apathy and inaction. This is the time to renew our pledges to and support of the Masters as well as the Temple.

We can become shining examples of our beliefs. Let's ask ourselves: How did we do over the last year? Did our plan work? How will we fine tune our plan for the upcoming year? For myself, two words stand out when I am tending my own inner self: mindful and steadfast. I want to be mindful of what my beliefs are and become steadfast in practicing those beliefs.

It is our collective responsibility to keep the spirit and the heart of Halcyon alive and prospering. This may be accomplished by being mindful of our conduct and steadfast in our beliefs. Over the coming year, let us practice brotherhood, The Golden Rule, self-responsibility, forgiveness and gratitude.

I would like to leave you with a quote from Albert Einstein:

“A human being is part of the whole called the ‘universe’, a part limited in time and space.

“He experiences himself, his thoughts, and feelings as something separated from the rest, a kind of optical delusion...of

consciousness. This delusion is a kind of prison for us, restricting us to our personal desires and to affection for a few persons nearest to us. Our task must be to free ourselves from this prison by widening our circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature in all its beauty. Nobody is able to achieve this completely, but the striving for such achievement is in itself part of the liberation and a foundation for inner security."

—Margaret Thyrring

Report of the Outer Guard

Let us consider what our daily living may be when we are aware or when we are on automatic pilot. So many little and big things we hear, read and experience throughout the day influence us to some degree. We may or may not be aware of these influences.

There is the living without thought, the conduct of people, harmful information, wild emotions, savage dislikes, greed, pride and etc. These are our dangers, for they are destructive and overpower clear thinking.

Emotions can be as wild and unpredictable as the weather and must be faced and dominated.

The Love of the indwelling Christ heals the Spirit; abide in it.

—Ron Carlson

Death, Service and Lotus Power

This year I've been a Delegate at Large for the Temple of the People of Halcyon. It's been a blessing for me to wake up each day grounded in the fact that I've agreed to be "conscious of all my daily encounters and how I meet them, spreading the things I believe in by being them." In a year full of transitions—the death of my Mother, having to move from our beautiful apartment and our garden, moving surviving parents, packing up and selling my childhood home, changing teaching positions, and the death of my beloved pet who was my most constant companion—I've learned some important lessons about faith.

I didn't realize how deep my beliefs were supporting me until these major life challenges presented themselves one after the other, beyond my control and seemingly relentlessly. Students of Theosophy rarely write in the first person (too selfish, too personal), but I hope detailing my personal journey can somehow be helpful to others. Here are the things I've been particularly aware of:

In regards to service:

1. You're no good to anyone if you get sick trying to take care of everyone. I'm still learning this.

2. Being in service is more helpful to you—to your own sense of purpose and contribution—than it is even to those you are helping. Teaching is a life of constant service. I'm grateful for this.

In regards to death:

1. I believe in the eternal life of the soul fully and completely. Being present at the passing of two souls who were so completely important in my life made me realize that I'm unwavering in my belief in unity, cycles and evolution. I felt relieved for these souls, at their opportunity to move "onward and upward." I was able to console others of different faiths—people I always thought were more spiritual than I am. I was surprised by this.

2. It was wonderful to eulogize my Mom's life with humor, love, honor—and a sense of her spirit moving forward. People had a good time coming together in her honor—I was surprised that experiencing death doesn't have to be a dark, horrible experience.

3. It was extremely difficult to give up the brownstone garden and the apartment that we'd so lovingly nurtured for 7 years. New people bought our building and wanted to live in our space. Our garden—with its vines and flowers—seemed like an escape into a magical world. It was literally the creation we were most proud of in our lives. I learned, however—after experiencing plenty of raw, seething anger, frustration, sadness and fear—that we could actually turn over the space lovingly to the new caretakers. We gave all of our plants to careful friends, and then spent hours with the new owners telling them about the light and soil in the garden space, making suggestions for their new creation. They gave us wine and hugged us. We felt alright about it. Wow. I guess working hard to take the "zen" path actually

helped. I was surprised that we could do this.

In regards to lotus power:

1. I realize that man really does need symbols. Jung, Frankel and Huxley wrote about it. I can corroborate it. The symbol that has helped me most this year—simply to keep on keepin' on—has been the symbol of the Temple. I put eucalyptus branches—just like the variety in the Halcyon grove—in my new apartment. Hilarian's prayer is on my dresser. The simple words of the noon healing service are always on my mind. I must admit, the simplest things mean the most to me. I'm comforted by this.

"Let nothing come near to disturb these days of the Great Peace, that sacred peace, in which the soul grows, as does the holy flower upon the still lagoons."

2. There are no coincidences. Turns out the one room available at my father's new (garden) retirement community is just across the path from his sister. (His Mother and her brother spent their final years there as well.) Also turns out our new apartment is one block from the Nicholas Roerich Museum and Agni Yoga center in New York. I had been there once 12 years ago with Temple friends. I went there again recently to extend warm greetings from the Temple. I was struck by a painting called "Lotus." I'm tired out from all that's happened this year, and this painting really moved me. In a beautiful red desert cave setting, a man sits in a cool unbelievably blue pool meditating and holding a pink lotus. Of course, I had to get a print—and it now hangs near my beloved Forgostein watercolor. As my year comes to a close at convention time, this lotus is a symbol of moving forward. This is what my Theosophical Glossary has to say about the lotus:

"In relation to men, the lotus is the symbol of the self-producing soul which, during manifestation immersed in material life as the lotus seed is embedded in the mud of lake or pond, is wakened by the warm rays of the spiritual sun, and grows upward through the world of illusion (symbolized by water) to blossom in the free air and sunlight of truth. Cosmically the lotus symbolizes the emanation of the objective from the subjective, the manifested effect or production of the eternal plan on which the invisible worlds are built by the formative logoi. This lies buried, until the time for its svabhava or production comes, in the

bosom of eternal ideation—as the lotus plant of visible nature exists in miniature in the seed.”

Right now what matters is that this painting makes me feel better. I guess I haven’t lost my homes after all. “By the way,” they told me at the museum, “you’re welcome to enjoy our garden. There’s lots of good energy here.” I’m both humbled and inspired by this.

Thank you so much for your heart force, and for being such a foundation in my life.

In striving,
—Mary Workman

The Report of the Guardian in Chief, 2008

Healing

Out of the infinite source
A river of healing is flowing,
Washing away the sin, the sickness and loss;
Mending the worn bodies with
the comfort of its waves,
Sweeping away the gloom out
of the tired mind.
Be resting into its peace
All ye who enter here,
Be stilling the soul into calm
So the peace of heaven may bloom.
Here broken hearts can be healed,
Here fever and fear can be changed.
The light of the heaven world
is close to you here.
The river of healing is
Flowing about you,
Be still, my soul, and recover.

—John Varian

This poem of John Varian’s has been like a mantra for me over the past fifty or so years. When I was in the hospital this last

May, two different people brought it to me, where it continued to work its magic. Whenever I visit a doctor, chiropractor, massage therapist, dentist, or other healing practitioner, the first two lines, "Out of the Infinite Source a river of healing is flowing," repeated silently over and over, helps me to concentrate on the course of that river flowing through my body, mind, and soul. The calming awareness of that Infinite Source is something I wish for us all to experience, but it cannot simply be handed from one person to another. Like all spiritual treasure, we must choose to look for it, as the Master tells us in his message this year.

In personal and group life, we are in a time of deep and difficult growth. One role of the Guardian in Chief is to serve both as the Central Point for the administration of Temple affairs, and as a conduit through which the Master's force can flow for the benefit of all. Notice I say "benefit," not "comfort," for I have learned that the great love and compassion of the Master does not always mean comfort, but it always means benefit. Being presented with the lessons necessary for our spiritual growth is to our benefit, even though they are often uncomfortable, perhaps truly painful, as we burn away the dross from our lower natures. At this time in human evolution, this fiery process is the only way to truly find—and earn—spiritual gold.

I am no more exempt from life's challenges than you are, and in these last few months, I have been learning to live with a heightened consciousness of my physical body and its limitations, to not simply take it for granted. This push to reach new dimensions of inner awareness has resulted in spiritual gold for me, by dissolving many preconceived ideas of how things SHOULD be done, leaving room for how things CAN be done, and deepening my gratitude for the support from the Universe, through all of you, that comes in unexpected ways.

I have said before that "Thank you" is rather a tame way to express the gratitude that fills my heart, and spills out into every moment of the day. My gratitude encompasses more than any gifts or deeds, resembling a flooding awareness of the interactive flow of love between and amongst us all as a tangible Force. Please know that I feel that Force returning to my heart, soul, and body from you.

Recognized or not, Love is always there to enfold our highs

and lows, our grievances and joys, our temper tantrums (yes, even I have them!) and our loving acceptance of life's challenges. A perceptive writer once said, "The power of the universe is love. It lures, it persuades, it entices by its unutterable beauty, its attractive summons." As I write the simple words, "Thank You," please know they hold that power of love and its unutterable beauty.

On the physical plane here in Halcyon, the economic forces that challenge our personal budgets—things like filling gas tanks, getting things repaired or replaced, and buying supplies—also challenge The Temple. The most urgent problem we face today is how best to meet the rising costs required to maintain this community, with increases in rents and water rates the unavoidable solution.

Another challenge lies with the situation across Halcyon Road from the Temple, where the property owner originally proposed building 22 units on less than two acres. He has indicated a willingness to revise his plans, and we are cooperating with the County on these negotiations.

In a third category, we continue work on a project that will ultimately designate Halcyon as a National Historic Site. Karen White and I have just completed forms on every structure in this village, telling address, when built and by whom, architectural style, roof and wall materials, and a narration of significance.

Each season has its rhythm as fields are mowed, roofs are replaced, plumbing is restored, and necessary projects and repairs go on. A major accomplishment this year was replacing the pump in the town well, making the water supply much more dependable. Reincarnating the roof on the Judge Library is on the list for next year. Your cooperation and assistance in these matters is deeply appreciated, because by working together in new ways, and by thinking things through together, we accomplish more, and—most importantly—we do it together.

In a spiritual application of this concept, we can all look forward to the first weekend in May 2009, when we will host an international gathering of Templars here in Halcyon. Members of our extended Temple family will travel from afar to exchange ideas and ideals, as well as to experience the forces here at the Center, which we are apt to take for granted. It will be a mean-

ingful time to share what we have with our brothers and sisters, as well as to become more conscious of it ourselves.

On the soul level, we have chosen to be here, working with each other in this lifetime as in any many others. Let us consciously choose to honor that choice, setting aside differences as we all strive, in our own unique, wonderful ways, to tread the path of discipleship. The Master's Message was matter-of-fact when he said, "... for a constructive cycle has opened in which you can build slowly and securely something far more satisfactory and enduring than you have heretofore built; and it is to that building, the building of the Great Temple of Humanity, that you are irrevocably pledged. There is no race, no sex, no creed, or division of any kind in the Great Temple, of which we hope this outer Temple will one day be a perfect reflection. Your personal responsibility is as great as is your opportunity for attaining to knowledge and power. Again, and yet again, it is your choice, now, not at a more convenient time.

"If you would accomplish your divine mission, the self of matter must be relegated to a secondary place, instead of, as now, occupying the first place in thought and ambition. The paradox is, you must work in harmony with the self of matter, the self of emotion, the self of mind, and the self of spirit. It is through these parts of yourself on the physical plane that you experience all things which the Higher Self builds firmly into place in the Real, or Eternal, Self. Daily, hourly, what will be your choice?"

As you all know, a board of seven Temple Officers is appointed each year. As Guardian in Chief I meet regularly with them on matters concerning the Temple and its true work, that of trying to embody here on the physical plane the truths of the inner planes, our real home. These officers are Inner Guard, Outer Guard, Scribe, Treasurer and three Delegates-at-Large.

Each office symbolizes a certain aspect or facet of the Temple work. The office of Inner Guard symbolizes the responsibility to the feminine aspect of manifestation, the nurturing, connecting, indwelling spiritual force expressed through compassion, sensitivity, and reverence for all life. The position of Outer Guard symbolizes the responsibility to the masculine aspect, the protecting, questing, balancing force, which is expressed through the powers of will, order, logic, and strength. The position of Treas-

urer symbolizes the responsibility to our storehouse of spiritual treasure filled with the jewels we have been given to use, to care for, and enhance. The position of Scribe symbolizes the responsibility to the records of our aspirations, hopes, and faith, and the flow of these to and from all human hearts and minds. The Delegates-at-Large are chosen from those Temple members who live away from the Center who meet the challenge of putting these teachings into daily practice without the outer group support and daily meetings that we enjoy here at the Center.

For the 2008-2009 year, the Inner Guard will be Margaret Thyrring; Outer Guard, Ron Carlson; Scribe, Istvan Balogh; Treasurer, Marti Fast. The Delegates-at-Large will be Helen Gordon in London; Yulia Moiseyeva in California (and other places in the world!); and Eva Ulz in New York.

I would leave you with these words from my mother, Roberta: "As we become more fully aware of our divinity nothing can stop us. No sacrifice or suffering will be too great to live through to achieve the evolutionary goal that hangs magnificently in the heavens for all who will, to see. Let us not despair, let us not be distressed, for the power to achieve our goal lies in our inherent divinity.

"One of our Temple principles tells us that every soul of every person is its own savior in one respect, namely by compelling its own obedience to law. Therefore, it is time to commit ourselves completely to the Christ within, to walk radiantly, enfolded in the divine protective Presence."

Thank you.

—*Eleanor Shumway*
Guardian in chief

Tuesday, August 5

10:30 am Social Science Talks, Temple. Theme: "The Power of Little Things"

Social Science Talks

From our Temple brothers and sisters abroad:

Yearning calls the radiance of the heart for us to enter into the innermost sanctuary of our being, listening to the message of the Christ that is filled with the eternal truth. So we will incessantly radiate this light into the darkness of mankind. In this way, Unity—love—harmony flows between the self and the Self of the Golden Light of the Christos, dedicated by us alone to God and to mankind. Strengthened by the consciousness of the unity of us all, we are sheltered by the wings of the Great Bird. In this tenor, we send to you the greetings of the love and light in our hearts.

—*Temple sisters and brothers in Germany*

The Power of Little Things

Never underestimate the power of little things.
 From baby acorns, oak trees grow.
 From brooks and rivers, oceans flow.
 And lion cubs become jungle kings.
 Never underestimate the power of tiny wings.
 Birds and insects build great nests;
 Snakes and bees devour their guests
 By the smallest of bites and stings.
 Never underestimate the power that music brings—
 In joyful harmony keynotes unite,
 Vibrations of sound spark glorious light.
 With love and reverberation, earth sings.
 Never underestimate the power of fairy flings
 By casting spells, magic pixie dust for good or ill,
 In faith and trust intuition and superstition still clings.
 Never underestimate the power of micro springs—
 Spirals and atoms whirl cosmically about
 Planets, sun and stars beyond human doubt.
 Electromagnetic forces macro brings.
 Never underestimate the power of petty strings—
 Each strand a link to higher planes,
 Positive thought turn our losses to gains.
 Laws divine balance scales, yang and yin.
 Never underestimate the power of little things—
 Awareness of energies attract or divide;

Oneness in essence, paths narrow to wide.
 What potential in life, changes and swings?

—*Valerie Blustin, London*

“Out of the armor of belief, if a snowflake carelessly put together with others of her kind is exposed to the rain for a while, and after that left to the power of the King of Ice, she will become a missile which can fell a giant. A careless gesture, a thoughtless word, united with others of the same kind and exposed to the breath of a dishonest nature, can beat the best loved soul to the floor and cripple it.”

The above states clearly the power of little things to destroy. I want to speak of another side of this power. A friendly smile, a perceptive word offered to another, exposes that other to the love of the Master or of God, and generates a power which can heal, fell a giant, or create a new world, when it is connected with other words and thoughts of the same kind.

No effort is for nothing. Some day the glass will be full, filled by drop after steady drop, as long as the work is done with patience and trust. For that we have a lot of help. We only need to do it.

—*Manfred Gronau, Hamburg*

Dear brothers and sisters:

With all our hearts, congratulations with general unification feast! It's joyous to feel the unity which does not depend on distance. Light, joy, and love to all of you.

—*Heart regards from the St. Petersburg group*

Dearest Eleanor, my Guardian in Chief and friend:

Thank you so much! Two very small words that really do furnish a prime example of the wonder of little things. My gratitude to you for being there, for being able to understand and have the wisdom and love to say the words that resonate within me, can only be expressed by me with “Thank you” from one heart to another. It is a joy for me to offer you my loyalty and love, and may

the Masters always bless and protect you. God bless, and hugs.

—*Sheila Samuels, London*

And, from our Halcyon group:

The power of little things begins with understanding life. Everything we do affects who we are becoming, step by step. What we say, think, and do causes us to act in a certain way. What we think is important in our daily lives; our thoughts may have long-lasting results.

The power of little things may change our goals and purposes for our life. The relationships that we form with others can be positive and worthwhile. We should respect and serve others. Daily acts of kindness can have profound effects on those we know.

The power of little things can lead us to make wiser choices and decisions that are worthwhile and lasting. Every kind word we utter may change the lives of others. Positive thinking is a stepping stone to a happier life. The moment-by-moment behavior we express may have a profound effect on others as well as ourselves.

The power of a friendly smile and a cheerful disposition can go a long way. The power of daily prayers and meditation can help us seek peace and balance and experience divine love from our divine creator. So seek light and love, and have faith in yourself and others. The power of your positive thoughts and actions can be of true service to the world.

—*Cecelia Page*

The power of little things is in everything, because everything is made of little things. Size is a state of relativity when in the presence of others, as was David to Goliath. On the other hand, a little thing may have nothing to do with size, as is a friendly smile to a thoughtful word or deed.

Once on the physical plane, everything begins with an atom, which consists of electrons orbiting. When we add the governing laws of attraction, repulsion, and cohesion, we can discover the essential evolutionary power of every little thing. After a right

smart piece of time, these forces inspire the formation of atomic substance, creating the essence of matter, leading to the molecular partnerships of air and water, followed by plants and animals, then worlds, human beings, and back to the awareness of eternal universal truths. Through love and light to life, the law of balance brings us from atom to Adam to being conscious of consciousness to the power of choice. The Temple aphorisms counsel as to the karma of choice. For example: "Days come and days go, but if thou watchest, thou shalt see the stone thou cast from the path of the blind shall smite the adder lying in wait for thee." Through small acts of kindness and consideration, we help each other. On the other hand, what if our motive to move a stone is to save ourselves rather than preventing the blind from a stumble?

Through nature, study and practice, we come to learn how to be. The honeybees are remarkably adept at working together. You can find 50,000 to 60,000 bees in the average summer hive. The members of the hive must fly some 55,000 miles together to tap some 2,000,000 flowers in order to make one pound of honey. During her lifetime, each bee will contribute only 1/12 of a teaspoon to that pound of honey. Many little wings making light work as they selflessly cooperate with each other!

Unbeknownst to the bees, their going about their daily business ends up being responsible for about a third of the food that feeds our planet. Traveling through our back yards, farms, forests, gardens, orchards, and vineyards, they are pollenating and contributing to the greater good while they gather their precious nectar to make their honey. By design, they make a contribution to everything else while taking care of themselves, sharing in perfect harmony without thought of reward.

While taking care of our families and ourselves, "making our own honey," if you will, many of us still find the time and energy to care for others—to share a smile, to remember a "please" and "thank you". There are those among us who practice the golden rule as effortlessly as the honeybee enters the fragrant flower. Each one of us is a potential pollinator, the difference being that we must choose to reconnect with nature and our instinctual desire to contribute to the common good. It is no mistake that we find our little honeybee friends struggling for survival as a result of many imbalances provoked by generations of human choices

—our choices. As we contemplate the power of little things, can we even begin to imagine our world without the contribution of the honeybees? We need to learn to honor and respect the sacred balance of the little things, for truly it is said: “There are no little things.” Acting as if our intent is to help our neighbor when in reality we are “conducting public affairs for private advantage,” regrettably is not necessarily in the best interest of ourselves unless we begin to treasure the experience of lessons learned. Choosing to act as if we are motivated to care for others for the sake of helping each other without regard to reward will eventually lead us back to our forgotten instinctive ways of naturally living by thought, word, and deed, the practice of pollenating, of contributing to the greater common good. “That which thou hast sown, that shall thou gather, whether it be in joy or sorrow, pain or peace.”

—Rick London

Geometry is a branch of mathematics that can be used in part to describe our physical world, including the passage of time and its effects on matter we see around us. Picture, if you will, a large, complicated shape, one with many angles, curves, and facets. Across the surface and within the shape are an infinite number of points. Let us pick one of those points at random, or even a constellation of them, and call it a “little thing.” As we begin to examine our selection, this “little thing,” we may observe its shape, its size, its color, and other qualities. As we observe it in detail, we begin to realize that its points are connected to other points. Each of those points is connected with still other points. Ultimately, every point in existence is connected in some way with every other. Suddenly we see our point as our “little thing”—not as a discreet entity, but as a constituent part of the whole being. I believe the same principle can be applied to the strict confines of geometry and the dimensions of the physical plane. Every thought we have, every emotion we experience, every action we take toward one another, no matter how seemingly little, is a point—a point leading to and inexorably connected with absolutely everything else. Believing this, we can see that there really are indeed no little things—only in our limited viewpoint that does not always permit us to see the entire picture at once. The

power of these little things is in their connection to the whole and how they allow us to approach infinity a piece at a time. Believing this, we ought to cultivate an awareness of everything we do, no matter how small, and endeavor to understand the ripple of its repercussions.

P.S.: Thank you for your love and good wishes. I'm sorry I have missed seeing you at Convention events so far, but with help and care from Ivan at all, I am duly recovering from the "little" back injury that turned out to be quite a powerful thing. I hope to join you again soon.

—Eva Ulz

Beyond Little Things

Hardly a day goes by in New York when Eva and I do not contrast little things and big things. On the surface, it is a harmless game that we are playing. Following what we understand from the Teachings, we trade personal observations on what is important and what is unimportant. Because New York is such a large city, it is a simple task to think of everything that happens there as being of major importance. That includes the jobs we perform and the way we regard others and each other day by day. What we call home—that place in which we dwell—is too full. In Greenwich Village we have those things and people which make up our physical surroundings. But we also have our family in Halcyon, which psychically is as real and sometimes more real than those with whom we physically interact in New York.

E. B. White wrote that one should not come to New York unless one is willing to be lonely and lucky. I would add that one should not stay in New York unless one is to live a life mixed with loneliness and luck.

After some time in Manhattan—seven years for Eva, and 28 years for me—we came to Halcyon this year to receive an enormous shock, physically and psychically. We agree that the shock has made us acutely aware that the loneliness and the luck are never little things. Now we have the opportunity to understand some things, not on the level of "little" or "big", but as if we were standing on a highway where direction can be changed only if

change is what we fervently desire.

—*Ivan Ulz*

I feel that part of my Outer Guard officer's report needs repeating:

The power of little things can be expressed as some very little things. Consider raised eyebrows, eye movement, tone of voice, frowning, smirking, a wink, a tilt of the head, a nod. The above things will affect others and yourself. Your subconscious will take it all in, even if you are all by yourself. A blind person in a receiving position will probably pick up most of these actions through tone, pitch, and loudness of voice. Beware!

—*Ron Carlson*

There are no Little Things ... Every THING has a desire behind it. The desire is the power to move.

Move Thought—Move Word—Move Deed

Names are given to things of the material world. Things are nouns, as we conceive things.

That... thing... There... That... thing-a-ma-jig... there... that thing there. If a name of such a thing doesn't come to mind, even a gesture or rhyme will do to name it ... to help someone else see it.

What of this cliché ... "The Power Of Little Things?"

As soon as I see the words, written in Capital Letters, my mind begins to play games with my brain, and my heart begins to lose all sense of time.

Immediately I turn my thoughts away from things, away from the material plane. Now I go to the intuition, the manasic plane and I see "THINGS" with spiritual eyes into the plane of mind.

I see currents ...

I see waves ...

I see cycles ...

As I look into the Village of Halcyon, the land that holds the Temple of the People in its center, I see currents of activity that are subject to thought transference and, as a pure thought of the collective mind is a "Powerful Thing", a soul member—or, as I might say, a member of the Village of Halcyon—may receive a group thought in a manifested state of being, words from another member, and only see the thought or thing with the lower astral, which will deceive such a ... Thing.

And the "Power of Little Things" is set into motion ... and there ...

I see a wave starting ... a wave in a cycle. The currents of air start another flow.

Just as a feather will rise and lower, a feather will float and fall ... the Village of Halcyon ... will vibrate ...

Vibrate with ripples. Ripples, as a Stone is thrown into a pond, the ripples come to shore and return to the center, the ripples lessen as they again return to the shore, and lessen again upon return to the center.

As the waves of the ocean correspond to the currents of the Temple, we are but the Crests of a wave on the GREATER THINGS OF LIFE.

God bless us ... one and all.

—*Zelma Colendich*

A gentle wave touching us all, rolling over the sands of our daily lives, filling us with the infinite sense of the grandness of it all.

—*Debra Rowlands*

The Still Small Voice of Love

The one secret element for the preparation of the elixir and

the making of gold is everywhere. Children are playing with it in the dust of city streets, and yet no one can see it. People coveting the highest force in Occultism or eager to achieve in any endeavor still persistently permanently overlook the so-called "theoretical" teachings and, most of all, the ethical ones among them. The plea, "Love ye one another," is not heard, not seen, but remains unreflected, despised, and rejected.

"This is not anything practical!" they cry out. "A fairy tale ... give us something real. We need something to conquer, to covet and to achieve. Possession in our hand; material to prop up the iron doors of our opinions, the prison bars of our convictions, the gallows of our fanaticism, the lethal injections of our traditions and dogma, the electric chairs of our egomania. We need something to remain partial and aloof, ever comparing one thing with another, to conserve until the end of the manvantara our own agenda, and to destroy everybody else because they have a different one."

The possibilities of losing one's way and never rediscovering it are endless, and they do happen in infinite manifoldness. There is an issue. We react as a fly would if crawling over our hand, thinking there is nothing else but the hand. That there may be a human hidden away inside of us and kept down by balls and chains of our education, environment and belief, a whole set of thorn crowns set onto the head of truth, of nails and crosses fastened upon the body of eternity to keep it forever from rising from the grave, of lances thrust in the side of the god chained onto the rocks of Kaukassis, perpetuating the pain of immortal Prometheus, would not occur to us. If there would be a friend coming to us, speaking to us of warning, trying to wake us from the sleep of spiritual death, of black magic in high and low places, we would enslave him, or wave at him, saying, "He is a fake. He must be a fake, since he dared to contradict me, the measure of all truth." How long—how long will it take to understand why it has been said, "Down with the speculation of man—long live the divine intuition of women!" or why it has been said, "Unless ye become as little children, ye shall in no wise enter the Kingdom of Heaven," or why it has been said, "Had I not love, I would be a barren twig—I would be nothing"?

The words do not penetrate the corpse's veil that we wear

during so-called life. Through the lack of spiritual intuition or our distance from the within, while we force ourselves to chase outer husks, we do not even fathom the meaning of the word “love”—that little thing. You cannot understand love through so-called thinking, let alone by anything anyone has said, affirmed, denied, or forced upon us, abusing our cowardly acceptance. You cannot cram love into words. If you do, the more you repeat it, the more you make it lose all of its force and holiness. Even after infinite struggle between many manvantaras, which is actually literally the time between two manus, that word must and will remain a mystery, perhaps because it’s too small.

How then become perfect? Can anything else solve the problems of life, give answers to maddening uncertainty, show the right decision to take among vicissitudes, unveil truth amid fear, confusion, and ignorance, even unto babes? Let us imagine we have love. How would we then approach all life, make any decision? Would we or could we act imperfectly? Wouldn’t we do anything—all steps of daily, yearly life—in a manner such that none of it would be assailable? Is not the deeper underlying reason for imperfection in any act or endeavor to be sought in the fact that we still hate, that we have likes and dislikes, that we cannot get away from the pairs of opposites by trying to apply coercion and force ourselves to become better men, that we can only rid ourselves from “I really like this,” and “I do not like that,” and “I am of the opinion that ...” and “I must emphatically reject this” by seeking a third way, a small way? Love is in none of these. Love is behind—in the back of—underneath all these things of Sysephian labor. It is as if we spent our lives in two buildings of opposite character, one built out of shadows, the other a mere reflection of these shadows, while real life takes place in our real home—a third building, just underneath, above or within our double illusion.

Man shall not find because he rejects the small things. Man shall not find because the gods have blinded him from the outset. They hid the greatest treasure in man himself, where he will not seek it.

—*Istvan Balogh*

I’m sure there is no one in here who hasn’t struggled to hear

me at times. My undying gratitude for this.

—*Willy Gommel*

- 12 Noon Healing service
- 5:30 pm Study Class, Temple
- 6:30 pm Potato bar, Hiawatha Lodge, followed by videos of the Halcyon Family

Wednesday, August 6

- 12 Noon Healing service
- 2-4 pm Halcyon Store's birthday centennial
- 7 pm "Sacred Cycles" Service, Temple

Thursday, August 7

- 9-11:30 am Home & History Tour, Part 1
- 12 Noon Healing service
- 12:30 pm Picnic, Arroyo Grande Village, followed by a guided tour of the Historical Society Museum

Friday, August 8

- 9-11:30 am Home & History Tour, Part 2
- 12 Noon Healing service
- 5:30 pm Study class, Temple
- 6:30 pm Potluck Dinner and Videos, Lodge

Saturday, August 9

- 7-10 am Family breakfast, Lodge
- 12 Noon Healing service
- 7 pm Builders' Program, music and silent auction finale

Sunday, August 10

- 10:30 am Builders' Sunday program

The children, under the direction of Linda Rollison, read a

lovely nature story, written by Elaine Wight, Custodian of the London Temple family.

12 Noon	Healing service
2 pm	Ice cream social, the White House
7 pm	Convention Benediction service

SPECIAL NOTICE

Dear Temple Members and Friends:

As Guardian in Chief of the Temple of the People, I extend to you a personal invitation to The International Gathering of Temple Members and Friends, to be held here at the Center in Halcyon on May 1-4, 2009. Although an exact schedule is not yet established, it will include the following events: getting to know each other during meals and informal gatherings in the Lodge and our homes, experiencing life here at the Center, the Feast of Fulfillment, a Study Class, a walking tour of Halcyon, and presentations of ideas and ideals in more formal settings, all generating the forces of Unity and Love. People will be coming from Russia, England, Germany, Canada, and other parts of the world. (Several have already bought their airline tickets!)

This is a rare opportunity for us to get to know each other. I hope you can be a part of this wonderful gathering.

May we walk together in Love, Light, Joy, and Peace.

—*Eleanor L. Shumway*
Guardian in Chief

TEMPLE ACTIVITIES AND NOTICES

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

The **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. Other hours are by appointment through the Temple office.

The **University Center Gallery** is currently presenting a selection of Harold Forgostein's water colors, all of which are for sale. It's open every Saturday from 2 to 4 pm., or by appointment. Please call the Temple office at (805) 489-2822 for more information.

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 am 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. Speakers present programs on other Sundays. The public is cordially invited to all services.

Study Classes under the auspices of Temple Officers and various Temple Orders are held regularly at 5:30 pm in the Temple on Tuesdays and Fridays. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Speakers in the Sunday services were: June 8: Marti Fast reading Eleanor Shumway's talk, "Peace is in our Hearts"; June 15: Rick London, reading a talk by Dr. Dower; June 22: Perry Pederson, "Joseph Campbell and Perry"; July 13: George Colendich, "The Son"; July 20: Eleanor Shumway, "Convention 1930 and Dr. Little"; August 17: Eva Ulz, "Mental Illness"; August 24: Rita Moiseyeva, "The Science of Joy"; September 14: Eleanor Shumway,

“One With the Whole”; September 2: Kathleen Kemper, “Metamorphosis”; October 12: Eleanor Shumway, “Life With God ... Is There Any Other?”; October 19: Rick London, “From Blocks to Stones, to the Promised Land”.

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