

WINGS OF THE SPIRIT

The world of Spirit is a magical world, world of a new dimension. Yet it is a real world. It is as real as this desk I am writing on. More real, actually. For this desk is only a temporary configuration of matter, taking shape from the creative will of the designer. The desk will disintegrate in time, but the design is eternal.

And so, if we compare the phenomenal world with the world of Spirit, we shall see that Spirit is the reality behind the world of appearance. It is the causal and the enduring. Whereas the world of matter is phantasmagoric—constantly changing shapes and taking on new forms at the bidding of Spirit.

Let us soar on the Wings of Spirit above the phenomenal world. Let us spiritualize ourselves: our desires, our motivations, our mental processes, our actions, our very consciousness of being. In this spiritual state of being our lives will flow happily and successfully, and without undue strain.

"Seek ye first the Kingdom of Heaven, and all these things will be added unto you."

WINGS OF THE SPIRIT

by

STANWOOD COBB

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Stanwood Cobb has established himself as a leading authority on the subject of genius, with his book "Discovering the Genius Within You" and "Importance of Creativeness."

Born in Newton, Mass., 1881, Cobb graduated from Newton High School in 1899. He received the A.B. degree from Dartmouth in 1903, and the A.M. from Harvard in 1910.

After various teaching positions here and abroad, Cobb organized in 1918 the Progressive Education Association which has exerted a profound influence on education in this country, and of which he became president. In 1919 he founded the Chevy Chase Country Day School to carry out his own ideas of education.

Stanwood Cobb is the author of some 30 books on religion, education and philosophy and several volumes of verse. He was the editor of the Baha'i Magazine, and instrumental in founding the Progressive Education Magazine. His books on the Baha'i Faith have been translated into various languages and widely circulated. His "Islamic Contributions to Civilization", which brought him a personal letter of thanks from King Faisal of Saud Arabia, has been translated into Urdu and published in Pakistan.

Boston 1917

WINGS OF THE SPIRIT

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Brief Distillations of Wisdom

for

Daily Living

* * *

BY

STANWOOD COBB

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Best wishes

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Stanwood Cobb

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Life With Nayan
Radiant Living
Trouble—How to Avoid It

Preface

These brief statements of wisdom for daily living represent the accumulation of late years. Many of them are quite recent. They were jotted down on stray paper as the inspiration came—often at our favorite meditation spot and thrown into a box for future use.

Now we have sorted these out, including many splendid quotes also harbored in our meditation box.

There is no consecutive pattern to this book. And we have not tried to avoid repetition as regards subject matter, believing that those spiritual themes can stand endless reiteration and study.

This little book is presented to the world as we approach our 90th birthday. Its brief messages are more than mere theory. They are the distillations of many years of experience and are substantiated by lifelong evidence. It is our hope that these pages may inspire faith and hope, and lead the reader to paths of self-fulfillment, prosperity, and happiness.

Wings of the Spirit is dedicated to its readers, whoever they may be, may they flourish long in the land of the living.

STANWOOD COBB
Chevy Chase, Maryland
October 1, 1971

Invocation

Wings of the Spirit,
Teach me to fly—
Leaving the earth,
Cleaving the sky.

On fields of asphodel
Amidst dear friends,
There I would dwell
Till eternity ends.

New Year's Resolutions

Let us add something each coming year to our spiritual
bank account.

Let us grow richer in wisdom with each precious year.

Let us learn how to use to our advantage

The resources of a friendly Universe.

Let us use these spiritual resources not only for our
own concerns,

But let us share them with the spiritually dispossessed,
With the faint of heart,

And with those whose feet are wandering.

Let us be a focal point to attract the Spirit
For the benefit of all who cross our path.
Let us become a channel of the Cosmic power
For those who desperately need Its aid.

Let us explore the way to perfect living
Along the path of Cosmic love,
And find celestial happiness
To share with all who cross our path.

Fra Angelico

Vasari

This truly angelic brother consecrated his life to the service of God. He was never willing to paint anything but sacred objects.

He once said: "He who wishes to represent the works of Christ should always live in the society of Christ."

What he painted came with such inspiration and perfection that he never retouched or corrected. He felt that God wanted it to remain as it was.

He never took the brush in his hand without previous prayer. And he never painted the Crucifixion without tears rolling down his face.

There was something of his soul in everything he did; and he only worked when under the influence of Divine Love.

We Live at the Dawn

This is a wonderful age to be living in, the most critical and important of all time, either past or future. For it is the dawn of world unity and international government. The dawn also of a universally spiritualized humanity.

Let this be our consolation, in the midst of the confusion and gloom that now pervades the world, that the darkest hour is just before the dawn.

Let us be grateful that our personal lives are staged in this dramatically crucial era, in which every progressive thought and deed will be as seeds cast onto the fertile ground of Destiny, assured of bearing fruit in the new day that is dawning.

There never was a time in the world's history, there may never be a time again, for thought and action to bear such dividends. Let us be glad to be alive today and let us invest generously in the future.

Look To This Day!

Kalidasa, Third Century Hindu poet, says

"Look to this day!

For it is life, the very life of life.

In its brief course be all the verities and realities of your existence—the bliss of growth, the glory of action, the splendor of beauty.

For yesterday was but a dream, and tomorrow is only a vision. But today, well-lived, makes every yesterday's dream come true, and every tomorrow a vision of hope.

Look well, therefore, to this day."

A New Year's Message

Abdu'l Bahá

I wish this blessing (the New Year) to appear and become manifest in the faces and characteristics of the believers, so that they too may become a new people, and having found new life and been baptized with fire and spirit, may make the world a new world, to the end that the old earth may disappear and the new earth appear; old ideas depart and new thoughts come; old garments be cast aside and new garments worn; ancient politics whose foundation is war be discarded and modern politics founded on peace raise the standard of victory.

Under One God

Jean Dixon, *My Life and Prophecies*

The day will come when religions as we know them today—Christian, Jew, Hindu, Buddhist—will be no more. We shall all be under one God.

[This is to come about after 1999, she predicts.]

The Most Important Study

The Universe is a non-dimensional continuum, in which the only Reality is the action of Creative Spirit.

And since Spirit is the sole Reality, the study of it is important.

Leave sticks and stones awhile; stop digging for dead bones; lift up your thoughts and seek to know the laws of Spirit.

These laws can lead us to successful fruition of our lives.

The Power of Love

Mankind is poorly equipped with the power of love. What is the best, the quickest way to develop this power of love throughout the world?

Montague Ashly, leading anthropologist, gives us the answer. The reason, he says, why so few people live and express love is because they did not experience and learn it in childhood.

He also says that to live as if "~~to live as if~~ to live and to love were synonymous" is normalcy for man.

Imagine the results in a world where children were conceived with true love, carried in pregnancy with love and prayer, born into the world with love, breast-nursed with love, and raised with love and prayer!

Science and Democracy

Parklow, "Man's Achievement"

For the last 5,000 years, men have had to deal with three main problems which still persist.

1. Science:—How to gain sufficient control over the natural world so that mankind would be freed from perpetual grinding labor in field and factory, and have some time and energy left for bringing joy and beauty into life.
2. Democracy:—How to regulate the relations between man and man so that all might have something like an equal opportunity to develop themselves in body, mind, and spirit.
3. World Unity:—How to regulate the relations between national, racial and religious groups so that all might live together in a spirit of good will.

Life on a New Dimension

By not owning anything we possess everything. That is the paradox of life which the prophets have been trying to teach us. There is a limited supply of what we can own, but there is no limit to what one can possess.

We possess beauty wherever and whenever we see it. It does not have to be in our own garden. It can be in our neighbors' gardens, or in public parks. It can

be on the horizon at sunset, or in the heavens on a starry night.

Life does not guarantee us a fortune. But we can live in amplitude and with a peaceful heart if we follow certain spiritual laws. Let us become channels through which the Divine Cosmic Life flows.

The Coming Race

A new race, more magnificently endowed, and more spiritually attuned to the Universe, is on the blueprints of Destiny.

Ambition, the will to succeed, has hitherto dominated human life on this planet. Aspiration, the will spiritually to develop and to serve, will be the dominant motivation of the future.

How can such a race be educated and trained by the old curriculum? Youth must be given a new vision of life, new directives, new knowledge of the Spirit, new conceptions of success.

The study of the science and history of the past is helpful, but this is not sufficient to create a better future. We shall also need vision and futurity. We shall need definite goals of a New World Order in order to inspire the motivations and actions of youth.

And in addition to the material sciences, we shall need to teach the Science of Spirit.

What is this Science of Spirit? That is for future man to ascertain and fervently apply to all life upon this planet.

The Advent of the Age of Spirit

Humanity will move from the present brilliant age of the perfecting of the intellect to a still more dazzling age of the perfecting of man's spirit.

When this maturity takes place and spirit comes to control all man's affairs, then life on this planet will become paradisaical and the Kingdom of God will be established.

From this inner spiritual perfecting will flow outer perfectings: world peace, world brotherhood, the equitable adjustment of the economic problem, world prosperity, and a general pervasiveness of universal culture.

Spiritual Healing

Winifred Willard

The Seventh Plane

To us here in the Seventh Plane and to some who seek earnestly while on earth to know the truth, this science of spiritual healing is not mysterious. It takes cognizance of the omnipotence of God and His omnipresence, and leads through physical needs and release from weakness, directly to spiritual strength and experience.

There is no more reason why the ills of the physical should not have the healing touch of the Master than

why earth men should lack any other good thing which He stands ready to offer.

It is the human that offers resistance, the human that questions and doubts and fears lest Omnipotence cannot touch the sick body into perfect health. Against that wall of resistance, the Divine will never impose its power.

Only as earth people seek physical wholeness through the acceptance of Omnipotent and Omnipresent desire to heal both body and soul, does the miracle occur.

What Is Existence?

What is existence? All existence is in reality divine. It is the cosmic pulsation of the Heart of God. Therefore we should constantly rejoice just to be alive; rejoice to be a conscious part of this universal Play of Life.

The lower forms of life respond joyously and with divine élan to cosmic existence. The birds express their existential happiness in song; the squirrels run agilely from tree to tree, enjoying their third dimensional activities; even the lowly crickets chirp in their gladness to be alive.

We should so live that merely to exist is gladness. We should feel a cosmic élan from an interior connection with the Essence of all Being. We should exist in a constant state of joyousness, a spiritual intoxication flowing daily from our love of God.

The World of Spirit

What is Spirit?

It is Supreme intelligence, love, and power.

Spirit is causal. All else in existence is caused and phenomenal.

Spirit is timeless and placeless. It never had a beginning, and will never have an ending. Actually, time with its beginning and ending is one of the illusions of the world of matter.

Spirit has no location. It is nowhere. Yet it is everywhere.

Spirit is Causal now, as much as it has ever been. Everything in the Cosmos is under the immediate sustenance and creativeness of Spirit; and everything is ruled by Spirit, except the free will which Spirit has given to man.

It is the aim of all religions to help man, as an individual, to subordinate himself to Spirit so as to receive Its continuous aid and increasing will for spiritual development.

The Revelators came to recall a wandering self-willed world to Spirit.

Rebirth is necessary to attain the full stature destined for man—his rightful heritage as a son of God.

The results of this birth into the world of Spirit is greater intelligence, love and power.

The Powers of the Solar Plexus

Abdu'l Bahá, in Tablets II

The powers of the sympathetic nervous system are neither purely physical nor purely spiritual, but are between the two. The nerve center is connected with both. Its phenomena shall be perfect when its spiritual and physical relations are perfect.

When the material world and the divine world are well correlated, perfect connection will take place. Then shall this power produce a perfect manifestation. Physical and spiritual diseases will then receive absolute healing.

The World's Need of Spiritual Leadership

"Within any appreciable period of time," says James Truslow Adams, "to expect the vast herd to reason like John Dewey is as irrational as to expect it to carve like Phideas or paint like Rembrandt. It will be guided by its desires and emotions."

How then will the world improve? How will the much needed new world order be achieved? The masses are always dependent upon leadership.

Only by means of a spiritual leadership endowed with Cosmic power can humanity be brought to travel the road of ultimate perfection.

The Mystic Oriental

Abraham Ribbany, *The Syrian Christ*

The Oriental mystic's relaxation and meditation are not the impromptu acts of a few moments snatched from a life of frantic activity. His whole life is the basis of his meditation. He does not consider that he lives to work. The thousand modern improvements do not cumber his life. The things of this world are of value to him, but not of supreme value. They come and go, but religion stays with him forever.

He is, as it were, educated for leisure. Both his soul and his body are turned to ease. And whenever he gives himself to intensive meditation, his bodily organs as well as mental facilities act with perfect obedience.

And when he is done with his special act of devotion, he does not step out into a world entirely at variance with his pious moments—not into a "secular world." The eternal reality embraces him, his home, his children, his people, his cattle, his business, and the whole world.

Not every Oriental is a constant meditative mystic, but to great and small among these people, the basis of life is "spiritual."

Better Health

In the future, average health will be much better than today, for the following reasons:

1. Better diets and health precautions.
2. The advance of medical science will prevent or better control most chronic and epidemic diseases.
3. A more spiritualized race will know how to avoid those negative and inharmonious conditions such as at present bring on psychosomatic illnesses, reckoned by health experts to constitute up to 80 per cent of all illnesses.
4. A spiritually advanced humanity will know how to draw directly upon the Universal Life Force in order to vitalize and revitalize themselves.

Art

What is art? Thought raised to an emotional height and expressed in terms of beauty.

What themes are worthy of art? Any themes. Wordsworth declared this gospel and made good in it. His "Daffodils" is immortal. Whitman carried this gospel still further in his poem on a pile of manure: "This Heap of Compost."

What subjects should a young writer choose? Anything that impresses him. If he is compelled to write about a seemingly commonplace subject, he should study it until he can see it from *an uncommon point of view*.

What are the forms we should use? Talent follows prescribed forms. Genius creates its own forms.

What is the place of art in life? To give aesthetic enjoyment, and to help form the ideals and goals of mankind. But the highest function of art, too little developed up to the present, is to spiritualize the human aura.

Art should not be merely an expression of the Zeitgeist. It should be a creative force leading humanity on to greater heights. It should have vision. Great art functions beyond the limitations of its environment and epoch.

What will be the future of art? The art of the future will be much more spiritual than today, or than in any past epoch. We are at the dawn of a new spiritual age. This will express itself in an art of transcendent beauty and spiritual power. The artist will constantly be aspiring for more spiritual vision, and will express in his art more and more noble ways of seeing life and of setting it forth in terms of Truth as well as of Beauty.

The Gifts of the Spirit

Dane Rudhyar

To pour one's creative energy in incessant yet discriminate giving, wherever there is need and in terms of the need, is to live life as the spirit. And to live as the spirit is to live by the spirit and for the spirit. It is indeed to be so identified with the rhythm and purpose of spirit that there is no longer any separateness from the need of every moment.

The Intuition

What is this strange sixth sense that gives us warnings; enables us to fathom the hidden reality of any person; helps in medical diagnosis; aids in the solutions of all problems; brings flashes of new scientific truths and discoveries; and is the dynamism back of all great art?

Intuition is a power of the soul. It is of supreme importance that we learn how to develop it. We must invite the soul and learn how to listen to the soul—which can itself, through soul-power, unite us with the Over-soul.

We will enumerate here three specially important uses of the intuition.

1. To analyze people one meets, especially with reference to our own relations with them. In the future deceitful and dishonest people will not flourish, because every one will have highly developed intuition and will be able to read them like a book.
2. To be aware of situations that are growing frictional or dangerous for us, and meet or heal them before any disadvantageous explosion occurs.
3. To find guidance when we need it in order to make decisions; or to be receptive to guidance as a warning, even when we are not consciously seeking it.

Guidance is, of course, closely connected to prayer and to meditation. In order to receive guidance, the mind and heart must become tranquil—like a quiet

lake which can reflect the stars. All desire must be stilled if we are to hear the still small voice of guidance.

Take time. Wait, if possible, upon decision until assurance and confirmation is reached. A definite feeling of peace and assurance will finally be felt. This feeling usually comes in the solar plexus, that remarkably sensitive secondary brain which runs to perfection our whole organism.

The Spirit of Life

Abdu'l Bahá

Divine Philosophy

The spirit of life is omnipotent, especially when it establishes a communication with God and becomes the recipient of the eternal light. Then it transforms itself into a ray of the effluence of the eternal sun.

This station is the greatest of all stations, for this connection of the spirit of man with God is like unto a mirror and the sun of reality is reflected in it. Thus it becomes the collective center of all the virtues; its emanation is the bestowal of the kindest of bestowers; its radiations are the manifold splendors of the infinite luminary; its sanctity is from the highest summit of divine grace. It signifies that the rays of the sun of reality are resplendent in the mirror and the attributes of the sun of reality are reflected therein.

This is the ultimate degree of human perfection, for the attainment of which the thinkers and philosophers of all time have longed and poets have dreamed. It is the mystery of mysteries and the light of lights wherein the spirit becomes eternal, self-subsistent, age-abiding.

The Biology of Ultimate Concern

Author Unknown

In every known human society peoples have arrived at some system of religious views concerning the meaning and proper conduct of their lives.

These different religious systems perform indispensable functions. Religion enables human beings to make peace with themselves and with the mysterious and formidable universe into which they were flung by a Power greater than themselves.

Religion has been a cultural universal in mankind, providing answers to the ineffable problems of human existence.

In progressive evolution, we find a competition for cooperativeness. There is also an evolution of love. Love ascends from sexual love to brotherly love, to love of mankind, to love of God.

Love unites without casting off the diversity. On the human level it is the means whereby a person, as well as the species, achieves self-transcendence.

Spirituality

Senior Gambetta of Uruguay

Spirituality dwells in the depths of silence, in that center toward which converges the essence of all things.

Spirituality does not audibly proclaim itself; if it does this, it is the inticement of the ego, which from vanity desires to be taken for spirituality.

Spirituality belongs to the condition of the ineffable. It is the essential of essentials of the human being, and lying hidden has to be discovered.

Just as life expresses itself in forms but is not form, so spirit expresses itself in action and is not the action itself.



The Sacredness of Individuality

All are born to be something. No one is born to be nothing. Some are born gentle and kindly, born to shed oil on troubled waters. Some are born aggressive, born to fight their way to position and power. Some are born to be chiefly thinkers, others born to be chiefly doers; these are the introverts and the extroverts, though we all have some of each quality in us.

Whatever our talents, whether it be one or ten, every man has yet a precious jewel in his head.

The Destined Meeting

"At last you come!"

"Have you been expecting me?"

"Yes."

"For how long?"

"Ever since I was born—perhaps earlier."

"But we are perfect strangers!"

"Not at heart."

"We have not even been introduced."

"Souls know each other."

"Are you glad we are together?"

"Yes, life is now fulfilled."

"But suppose we are forced to part?"

"In Spirit there is no parting, only awareness."

"You speak truth."

"Once we are aware, nothing can come between us."

"So be it!"

Man, Only, Is Both Objective and Subjective

Man is for the most part, like the rest of the created universe, objective; he is a recipient more than he is a cause.

But the miracle of man is, that he also has within himself a spark of the Subjective, the Causal, the Creative.

Therefore man's chief concern should be to nourish his subjective and causal nature until it becomes a greater motivating force in his life than the objective.

In this process he will become more godlike in his character and in his achievement.

Detachment Versus Renunciation

Detachment is the release from attachment. Renunciation is repudiation. Bahá'u'lláh, the Persian Prophet, condemned renunciation from the life of the world, but urged detachment from it. He disfavored asceticism and monasticism. His gospel was in effect:—Live in the world but be not subject to it. Work, earn and spend, but not in the way worldly people do. Work in the spirit of service, earn without greed, and spend without extravagance and vainglory.

This is what it is to be detached.

The best way to detachment is not by trying to get loose, but by sublimation in the love of God.

Cosmic Consciousness

One may by spiritual effort become a recipient of the Divine Love, and from that Infinite Source radiate this Love to all contacts, whether consciously or unconsciously.

Some, like Whitman, seem to be charged with this Cosmic Love, even without conscious application to its

laws. But Whitman's Cosmic power came to him as the result of dedicated sacrificial service in nursing the wounded soldiers of the Civil War and in tenderly companionship over the threshold of mortality. This service made him a semi-invalid for the rest of his life; but in compensation gave him that power which Bucke calls "cosmic consciousness."

Zen Teaches the Magic Power of Spirit

Zen teaches that by nourishing the spiritual self through meditation one may grasp the full meaning of existence and gain an extraordinary power available in the affairs of daily life.

By means of Zen training the Samurai of Japan became superlative archers and swordsmen. They could shoot the arrow with unwearying perfection and perform swordplay with a power beyond the ordinary.

This is because they were trained to let The Cosmic Mind shoot the arrow and wield the sword. Free of fear of death, the Zen swordsman didn't even bother to watch his opponent's sword. His own sword did the watching and seemingly "become fully alive, gave his owner the victory."

This magic power was not gained without rigorous physical and moral training. It was a rigorous regime, the purpose of which was to make the aspirant selfless and thus open to the guidance of the Cosmic Mind. "Emptiness" (of self) was the symbol of Zen.

In describing Zen meditation, Dogan—a master of Zen in the 13th Century—said: “Free yourself from all attachments and bring to rest the ten thousand things. Maintain the flow of the mind, of will, of consciousness (this is where Zen differs from Yoga); but bring to an end all desires, all concepts, all judgments.”

It is by this process that the individual joins the Universal and temporarily becomes merged in it, with resulting serenity and renewed power of achievement.

Zen practices that “effortless action” which Taoism taught. The lofty teaching of Laotze, merging with the spiritual concepts of Buddhism, flowered into one of the world’s most mystically practical religions, Zen.

The World of Spirit

The World of Spirit is a very delicate mechanism—a vast complexity operating with infinite precision. We are, as a human race, just beginning our conscious and purposeful adventuring into it. It is no wonder we do not fully understand Its laws and Its potentialities. Here is a rich field for research in the coming age.

The material universe has been marvelously explored by science, its laws discovered and made use of. But man has never yet explored the laws of the Spiritual Universe. Since Spirit is the Causal factor of existence Its laws are more important to discover than the laws of that phenomenal universe which is under the direction of Spirit.

The Spiritual Life can and should be from now on studied with the same scientific observation as has in the past explored the laws of nature.

This can be done. When once the laws of Spirit, as observed and verified, can be scientifically proclaimed to humanity, scepticism and cynicism will yield place to a scientifically proclaimed faith. In that day intellectuals will also be agents of the Spirit.

Spiritual Healing

Science remains vigorously opposed to any recognition of spiritual healing, for two reasons: first, because here is a phenomenon that runs contrary to all known laws; and secondly, because spiritual healing is hardly admissible of proof by experimentation. A doctor can use an inoculation on a hundred patients in succession, and be 100 per cent successful. But a spiritual healer, applying himself to 100 invalids, may do well if he cures ten. Yet these ten cures are an extraordinary blessing to those cured.

The power of spiritual healing exists, and it is capable of immeasurable and seemingly miraculous blessings to humanity. A thorough scientific study of spiritual healing should include a careful study of the failures and their proportions in the cases tried.

It is not enough to present some striking cases of healing, though this itself is of great importance. Investigation should be made as to how many in a hun-

dred cases are successful. Then an attempt should be made to find out, if possible, what were the factors of failure as contrasted with the factors of success.

Schools of spiritual healing which reject medical science have brought the phenomenon of spiritual healing into disrepute. It is not necessary to reject the aid of those great remedial studies that have blessed the world ever since the days of Aesculous.

Why not use both methods? And don't wait until medical science fails to diagnose or cure. Make use of spiritual reality at any time as a marvelous additive to medical treatment.

But the use of spiritual power for the healing of diseases is not so important, however, as *the use of spiritual power to prevent disease*. Most of our illness—from 50 to 80 per cent as variously estimated by the medical profession—are psychosomatic. How important it is, then, to so regulate our lives spiritually as to avoid those frictions, animosities, fears and other negative conditions such as are apt to bring upon us illnesses of one kind or another.

We should use spirituality as a prophylactic, as a kind of preventative medicine. Why wait to get ill? A buoyant and equable temperament such as true spirituality confers is the best safeguard against disease.

Not only does spiritual power tend to prevent disease. It can also be drawn upon daily to increase our energy, to revitalize us and renew our strength. That

Cosmic Energy which is back of all life and growth—from mineral to man—can be drawn upon by prayer and conscious effort to reinforce and increase our normal life force. The energy of the soul can build up and fortify the physical instrument it daily uses.



Spiritual Education

Education should teach us the true nature of ourselves and the true nature of the Universe. It should make clear the dual nature of the soul—its potential downwards as well as upwards; that man can become lower than the beasts, or he can strive to develop his soul to such a point of habitual nobility that it would be impossible for him to act degradingly.

Education should teach us the nature of and the power of Spirit and how to avail ourselves of this. We study minutely the nature of the material universe in order to successfully adapt ourselves to it, and in order to adapt it to our own needs and uses in a successful manner.

How much more important it is to study the nature of the Spiritual Universe in order to adapt ourselves to It and to avail ourselves of its Power to bless our lives—to make our lives more harmonious, more happy and more noble.

Spiritual Man Can Modify Events

Not only does spiritual man respond intuitively to what is awaiting him in life, and orient himself accordingly. But on an inner plane, without any direct intervention, he can in certain directions polarize and modify the course of events by the intensity of his prayers, dedications, aspirations and resolutions.

For man is not confronted with a universe merely mechanical in its operations.

Spiritually Developed People

Realize yourself as spirit under all circumstances. Then you will handle equably and serenely every situation that arises.

Spiritually developed people are seldom disconcerted, seldom thrown off balance. Nor do they allow themselves to be brought into a disturbed upset state of mind and soul. Their nerves seldom jangle.

This perfect balance exerts a miraculous effect upon the nervous system and on the whole physique. Every organ functions smoothly and normally, as intended by the Creator.

This is why spiritually developed people live more happily and serenely, and also more healthily to a ripe and fruitful age.

For man is not body only. Nor body and mind only.

His whole organism—body and mind—needs the regulatory influence of spirit. When this occurs—when body, mind and soul are overshadowed by spirit—health prevails and the way is opened to successful living.

The Power of the Inner Eye

Anne Morrow Lindbergh

Edward Sheldon (invalided and retired playwright) lived over 20 years lying paralyzed in a New York penthouse. He had the most uncanny powers of preception. He seemed to have developed senses of apprehension unknown to the normally endowed person.

The moment you walked into his room, he knew all about you—inwardly and outwardly. The sense of eternity in which he lived was focused to the people who sat with him.

Dynamic Causation

Dynamic is the force of Nature;
Dynamic is the urge of love;
Dynamic is the creative fire.

None action is both caused and causal.
Everything else in the universe
Is the effect of these causations.

Communion

Communion is contact of spirit human with Spirit Divine, asking only that the wisdom, peace and high consciousness of the Divine be imparted to the earth person which needs such power.

Real communion changes life as no other thing can do. It takes away the superficial, the unworthy and the temporary, giving in exchange consciousness of power for every need and sure knowledge of the presence of God in the heart every moment of the day and the night.

Communion is utter silence when the human merges with the Divine and values of life are changed, standards altered and God fills the heart to overflowing.

Forgetting Our Own Identity

When we seek to lose ourselves in meditation, let us first realize that all existences is the flow of Divine Love, Beauty and Power.

Let us forget matter, for it has no essential reality. Let us rise above the plane of matter to the plane of Spirit.

Let us feel that we have become merged in this world of Spirit—so much so that we forget our own identity to lose ourselves in that Infinite Identity called God.

In human love we joy to lose ourselves in the beloved. With Divine Love the mystic joys to lose himself in the Eternal Beloved.

The Realization of Existence

No one can deny that we are a part of existence. But how, in what way, are we connected with it? Unless we have developed spiritually we move as a part of a vast Cosmic mechanism, more or less the creatures of circumstance.

But spiritual man knows how to rise above this circumstantial phenomenal plane in such a way as to connect himself with the operative power plane of the universe. When he connects himself with the Divine Operative Force of existence he is no longer the creature of circumstance, but a cosmically guided and empowered being.



The Practice of the Presence of God

Marcus Bach

In my spiritual pilgrimage to Haifa I learned from Madame Rabbani (wife of Shoghi Effendi) and Dr. Hakim that prayer and earnest practice of the presence of God are basic in the Bahá'í Faith.

I was informed that a Bahá'í is not a true Bahá'í unless a consciousness of God is effected in him by the well-known formula—meditation, contemplation, reflection.

The Kingdoms of the earth are passing away, and the Kingdom of God is in the making.

Spirit as Universal Causation

Spirit is causal. Therefore it should have priority over all other forms of investigation of existence. Spirit is the vital essence of existence of which all forms, all phenomena are its manifest expression. Matter itself is only Spirit in disguise.

Inventive man builds a huge factory, equipped with innumerable machines every detail of which must be known and understood by the operating staff. But back of these machines and transfusing them must be that invisible and mysterious creative operative power, for the sake of which these very machines were built.

So the universe as a whole is discovered by modern science to be reducible, in its lowest terms, to Power. What this Power is mystifies the materialistic scientist, who yet manages to utilize it in innumerable ways of benefit to mankind.

If we could but realize and learn how to avail ourselves of this Power, mankind would be on the way to spiritual as well as to phenomenal perfection.

Two Sciences

Man finds himself, by means of a birth unwilled on his part, plunged into existence in the midst of the Universe. What is he to do about it?

The first thing to do is to decide whether this Universe is hostile, neutral or benevolent. If benevolent,

how can we connect with this Power so as to enhance our potency of achievement?

The material sciences have explored the nature of the world around us in such a way as to greatly increase the material values of life. The spiritual scientist must now explore the spiritual world in order to discover and apply the splendid values of the spiritual Cosmos.

Men and Monkeys

"Man is in many ways the most wretched of the animals of the planet," says Leonard Williams in "The Monkey Mind."

This is because man, having been given the gift of free will, a power more dangerous than nuclear power, has so separated himself from Spirit that in pursuing many dangerous whims he has blasted his life.

Animals act wisely, precisely and perfectly because they operate under constant Cosmic Guidance. They eat and live happily because of this perfectional instinctive guidance.

Man, after trying out many pitfalls of egotism, can gain perfection of action and happiness of life by seeking consciously that Cosmic Guidance which the animals unconsciously obey.

Mankind has today reached the nadir, the lowest point in his destined separation from Spirit. Now, at the dawn of the New Day, he must begin the upward climb, his destined ascent to Spirit and reunion with It.

The Power of Love

Robert French Leavens

Naught can endure which has not its foundations on
love.

For love alone diminishes not but shines with its own
light;

Makes an end of discord;

Softens the fires of hate;

Restores peace to the world;

Brings together the sundered;

Redresses wrong and injures none.

And who so invokes its aid will find peace and safety

And have no fear of the future.

Therefore in our hearts may there be the love which
seeketh not its own, suffereth long, hopeth, believeth,
endureth all things. By the power of that love may the
dissensions of earth be reconciled and the children of
men be drawn together in unity and purpose. May we
live as members of one family, with the one heart and
mind to serve the commonwealth of man and nations.

How to Stay Young

The famous geologist Wallace Atwood was once
asked how it was that at the age of 84 he was just as
much excited over a new find as when he was young.

Atwood replied: "The secret is, never to lose the
power of wonder at the mystery of the universe. If you
keep that power, you stay young. If you lose it, you
die."

How Long Will Chaos Reign?

Shoghi Effendi

Never indeed, have there been such widespread and
basic upheavals, whether in the social, economic or
political sphere of human activity as those now going
on in different parts of the world. Never have there
been so many and varied sources of danger as those
that now threaten the structure of society.

The following words of Bahá'u'lláh are indeed sig-
nificant as we pause to reflect upon the present state of
this strangely disordered world: "How long will humanity
persist in its waywardness? How long will injustice
continue? How long is chaos and confusion to reign
among men? How long will discord agitate the face of
society? The winds of despair are, alas, blowing from
every direction, and the strife that divides and afflicts
the human race is daily increasing. The signs of im-
pending convulsions and chaos can now be discerned,
inasmuch as the prevailing order appears to be lament-
ably defective."

Forerunners of a New Race

S. Radbakriohnan

Late Vice President of India

To be inspired in our thoughts by divine knowledge,
to be moved in our will by the divine purpose, to mold
our emotions into harmony with divine bliss, to get at

the great self of truth, goodness and beauty to which we give the name of God as a spiritual presence, to raise out whole being and life to the divine status, is the ultimate purpose and meaning of a human being.

Some exceptional individuals have achieved this status and harmony. They are the highest type of humanity yet reached, and indicate the final shape which humanity has to assume. They are the forerunners of the new race.

These men with wisdom and vitality, constant awareness and unremitting social effort, are not members of limited groups based on blood and soil, but citizens of a world yet unborn, still in the womb of time.

The Scientific Study of Spiritual Forces

Charles Steinmetz, the world's greatest electrical genius, once wrote:

"The greatest discovery of the next 50 years will be along spiritual lines. Here is a force which history clearly states has been the greatest power in the development of man. Some day the scientists of the world will turn to the study of the spiritual forces. When this day comes, the world will see more advancement in one year than it has in the past four."

Charles Steinmetz had the privilege of showing Abdu'l Bahá through the General Electric works

in Schenectady. Rev. Moore, Unitarian Clergyman of that city, told us that he had witnessed Abdu'l Bahá elucidating electricity to Steinmetz "so that Steinmetz's jaw dropped open to eagerly absorb all that Abdu'l Bahá had to tell him." Yet Abdu'l Bahá had never been to school or college, had no books or magazines during his 40 years of imprisonment in Acca. Whence was derived the knowledge imparted to Steinmetz in Schenectady in 1912?

If the reader will ponder over this, he may be able to increase his own intuitive awareness of existence.



The Spiritual Path

The path it is expected of all mankind to follow is the attainment of the realization of the Divinity of Life. We should realize the universal, transcendent and imminent presence of God—at all times and in all things and places. As Brother Lawrence put it: "The practice of the Presence of God—Religion has no other purpose than this."

We must see God as the sole Reality. When we thus reduce all matter and all people into God-terms, everything seems different. If we learn how to see material situations as Divine opportunities, all difficulties vanishes. Life flows, as in a fairy tale, into success after success. And when we learn how to see God in all individuals, human friction vanishes and life becomes celestially harmonious.

So the first directive for successful living is: FIND GOD.

"Our perception, our inward sight must be opened so that we can see the signs and traces of God's spirit in everything, "Says Abdu'l Bahá. "Everything can reflect to us the light of the spirit."

The Limitations of Reason

Reason cannot know. It can only surmise and deduce, but it cannot know.

The reason functions on the conscious level. Its highest point is at the borderline of the intuitive mind, which functions on the superconscious level and can gain direct knowledge from the Universal.

The work of the intellect is labored and prone to error. But the work of the intuition is characterized by immediacy and a hundred per cent perfection.

How to Avoid Fatigue

Freedom from self and a humility that sees itself as a channel only, such spiritual attributes enhance the power of performance and avoid unnecessary fatigue.

Zen Buddhism trained medieval archers in Japan to shoot for hours without undue fatigue or any loss of accuracy. No other system was able to do this. The

Zen archer had a mastery supreme over every other archer in the world.

How did this mastery come about? Zen archers were severely trained to let go of the ego, to sacrifice all self-seeking, and to let It shoot the arrow.

What is that "It?" There is no use in asking a Zen teacher this question. He will not tell you. He will not even try to tell you. The very attitude of mind which makes one ask this question will prevent one from attaining Zen.

How to Overcome Inharmony

1. See if inharmony which is starting to arise is in any degree your fault.
2. Try to see the other person's point of view. He also thinks he is in the right.
3. Be willing to compromise. Don't expect 100 per cent right to prevail. No government could run for a single day if it did not exercise a judicious system of compromise.
4. Pray for Divine aid and put everything in Divine hands.
5. Try to radiate Cosmic love.

Not under any circumstances should inharmony continue. Every human problem can be solved, Hold faith that the right will prevail. But this does not necessarily mean that *you* will prevail.

The Master Intelligence

Christopher Hills

1. A Master Intelligence operates at the Centre of all things.
2. Individual and group minds are extensions of this Master Intelligence.
3. When individual man surrenders his personal ego he rises to this all-pervading Intelligence.
4. Attunement to this Master Intelligence is essential for human fulfillment.
5. Focussed attention in meditation is necessary for attunement and resonance with this Universal Intelligence.
6. Individual attunement is the conscious intentional awareness and sensitivity to this Intelligence in all things.
7. When a person has tapped this Cosmic Intelligence, he becomes capable of utilizing the supramental energies, as willed by the Divine Wisdom.
8. If a global network of spiritual personalities *unites* to draw upon these energies and focus them with a unified purpose, such as the restructuring of social goals and methods of government, the world will be altered at once and man's evolution will leap to its next plateau.

Note [Christopher Hills is a man supremely dedicated to the spiritual development of mankind. Some years ago he sold his business in Jamaica, W. I. and since then has been devoting his life to the establishment of spiritual centers throughout the world, one of which is already in existence. It has been our privilege to know Christopher Hills personally and to have been able to render him some slight assistance in his global work.]



A New Kind of Thinking

A new kind of thinking—ordinary rationalization interpenetrated and fused with intuitional power. Then, instead of the intuition coming to the aid of the reason after reason has futilely exhausted its powers, the intuition—fusing and firing the mental powers—will act with them in partnership.

The superior thinker, then, will be the man who combines intuitional and rationalizational processes in all his thinking, in all his investigations of reality, in all his judgments. And that magical quality of immediacy in intuition will enable swift and accurate judgments concerning all things.

Such will be the nature of future spiritually developed man. Then the mind, suffused with spirit, will evidence a new power, hitherto the privilege only of

those darlings of the gods, the world's great geniuses—the Platos, the deVincis, the Shakespeares.

That is what the Persian seer, the Bab, meant when he said that the children of the future would be endowed with that power now specialized in the genius type.

Universal Man

A new type of man is arising on our planet—universal man! He is master of all the phenomenal world because his inner being has expanded into the consciousness of the Universal and he lives in unity and harmony with the Universal.

More important still, he is master of his inner world; because he subordinates its development to the Supreme Master and takes his directives from the True One.

Become Like One of These

Nineteen hundred and seventy years ago a Child was born to the world who changed its whole destiny. When this divine Child grew to manhood and took up His mission of peace and love to the world, He took little children in His arms and blessed them.

To adults who endeavored to hold back the eager children from His arms, He said: "Suffer the little children to come unto me and forbid them not, for of such

is the Kingdom of Heaven. Verily, I say unto you, their angels do constantly behold the face of their Father who is in Heaven."

Therefore we should love each little child, even before as well as after it is born. And as it develops we should try to see the scintillescence of its inner being, its personality, its angelic soul which is in infancy so near to God.

Our friend Dawn Edwards' little daughter at the age of five could see auras, had definite premonitions, and told her mother that the diet of angels was air and light, color and music.

Divine Love

The curfew bells will always ring
And gladden hearts will always sing
When Divine Love is near.
Then take me in your arms again
And let the holy kisses rain,
And stay forever here.

Man of the Future

There will always be differences in human nature. Some will be more brilliant than others, some more creative, some more harmoniously disposed, some more innately generous, some more spiritually receptive from their very birth, some destined it would seem to saintliness. And such gradations prevail down-

wards as well, but it is unnecessary to list this scale of negative qualities; suffice it to say they also exist.

This subtle gradation of humanity, these echelons of rank, almost as in military organizations, must be understood by any who work to reform, advance and ameliorate human nature on this planet.

At no time within any possibility of conception will all people be good. Nor will there be any time within the range of our imagination when all people will be spiritual.

But when the world's leadership is sufficiently spiritual, when the acceptable norm is the spiritually developed man, as the norm under Confucianism was the "superior man" and the norm in Victorian England was the "gentlemen," these norms—even if not practiced in wholesale—will yet exert a very beneficial influence and help mold society into superior patterns.

Picture to yourself the most likeable and perfect human beings you have known. Men and women full of love and harmony, faithful to their duties and happy in the performance of them; sensitive to beauty in nature, art, and people; endowed even in the ordinary life with a joyousness that is contagious, and wise with a cosmic wisdom, such that their utterances seem to radiate with truth.

Now conceive that you lived daily in the midst of such a group. What would such daily life be like? Would it not resemble the Golden Age of mythology,

the utopias of world dreamers, and that celestial perfection of humanity idealized as the Kingdom of God on earth?

But this is not a visionary expectation. If many individuals today become perfect, the majority become so tomorrow.

Why Not Try Love?

Emerson

We think our civilization near its meridian, but we are only yet at the cock-crowing of the morning star. In our barbarous society the influence of character is in its infancy. The power of love, as the basis for a State, has never been tried.

Absorption

Whenever you are absorbed in something wonderfully lovely and inspiring—whether in nature, music or human love—you are having a bit of spiritual experience. For in this absorption you are escaping the tyranny of the ego. You are partaking, to a slight degree, of the Universal.

The purpose of religious meditation is to deliberately create a condition of selfless detachment from earthly ties, so as to bring about that mystic union of the soul with the Universal which is the ultimate gift of individuality.

The Power of Enthusiasm

Norman Vincent Peale

I think enthusiasm is one of the most important qualities anyone can have. It transforms people and their lives as well. It can even stimulate health.

A leading physician recently told me he had actually seen people die, not due to organic reasons, but basically because they had lost their enthusiasm. Had they only possessed the zest for life that enthusiasm connotes, they would have had the will to live. Then they could have risen above the physical difficulties that otherwise killed them.

In a sense, then, enthusiasm is an elixir of life.

And this is exactly what the Bible tells us to do when it says: "This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it."

Postulates of the Spirit

1. Spirit is the causal Reality of the Cosmos.
2. Matter is Spirit in disguise.
3. Matter is subject to Spirit in all things.
4. Spirit can manipulate matter.
5. Spirit operates under the law of love, service, and self-sacrifice.
6. Man has worked seeming miracles functioning as intelligence; he can work still greater miracles in the coming age functioning as Spirit.

How Intuition Aids the Scientist

"We spend many long hours and days working at a problem and frequently getting nowhere," says physicist Yang. "But then, one day at dinner or while mowing the lawn, suddenly something occurs to you and there it is—beautiful, elegant, simple."

The Favors of Destiny

Destiny unevenly distributes her favors. Why is this? Who can say? We may accuse Destiny of unfairness. But this will do us no good.

We cannot change the laws of Destiny. And it were best to avoid bitterness over these apparently unfair bestowals. For by bitterness against Destiny we do not harm Destiny, but only ourselves.

If we could see into those fixed laws of Destiny with true enough vision we might see therein a supreme immutable wisdom. And turning within our own selves, we can best profit by seeking both to perfect ourselves and to enlarge and invalidate our sphere of human action. And in doing this, we must learn how to make life yield us an increment of happiness.

For joy is the birthright of every human being. Just to normally live and function should and can be joyous.

We have it in our power to derive joys from the process of daily living. If we do not, it is our own fault, not the fault of Destiny.

As a Man Thinketh

James Allen

Suffering is always the result of wrong thought in some direction. It is an indication that the individual is out of harmony with himself, with the Law of his being.

The sole and supreme use of suffering is to purify and burn out all that is useless and impure. Suffering ceases for him who is pure. There could be no object in burning gold after the dross has been removed.

The Universe does not favor the greedy, the dishonest, the vicious, although on the mere surface it sometimes seems to do so. It helps the honest, the magnanimous, the virtuous. All the great teachers of the ages have declared this in various forms.



The Universal

Don't assert yourself.

Assert the Universal.

Be a channel for the Universal.

Let it flow through you for the benefit of others.

When you become a pure channel, instead of straining the use of your own limited powers, you will not become exhausted.

You will be continually refreshed.

The Glorious Future for America

Emil, Sage of the Himalayas
As told to Baird T. Spaulding

America is destined to be the guide to the whole world. Consider the history of your nation. There is not a parallel in the history of the nations of the whole earth. Can you doubt that it is the Great Omnipotent God guiding your destiny?

Great mistakes have been made by your nation in the past, because you have not realized your spiritual import. And the vast majority are still in the material.

But now we look forward to the age which is dawning, the Age of Crystal, the pure white light of Spirit. This morn is now dawning.

When your nation recognizes its true estate or mission, and joins hands with Spirit and expresses as God wishes it to express, or lets the Spirit unfold from within, then we can see for your great nation a marvel far transcending the power of any human tongue to describe.

The Gift of the Holy Spirit

Parley P. Pratt

The Holy Spirit quickens all the intellectual facilities, expands and purifies all the natural passions and affections and adapts them, by the gift of wisdom, to their lawful use.

It inspires, develops, cultivates and matures all the fine-toned sympathies, joys, tastes, and affections of our nature.

It inspires virtue, kindness, goodness, tenderness, guileness and charity. It develops beauty of person, form, and features.

It tends to health, vigor, animation, and social feeling. It develops and invigorates all the faculties of the physical and intellectual man. It strengthens, invigorates, and gives tone to the nerves.

In short, it is, as it were, marrow to the bone, joy to the heart, light to the eyes, and life to the whole being.



The Unity in Spirituality

There are many varieties of religious belief and practice; but there is only one kind of spirituality. Religionists can argue and oppose one another within their varied and nonunitable fields of thought and action. But spirituality developed people know one another at first sight, as fellow citizens of the Spiritual Commonwealth.

The various religions of the world will grow nearer and nearer together and establish fellowship one with another in proportion as they find a common ground in the true life of the Spirit.

It is essential that spiritual unity should ultimately envelope the world. As there is only one universal spread and charting for science, so there needs to be one universal rule and spread of spirit.

The ultimate destiny of life upon this planet is that of a universally spiritualized humanity. This is the final stage of our planetary evolution.

Directives for Successful Living

If I were asked to give young people directives for successful living, I would recite Christ's parable of the lily, which toiled not, neither did it spin, yet was arrayed more gloriously than Solomon.

This can happen to man, too, if he lives constantly under the Divine Guidance. "Seek ye first the Kingdom of Heaven and all these things shall be added unto you."

What does it mean—to seek the Kingdom of Heaven? It means that all our thoughts, motives, and actions should be right, should be spiritual. When this comes to pass we are helped in marvelous ways to achieve our ends. It is as if we possessed an Aladdin's lamp. A magical power and guidance shall flow into our lives. We do not have to toil unendingly. Everything flows.

So my advice to youth is very simple: "Seek ye first the Kingdom of Heaven, and all these things shall be added unto you."

Perfection of Life

As we observe the life of the wild animal, we find it to be universally characterized by precision, speed as needed, and perfect harmony of action.

Would it not be wonderful if we humans could operate in this perfect fashion? Yet this is the possibility that Laotze envisioned in his Tao, the gospel of effortless action: "Nature never strains to do anything, yet without strain She accomplishes everything."

What is the matter with us humans? Have we lost an art of living which we once had in a more primitive life? It would seem so.

Savages live more in rapport with Nature than we do. And the more primitive the savage, the more closely is he bound with Nature—endowed to a large degree with those magic qualities of the animal described above.

What has happened is that man, in the intoxication of finding his intellect, has abandoned those pristine powers with which he—as all the rest of natural life—is innately endowed.

Not until modern man progresses past his intellect can he recapture the beauty and perfection of wild and natural action.

Spiritually evolved man will use his intellect simply as a tool to help fulfill his needs. But he will know how to merge himself by conscious effort in the Universal, as the animal does unconsciously as a gift of God.

There is no power life has ever had which will be lost in the final fruition and consummation of our planetary destiny.

Man, too, can act with that precision and perfection which intuitional guidance gives to the animal. He can act without strain and with a tireless rhythm when he draws, as the animal does, upon the Cosmic forces.

Such perfection of development awaits man when his major efforts are on the spiritual rather than on the intellectual plane.

Finding One's Place in the World

The first major problem that confronts youth is to find his proper place in the world's work. Since the working day absorbs half of man's waking hours, it is important that we find the line of work best adjusted to our gifts and abilities; the kind of work in fact that we can enjoy.

How can we know what this will be, what vocational destiny it is that awaits us? The question which helps to solve this problem is: What do you like best to do? Usually some proclivity or proclivities will start to show early. But if they do not, one should not be discouraged. Many men of great achievement have not discovered early in life their destined careers.

After starting in on one's life work, the qualities that assure success are loyalty to the task, responsibility, integrity, wholesome living, the development of a nature harmonious in all its human relationships.

And most important of all, for outer as well as inner success, is the development of a spiritually motivated and spiritually guided personality. Let us enumerate a few spiritual groups who, because of their spirituality, attained to a general success on the material plane far surpassing the human average.

These are the Quakers, the Huegenots, the Parsis, the Mormans, the Christian Scientists. Indisputably, the members of these groups have been notable for their material success.

Why is this? It is because from the very beginning of their lives these men did not waste their energies on profligate living. Secondly, because they had an outstanding integrity. Thirdly, because they had a sense of responsibility to their work which gave them a superior power of application. And lastly, and most important of all, because they knew how to draw to themselves spiritual guidance and support.

Greed in Chimpanzees

A strange scientific experiment was recently made by sociologists with tame chimpanzees. They were introduced into a money economy by an ingenious system of giving them poker chips for good behavior, which they were able to exchange for food and goodies.

When they discovered that they could accumulate these chips, and that one chimpanzee could be richer than another, the corrupting influences of greed began to set in. Chimps that had previously been friendly with

each other began to become covetous, or suspicious of neighbors. Subtle bullying became rampant. The desire to accumulate chips subverted the whole social structure.

How long is humanity going to remain on the emotional plane of the ape? How long is greed going to be rampant? The present steadily increasing power of greed threatens our whole economic structure, and even more seriously our spiritual structure.

If the biologists could rid our physique of that last remnant of the ape, the coccyx, perhaps we could begin to live as humans were designed to live—men made in the image of God.



From the Koran

SURA LVII

All that is in the Heavens of the Earth
praiseth God, and He is the Mighty, the Wise.
He is the Kingdom of the Heavens and the Earth;
He maketh alive and killeth; and He has power over
all things.
He is the First and the Last; the Seen and the
Hidden; and He knoweth all things.
And wherever ye are, He is with you.
His is the Kingdom of the Heavens and the Earth;
and to God shall all things return.

How Genius Works

The creative work of genius is an outpouring like lava from a hot volcano; or rather, as the songs of the bird erupt at twilight.

There is something in genius that has to come forth. The genius has a surplus of creativity which has to erupt. And this creative outpouring, let it be noted, is not due to external but to internal conditions. It is truly a case of internal combustion.

The genius does not create in compensation for a physical deformity, as the psychiatrists like to claim; nor because his childhood was unhappy. He creates because he has to create.

In connection with genius we should study that strange power of the intuition, which bestows a quality of greatness upon all inspired work, allying genius with a superpower. This is a mystic work area which defies the study of the psychologist.

Genius is inclined to be neurotic. But it is not neuroticism which causes genius. It is the nature of genius which frequently brings about neurotic conditions by worrying and overwork. For it must be realized that the genius is extraordinarily sensitive. That is part of his equipment as a genius. It is difficult for him to fit into the organized life of the world. Friction often arises, and neuroticism. But these are the concomitants and not the causes of genius.

But because of his immense contributions to society, society forgives everything in the genius.

The Spiritual Climb

Dionysius the Areopagite

By prayer and by cultivation and development of the powers of his soul, man becomes invested with a Singular Energy. He attains a true realization of the Supreme Being by means of contemplation.

Then, by the passive stillness of all his reasoning powers, united by his highest faculty to Him that is wholly unknowable—by this rejection of all knowledge man possesses a knowledge that exceeds his understanding.

Leave all things of this world of nothingness and strain toward a union with Him whom neither Being nor understanding can contain. For by the increasing absolute renunciation of thyself and all things, so shalt thou be led upwards to that Ray of Divine Love which exceedeth all existence.

[Note: "Areopagus," one of the greatest of the Christian mystics, flourished around the middle of the third century. For centuries he was identified with Areopagus the Athenian whom Paul converted to Christianity. This is, however, not the actual case. The true identity of this great mystic—who united the deepest truths of Neoplatonism with the truths of Christianity—may never be known. From the above quotation, it is evident that "Areopagus" would not regret this strange anonymity.]



Smile Through Your Tears

We have got to learn how to smile through our tears. This is a spiritual necessity. It is a necessary part of our earthly development and brings its own great rewards here and hereafter.

It is only when the heavens weep that the celestial rainbow transcends the earth and all that is therein.

Universal Man

Abdu'l Bahá

“When man associates himself with the Word of God, this association of the part with the Whole endows him with the Whole; and this Union of the Particular with the Universal makes him all-in-all.”

The Mind in the Life of Man

Ludwig Klages

Independent mind was born of Life as a tool. Life wanted to use it. But detached from Life it becomes concerned with its own creations, ignores Life, and proceeds to destroy itself.

Man's great forthcoming change is, that having seen this problem, he will place Life in the position of primacy where it belongs and he will dedicate the use of mind to the necessities of Life.

A Remarkable Case of Spiritual Healing

An interesting case of combined surgical and spiritual healing which occurred in France in the 16th Century is told by Kenneth Walker in *The Story of Medicine* (Arrow Books, London, 1954). Ambroise Pare, who had worked himself up from humble position to being the most noted surgeon of France, was sent by the King to look after Marquis d'Aurel, who for seven months had been going from bad to worse from a compound fracture of the thigh. His medical attendants had given up all hope by the time Pare arrived; and Pare himself regretted having to be connected with such hopeless case, far gone in the poisoned condition of a prolonged sepsis.

“I found him,” he writes, “in high fever, his eyes sunken deep, with a moribund and yellowish face, his tongue dry and parched, and the whole body wasted and lean, the voice low, as of a man very near death.”

What a desperate case this was to undertake! His thigh was “much inflamed, suppurating and ulcerated, discharging a greenish and very offensive sanies. There was a large cavity in the middle of the thigh and another round the knee and several scales of bone loose.”

Pare was staggered by this situation. He felt helpless to effect a cure, yet it was his duty to do his best. So he decided to put the case in God's hands.

“Having seen him, I went for a walk in the garden,

and prayed God to show me this grace, that he should recover; and to bless our hands and our medicants to cure such a complication of disease. And I turned in my mind what measures I must take in this case."

Evidently Pare was guided to take the right measures, first and most important of which was to revive in the patient hope and the will to live. In order to give him courage and good hope and the will to live, Pare told him that he would soon set him on his legs, by the grace of God and the help of his physicians and surgeons.

After months of arduous and careful surgical work and diet the miracle of recovery occurred, partial at first but in due time complete.

"God cured him," the noted surgeon modestly said.

How much of the cause of final healing was due to medication, how much to nature, and how much to the God who works in and through nature, we can never tell, either in this case or in countless others of like nature.

But this case has historic value in its heartening evidence of the harmonious and successful union of piety with science to effect a cure.

In the not too far distant future, all medical men will turn to God as well as to drugs to speed their service to the great Cause of Health.



Beauty

Abdu'l Bahá

True beauty is a spiritual essence—a mirroring on the earthly plane of the Realities as they exist in a diviner world.



Beauty

O you tall grass
Waving gracefully in the summer wind,
Do you ever wonder whence comes this wind?
Has it a location?
Or is it everywhere at once?

O man revelling in this graceful play of the grass,
Do you wonder where beauty comes from?
Has it an ancestral home?
Or is it universal,
A Cosmic Presence that underlies all existence?



Closeness to Nature

Professor Bronosovitch

The birds I watch in Central Park express the Life Force at its best and purest. Their dynamic positive psyche expresses the harmony of the self and flow of life. We must learn to acquire a truly spiritual attitude which will come from closeness to nature.

Progress

We may safely assume, with the full sanction of science, that progress inheres in the very nature of things. This is a comforting thought—a bed-rock foundation for optimism, effort and achievement. There are indeed no scientific grounds for that facile cynicism which would look upon the universe as a fortuitous event. The infinite order-in-complexity of the universe could no more have come about accidentally than a font of type dropped accidentally upon the floor could have assembled itself into the wisdom and beauty of Shakespeare.

Progress is inherent in the universe, but it is not guaranteed to any particular part of it. Especially are guarantees of Destiny lacking as regards our moral and spiritual evolution. The sources of progress here lie within ourselves.

As Ouspensky points out in his "Tertium Organum," in producing "homo sapiens" natural evolution has fulfilled its destined goal. Further progress in man can result, not from designs of nature, but from man's own efforts. Humanity's moral and spiritual progress must stem from the human will, persistently directed and exercised in the direction of such progress.

Humanity has reached its pinnacle of intellectual development, but it is only at the kindergarten stage of its spiritual development. It is towards spiritual heights that mankind must now aspire and strive.

What Is the Nature of This Miraculous Power?

Years ago, I witnessed the vaudeville performance of a Hindu who could cube on the spot any number of three digits presented to him. I gave him a three digit number and took down his answer, as well as some of his answers to other numbers given him. When I got home I worked out these problems on paper and found that all of his answers had been correct.

A still more remarkable case of mathematical power was told me by Dr. Jaffee Cohen. A highly cultured Polish Jew of his acquaintance, upon witnessing a vaudeville performance of rapid calculation, went home and tried to parallel this achievement. In time he not only equalled, but he far surpassed the magic power of the vaudeville performer. He achieved such great efficiency in his instantaneous performances (he never made a mistake) that he secured an important position doing statistical work.

Here he could do the work of two or three statistical machines without ever making a mistake. He told Dr. Cohen that he actually went through all the processes. He was examined by many scientists who confirmed his remarkable powers.

How can we explain these and similar apparently magic powers? How can we even explain electricity? The tendency of intellectuals is to deny what they cannot understand. Mesmer's peculiar powers were denied by all the medical authorities of France for 20 years.

Meanwhile, he went on mesmerizing people.

Let the event be sacred in our eyes. Let us not deny events for which we have no explanation. Too many scientists wear blinders, as nervously sensitive carriage horses did in the old days, in order to shut out from their vision things which disturb their pattern of thinking.

This is so universal that it is safe to say that the last persons to go to for inquiry as to strange new occurrences or particular patterns of thought are the specialists themselves in this field.

I once made this remark to Dr. Waterman, Director of the National Science Foundation, as we sat together at the banquet table from which he was due to speak. This leading director of scientific work agreed with me so heartily that he spent the first five minutes of his address giving convincing illustrations of my theme.

Mark Twain said that people tend to build an edifice for new truths, and roof it in so securely that they are thereafter impervious to any more truth.

The moral of all this is: Let us remain open-minded. Let us consider the event as sacred. Let us consider a well-authenticated event as more sacred than any theory or so-called scientific law.

By keeping this open attitude of mind, we shall not only progress ourselves but we shall help humanity to progress.

All discoveries, all advances, all the great values of today's civilization have been due to the inquiring rather than the negating type of mind.

We Become What We Contemplate

Contemplate duty, and you become dutiful.
Contemplate beauty, and you become alluring.
Contemplate love, and you become lovely.
Contemplate humility, and you become evanescent.
Contemplate power, and you become effective.
Contemplate the Cosmos, and you become cosmic.
Contemplate God, and you become deific.
Contemplate Infinity, and you lose yourself in it.

World Order

Wilfred Cantwell Smith

Past Director of Center for Study of World Religions

Human development has reached a point where we must construct some kind of world order or we perish. Our vision and our loyalties, as well as our aircraft, must circle the globe.

The Coming World Change

Shoghi Effendi

Guardian of the Baha'i Faith

The principle of the oneness of mankind implies an organic change in the structure of present day society—a change such as the world has never seen—a transition of unparalleled majesty and scope which humanity in this coming age is bound to undergo.

This Is My God

Lord of a billion galaxies, yet attentive to our every thought and need, this is our God.

He is the Infinite. Yet He is all love, all wisdom, all power, all tenderness, all concern even for our slightest welfare.

Can we comprehend this God? No. If He were within our power of comprehension He would not be Lord of the Universe.

Because the plane of Spirit is beyond both space and time, we can be ever in God's presence if we realize this. And this very moment can become Eternity, if we know how to make it so.

Diamonds

The geologists declared that in the diamond mines of Pretoria there could not be any diamonds below the hard blue clay layers at which the miners had arrived, after exhausting the plentiful deposits of these precious stones which lay above the clay, washed down from the mountains during countless milleniums.

Barney Barnato—youthful gem dealer newly arrived at Pretoria from the ghettos of London—somehow believed that there ought still to be stores of hidden wealth below the clay. With this strong faith, he pledged every available pound he could gather together for the purchase of the rights of exhausted claims. History proves that Barnato was right. He

became the diamond king of the world through his strange prescience.

It is evident that the skepticism of the other diamond miners, based on the opinions of the scientists, was a negation which deprived them of untold wealth. The diamonds were there, but they were not easy to find. Experimentation on the part of Barnato gave proof of his faith and uncovered an almost exhaustless treasure.

And so it is with those treasures which may be unlocked by prayer. Skeptics deny that prayer is of any avail. Let them assert that the seeming answers to prayers are merely coincidence. Let them present the overwhelming argument that many prayers are not answered. But what of that?

There is always a great percentage of failure on the part of those who prospect for wealth—even in the case of diamonds, gold, or oil.

The important thing to consider is whether prayer can at any time be a power to supply our needs, or to give direction where all logical judgments fail.

Let the skeptic pride himself on the logical and apparently scientific grounds upon which he decides that prayer is a delusion of the pious.

There is little possibility of proving to the satisfaction of the sceptic the efficacy of prayer. If prayer is often directly answered, let us try to discover how this can be. Those of us who are willing to dig down beneath the barren clay of skepticism may be rewarded beyond all expectation.

Why not try it? This faithful search will cost us less even than it did Barnato. In fact, it will cost us nothing at all.

Why not try it!

The Gospel of Service

Our whole life is necessarily committed to service of one kind or another. We earn our living only by performing services that are of advantage to others.

Henry Ford saw his work of industrialist as a form of service. And so it proved to be. For he brought the automobile within the price range of the ordinary person; and by so doing he compelled the start of the extraordinary network of paved roads and speedways that span our country. Thus Ford preached, by deeds as well as by words, the gospel of service.

All work is in reality a form of service. This fact is universally recognized in our ordinary vocabulary: "public service" corporations; "service" in restaurants; "room service" in hotels; "TV service" in our homes. These types of service, necessary and recompensable, form the very pattern of our life routine.

But there is a higher type of service that is voluntary, seeking no reward. This service, an expression of altruism, lifts action to the plane of spirit and manifests spirit on the plane of action.

And because here we are acting cosmically—within our own poor capacity acting as God acts—our recompense for this is cosmic happiness. *There is no good*

deed, no altruistic action, no loving service but what is rewarded by a glow of happiness. For in so acting we are making ourselves one with the Cosmic Purpose—that is to say, one with God.

"Inasmuch as ye have done it unto the least of my children, ye have done it unto Me."



The Path of Love

Abdu'l Bahá

"Nothingness is needed, until you kindle the fire of Existence and become acceptable on the Path of Love."



The Mystic State of Consciousness

Lawrence LeShan

Human Survival of Biological Death

Main Currents Magazine

In the mystical state of consciousness all other states of consciousness are present, but the individual who has the experience is quite clear about his present state of consciousness. And he is aware that he is more alert and awake during the experience—more aware of being, and of being part of the all, than he is when he is in other states of consciousness. It is for him the highest state of consciousness.

The Faithful Friend

I am assured that everywhere
God is answerable to prayer.

No matter what the time or trend,
He is with me as my Friend.

When all the sky is blue and clear,
The sunshine brings Him very near.

Or if the day be gray and dour,
His love illumines every hour.

And, so, no matter how or where,
God's love is faithful to my prayer.



Cosmic Power

Cosmic Power cannot be indefinitely bestowed upon self-seeking people. "Power corrupts," said Lord Alton. And from those who allow themselves to be thus corrupted, Destiny withdraws its favors and the career eventuates in ruin. Hitler is, and will remain for ages, a classic example of this.

There is a universal reward for intelligent concentrated purpose, whether it is initially for selfish or for unselfish purposes. This is an absolute law of the Cosmos, as unchangeable as that two atoms of hydrogen, when joined to one atom of oxygen, become water.

These laws are amoral, neutral to ethics. This law of reward for concentrated purpose will even aid a man who is going to rob a bank. It aided Dillinger, famous for his many miraculous escapes when he was in the hands of armed possés.

But there is also a Law of Order in the universe which destroys those who abuse the laws that lead to success. Victor Hugo once remarked: "God got tired of Napoleon."

And it is apparent that He also got tired of Hitler.

It is self-evident that in a universe of Law and Order, elements of disorder cannot long prevail. The cosmic law which aids intelligence plus concentration to initial success *is the same law* which crushes the powerful when they act contrary to the purposes of Destiny.

It must be apparent to all that Destiny cannot favor the continued progress of the proud, the self-seeking, the power-intoxicated souls. Destiny does not favor these, either here or hereafter.

In the next world the law of service prevails. There selfless service is the only road to promotion. Why not begin to travel that road here? You will be amazed at the magic quality your life will take on when you merge self-will into the Cosmic will and dedicate your life to selfless service.

Then, as to the ambassador of the King, all doors will open; success will flow into all activity; and life will take on a new dimension, a heavenly dimension.

"The Kingdom is attained by one who forgets self," says Abdu'l Bahá. "Everything becomes yours by the renunciation of everything."

Flowing with Cosmic Currents

The Destiny that gave us birth knows best the ways of our fulfillment.

Therefore in order to achieve our best, we should seek at every turn to know what Destiny would have us do.

If we merge our will into the Divine Will, life will take on apparently a magic quality. Then everything we want will come to pass.

But we must want only what Destiny wants for us. Yet this is in no way deprivation. Rather, it is guidance to fulfillment.

The Holy Spirit

James E. Talmage

from "The Mormon Viewpoint"

Subtler, mightier and more mysterious than any or all the physical forces of nature are the powers that operate upon conscious organisms, the means by which the mind, the heart and the soul of man may be energized by spiritual forces.

Human souls are of varied capacity with respect to the higher powers. By processes of purification our souls may be made more susceptible to the forces of life which are emanations from the Holy Spirit.

Therefore, we are taught to pray by word and action for a constantly increasing portion of the Spirit, that is, the power of the Spirit which is a measure of this gift of God to us.

The Saintliness of the Early Christians

Christianity was deeply spiritual in its first few centuries. Due to the factors of spiritual susceptibility and trial-by-persecution only a select few—selected unofficially by their own capacity for Truth—became and remained true followers of the Christ. They were 100 per cent committed, and their characters became truly Christlike.

But when by imperial proclamation Theodosius in 378 A.D. made Christianity the official religion of the Roman Empire, a very different situation came to exist. This legal fiat which made all people Christians did not, unfortunately, endow them at the same time with spirituality.

Then began for the first time a cleavage between the spiritually aspiring, and the vast masses who were only nominally Christians. Never again were all Christians spiritual aspirants. Those who did so aspire joined the Church or the monastery, leaving the masses as a dough too heavy to be raised by the leaven of the Spirit.

Such as been and still remains the situation. There have been many noble attempts, rewarded with temporary success, to bring all communicants into the condition of spiritual aspiration and progress. But initial fervor has in all such cases lapsed.

Today humanity faces the third millenium with a definite challenge from Destiny: *Become universally spiritual, or perish!*

There will be no room, ultimately, on this planet for those who wilfully remain obtuse to this call of the Spirit.

Why Do I Linger Here?

Why do I linger here
When a world of wonder waits?
A world where the purple hills look down
On a people of might,
A people who know their glorious God-given power.



Prayer and Meditation

1. One needs to be alone in order to meditate. One can be alone in the midst of other people if they are strangers going about their business. But a friend sitting 10 or 20 feet away may interfere.
2. Meditation is a practice by which we seek to become united with the Oversoul. Now in order to do this we must negate everything that has to do with our personality, with its needs and desires and thoughts. Bahá'u'llah speaks of "evanescence and non-existence" in approaching God. Zen Buddhism uses the symbol "emptiness". Christ said, "He who would save his life shall lose it. But he who will lose his life for My sake shall gain it unto Life Eternal." St. Paul said, "I die unto myself daily in order that I may live in Thee."

Therefore, the first step in meditation is to throw overboard, discard all matters pertaining to the lower self. That self has to be stilled. Our higher Self it is that becomes one with the Divine. And this higher Self has nothing to do with the affairs of the lower self. As long as we act as business manager for the lower self and its demands, we shall be entangled in objectivity, in concrete matters.

We must escape all these entanglements as we meditate. The purpose is to leave behind the world of objectivity and to escape from the particular to the Universal. If we are successfully meditating, we shall feel ourself merged with the Universal. There will be no want, no desire, no regrets, no attention to worldly details. Only a feeling of Oneness.

3. This Oneness, this merging into the Universal, leaves certain benefits that remain after the period of meditation. One benefit is serenity—a habit of tranquility and joyousness which abides with us throughout the workaday world. We also carry away from these sacred moments a sort of enlargement of our being. We lift our lives somewhat from the paucity of the lower self to the plenitude of the higher Self.

"When man associates himself with the Word of God," said Abdu'l Bahá, "this association of the part with the whole endows him with the whole; and this union of the particular with the Universal makes him all in all."

When asked how one could become spiritual, Abdu'l Bahá said, "By means of aspiration, prayer and meditation." Meditation is the bath of the soul, a bathing in the Holy Spirit. In such immersion—and it should be total immersion—something happens. We become different. We become more spiritual. We begin the climb to saintliness.

When Heaven Meets the Earth

When passions and desires are stilled,
When love reigns,
When happiness is triumphant,
When tranquility suffuces life with peace,
When just to exist is gladness,—
This is to taste of Heaven while living still on earth.

Spiritual Power in Human Affairs

Gerald Simons, "Time-Life Books"

The period between 400-600 was a period of turbulence, confusion, overturning. The Roman citizens slowly relinquished the customs and ideals that identified them as Romans. The Germanic warriors were significantly modified by their increased exposure to Roman civilization.

In this transitional period, a medley of Romanism, Germanism, and Christianity was slowly forming a new civilization, the Christian European Civilization, destined to be the world's greatest both in power and culture, to eventuate in that modern technology which explored, conquered and colonized most of the rest of the world.

One World, One Truth

The time will come when it will be realized that just as there is but one universe, so there is but one Truth. This realization has already taken place in the field of science. There is only one scientific truth—the same for America, Europe, Asia. Once scientific discoveries are made and applied to technological progress, the whole world—irrespective of geography, race, nationalism, or religion—hastens to embrace this truth and put it in action.

The same thing is true of man's spiritual life. All over the world spiritual development is the same—whether on the part of Christian Jew, Moslim, Hindu or Buddhist.

It must be the same. For spirituality is not a dogma, but a truth; and spiritual development is not a theory but a living experience. And just as the experience of romantic love is the same the world over, so the spiritual experience (something quite different from credal religion) is the same the world over.

What is this spiritual experience? It is the connection of the individual with the Heart of the Universe. And just as science put into action produces the fruits of technology, so this fusion of the individual with the Universal produces what Paul called the "fruits of the spirit."

Spiritual truth the world over condemns selfishness and cruelty. It everywhere upholds the cultivation of purity, integrity, compassion and universal love.

There is only one Universe. Consequently, there can be only one Truth. From the spiritual point of view, this Truth is the realization of the necessity for learning how to harmonize ourselves with the Universe in which our existence is cast. Seeing beyond the concentration of forms, we must penetrate to the Ultimate Reality behind these forms. We must live ever in conscious at-one-moment with the Universal and the Eternal.

How to Live Above the Plane of Struggle

The purpose of meditation is to decrease the awareness of self and increase the awareness of the Universal, until we reach that point where the Universal flows through us daily.

When we reach this degree of spiritual attainment, strain and struggle are no longer necessary. For then we will only what God wills for us, and we let ourselves be guided in all affairs by the Cosmic Mind.

Seven Steps to Paradise

Just as it is true that mere death cannot admit one to Paradise, so it is also true that one does not need to die in order to taste of Paradise while still on earth.

In order to do this one must cultivate the Paradisal qualities, gifts and powers. How can this be done? The following preachment will attempt to describe the steps necessary for this celestial achievement.

1. Unselfishness.

2. Harmony.

There is a right way to do everything. Harmony is the result of this right way of acting. This is the Way (Tao) in which the Universe works.

3. Service.

Loving service to others is the way to acquire celestial stature.

4. Guidance.

What should we want more than to fulfill what Heaven wants for us? When we learn how to discover Destiny's plans for us and submit ourselves to Its guidance, we are taking an important step toward achieving Heaven on earth.

5. Sensitivity to the Etherial.

Raise your vibrations. Become delicately susceptible to beauty and goodness. Respond sensitively to the Unseen. Life in the next world depends upon this power. Unless we develop it here, we are born crippled into the next life. To the degree that we develop it here, we are living the life of Heaven while still on earth.

6. Cosmic Love.

It is easy to love someone who is lovable. This is human love. It is difficult to love someone who is detestable. This is Cosmic Love; This is the love that reigns in heaven. We are not qualified to be

active citizens there unless and until we have attained this difficult and rare power of Cosmic love. If we can attain it here, we are already to some degree in Heaven.

“Bhakti”—love for God as the Supreme Personality. No other single word expresses so much and has all the delicate connotations, as that Hindu word “Bhakti.” It implies a love and devotion to the Divine as strong and as overpowering as that which human love bestows upon the human object of its ecstatic devotion.

This state cannot be fully described or explained. How could one who has fallen violently into romantic love describe the nature of this love to a preadolescent? Words fail in this Court of Love. Bhakti is not a belief, a dogma, a theological theory. It is empirical.

We may have taken all the previous steps, but not until we are trained in Bhakti we are ready for the Paradisal life. For this worship, this complete absorption by means of love into the Divine Heart is the very breath of life in higher spheres. The Celestial life is one of being in constant tune with the Infinite. And in ways we can only partially understand here, this Infinite can assume a personal and loving relation to souls of devotion.

If we learn how to make this connection while still on earth, we have taken the last of the Seven Steps to Paradise.

And when we have reached this full development of spirit we shall slip out of this earthly mold as simply and easily as a baby falls asleep. Death will have lost its sting.

The Unborn Child Realité

The mother's desire to have a child is very important. If she resents her maternal role, she may well give birth to children that are emaciated and/or half asphyxiated. For the mother's happiness contributes to the better functioning of the blood supply to the heart.

Educating for Progress

Education is in a chaotic condition because it lacks a unified concept of what is progress for today—in government, economics, social laws and morals.

No two universities have the same concept as to what education should do for youth. There are no clearly defined goals, no single universal goal.

There is no agreement between authorities in various subjects as to what is right. Ideologically, education is at a standstill. What we need is unity of concept and practice in education.

Conceive what a world-wide concept and practice in education could do in a generation. And conceive what benefits such a curriculum, if ideally perfect, would bestow upon the world.

Words of Guidance from the Baha'i Scriptures

Baha'u'lláh

Burn away, for the sake of the Belovéd, the veil of self with the flame of undying love.

Blessed are the learned that pride not themselves on their attainments.

Man must never seek to exalt himself above anyone, must wash away from the tablets of his heart every trace of pride and vain glory, must cling unto patience and resignation.



Evanescence

Abdu'l Bahá

Self-love is a strange trait and the means of destruction of many important souls in the world. If a man be endowed with all good qualities but be selfish, all the other virtues will fade or pass away eventually he will grow worse.

Man must become evanescent in God, must forget his own self-seeking conditions that he may thus arise to the station of service.

Turn away from your faces the contemplation of your own finite selves, and fix your gaze on the Everlasting Radiance. Then will your souls receive in full

measure the Divine power of the Spirit and the blessings of the Infinite Bounty.

The moment a man's soul is touched by the Holy Spirit, his spiritual evolution begins.

Immediate Knowledge

F. L. Rawson

"Life Understood"

In order to gain knowledge in the right way, we must turn to Heaven and realize the truth that God is the Principle of all Knowledge; and that therefore man, the spiritual man, instantly knows everything necessary.

It is interesting to note, however, that the knowledge does not always come to your consciousness directly or immediately. Sometimes somebody will give you the information or you will see it in a paper or book.

In this case, the subconscious intuitive mind has become a magnet to attract what is needed.

You can always do a thing better than usual by utilizing this Divine Power. Inspiration is natural and scientifically based. You can obtain any knowledge which you desire for a good purpose.

Non-Attachment

Loyola, founder of the Jesuit Society, was asked how he would feel if the Pope (as seemed possible at the moment) should dissolve his Society.

"It would be a shock," he admitted, "but fifteen minutes of mental prayer, and I should think no more about it."

This is what is meant by non-attachment. We don't actually own anything. Therefore, we cannot actually lose anything. This must be our constant attitude. Then we are inviolate—secure above all loss, depression or sadness.

Purposes of Prayer

1. We are entitled to pray for material needs.

"I desire for you prosperity in this world as well as in the next, only not to be attached." Abdu'l Bahá

2. For protection.

In times of emergencies, difficulties and need we can use this powerful prayer given the Persian Bab. "Is there any remover of difficulties save God? Say, praise be to God. He is God. All are servants and all abide by His bidding."

3. A third use of prayer is to find guidance when we are about to make important decisions. This is a very important use of prayer—one of the most important factors in successful living. We can always get guidance if we release all human desire and truly open our souls to the Divine. "We all have the same promise of the unlimited help of the Universal Intelligence that guides all things," says Glenn

Clark. "If we want it, we only have to plug in with the Master key of desire and faith."

4. The most important use of prayer is for the purpose of spiritual development. Since our development in the spirit is the ultimate purpose and goal of our earth life, this importance can readily be seen. And while prayers for other purposes may remain mysteriously unfulfilled, prayers in aid of our spiritual growth are always answered.

* * *

And since Spirit is the causal factor of existence, man can attain to such a spiritual stature—such a close connection with the love and will of God—that he does not need to pray for other needs. These needs will be miraculously fulfilled before they are even expressed. Spiritual man indeed lives in a magic world.

Genius

What is genius? Genius is defined by Webster as "extraordinary intelligence and creative power." High I.Q.'s do not necessarily indicate genius. They only indicate high and quick intelligence.

Is genius a difference in kind or only in degree? Genius would seem to be a difference in degree rather than in kind. When this difference in degree is very great, the genius seems a superman. But so water raised to a certain degree seems to be something extraordinarily different; yet steam is only water raised to a higher potency. And so it is with genius.

What is the difference between genius and talent? Genius is always self-directive, while talent seeks training and instruction. Genius is so dynamic that it tends not to be inhibited or blocked by circumstance. It will do or die. Talent, on the other hand, can be diverted from its goals and can be inhibited and blocked.

What are the most notable characteristics of genius? Self-direction, will-to-do, enthusiasm, spontaneity, a child-like spirit.

What are the chief qualities needed for great creativeness? Sensitivity, imagination, conceptual power, and the ability to lift one's talents and aptitudes up to the intuitional and inspirational plane.

Can people who are not great geniuses create one great piece of work in their lifetime, and if so how is this done? Yes, this is possible. There are quite a number of what we might call one-work geniuses. These are people of talent who, under great inspiration, are able for once to lift their creative work to the highest plane of intuition, where work achieved always has immediacy and perfection. Harriet Beecher Stowe in creating "Uncle Tom's Cabin," and Julia Ward Howe in creating "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" are examples of this; also Blackmore in Lorna Doone.

The Secret of Success

The secret of successful living is the ability to connect ourselves with the Universal. Then all power is ours, provided we use it in the way of service.

Constant guidance is available, if we desire to be led into paths of righteousness.

In adventuring on the path of Spirit, man will develop a superpsychology—the science of the study of the individual's spiritual relationship with the Universal.

Spirit

Winifred Willard

Spirit has a thousand times more power for bringing to pass the help the human needs, than he has with all his earthly tools and ways of working; more strength than all of the rest of the world for mastering earth problems and bringing help for times of difficulty.

Spirit never leaves you without help, never fails to answer your call nor leaves you without a sense of direction. Earth things will fail and fall short of satisfying. Spirit goes to the very center. Spirit is cosmic, unailing, and unchanging.

Spirit is God, and God is within you. Get acquainted with Him. Trust this Spirit which is infinite and is a part and expression of His essence.

Effortless Action

Laotze taught the gospel of effortless action. This gospel of the Tao strangely enough, or perhaps not strangely, is more popular in this country today than ever before. How much this gospel of tranquility in action is needed in this our hectic stomach-ulcerated life of the mart!

"Nature never strains to do anything. Therefore, she accomplishes everything," says this ancient seer of China. Note that it is not *in spite of not straining* that Nature accomplishes everything, *but because of not straining*.

This gospel of "effortless action," merging with Buddhism, produced in the Zen archery and swordsmanship of Japan a superb mastery which, without straining, was tireless and perfect.

It is this action without strain that characterizes mastery in golf, in tennis, in baseball, in billiards. In all these fields, the champions are those who never let strain enter into their performance.

Let us try this in our daily work. It is a creative technique which will produce magical results. When we have fully mastered this Taoist art, our achievement will flow out in cosmic forms of action of such ease and immediacy that one does not seem to be working at all.

The writer has proved this many times in his own life. Often we say that it seems as if we had *never really worked* during a long lifetime of accomplishment.

Love

Anonymous

The scientific principle which will lead ultimately to release and happiness is universal, inclusive love.

Love necessitates the welling out of the utmost tenderness, the outcome of a compassion induced by the

intense desire to be of service, to be a channel for that love of God which passeth all understanding. This is the real life of man.

More love is what the world needs. We must raise up our love for the man of the street until it is almost equal to that for our nearest and dearest.

A Personal Healing Incident

I have for years benefitted my health by a positive attitude toward it—with the use of prayers and affirmations. This practice has been combined with a common sense treatment of my physical vehicle: simple wholesome food, sufficient rest and sleep, living within the scope of my natural rhythm, abundant use of fresh air and sunshine, exercise and deep breathing.

Due to these and other causes, I have more than ordinary health and vital élan for my present age of 90. I still write books, lecture many days in succession, work on my lawn and garden, and swim daily during the summer.

But this morning I woke up discouraged. Recovering from a slight operation three days ago, I had abused my body the following night by attending a concert I very much wanted to hear instead of sensibly going to bed early.

This intemperance had worn me down, and the rest I took on the following day and night was not sufficient to restore me to the healthy condition I had been in before my unwise action. I woke up this morning

feeling in a low condition. No amount of creative thinking and praying seemed sufficient. I hated to get up, but I hated to be abed any longer. I began to worry. *If I feel as weak as this now, shall I recover strength enough for my two weeks' lecture trip in Missouri and Kansas, beginning nine days from now?*

As I mused on this unpleasant dilemma, a voice seemed to speak to me. "Don't put a river between yourself and your Creator!"

How strange! This was not myself ruminating and giving a message to myself. The message came from outside myself—from some other source.

"Don't put a river between yourself and your Creator!" These were powerful words and they had a powerful effect on me. I lay abed awhile meditating on them. How was I separating myself from my Creator? By doubts and fears? This should stop.

The word "Creator" stirred me deeply and galvanized me into a more positive condition of thought. "Creator!" *If God created me, He can certainly re-create me*, I thought.

I lay abed some half an hour concentrating on such constructive thoughts and working creatively along these lines. I conceived of letting the River flow into me as a life-giving stream, instead of separating me from the Divine Life Force.

This thought had a great effect on me. I began to feel much better. Finally I got up feeling completely

restored and ready for the new day. And the whole day has advanced healthily, joyously and constructively.

I am writing this down in the hope it may give help and inspiration to others. The healing power is there all right—out there as Cosmic vitality, waiting to flow into us when we need and request it.

This Cosmic vitality is the very life of our being at all times. But there are times when we need a little extra supply of It. All we need to do on such occasions is to let this River of Life flow into us.

The Meaning of Life

From cave men we have forged our way to the man of the twentieth century with his powerful intellect, ungoverned emotional nature and almost completely undiscovered powers of intuition. Struggle still is necessary, privation and suffering in order to train us to govern the emotions and to utilize that marvelous spirit of intuition which is ready to do the bidding of us all. Upward man has risen for eons past—through struggle, privation and sorrow. Upward he is still to rise. For progress must go on. And the end is perhaps above all sorrow.

Joie de Vivre

This "joy of existence," as the French aptly call it, is a mystic experience. It is not physical only, but also psychic and spiritual. It is a consciousness of being part and pulse of the Cosmic life—feeling the cosmic vi-

tality flowing around and in us and breathing in breaths of that creative Spirit which is the essence of all life.

All the Prophets have come not only to teach us the knowledge of God, but to lead us into the practice of the presence of God.

This is the panacea for all troubles and ills of the individual, for all troubles and ills of society.

From this Divine interlacing of our individual lives comes serenity, even in the midst of trials. Better still, comes right judgments, intuition and guidance to prevent the misdirection of our energies. Hence also flows even material success. And to top all these values, physical health is maintained by this spiritual balance.

And for society, Spirit brings balance, moderation, justice, harmony, altruism, peace, stability, and worldwide prosperity.



The Source of All Progress

The most important thing for us to realize about progress is the nature of its source—the Cosmic creative force of Deity, the Holy Spirit.

As a corollary of this truth, let us realize that progress—individually or collectively—can be aided and speeded up by direct contact with the Spirit.

It is this Cosmic Force which inspires the artist, the thinker, the inventor, the creator. This is the force back of intuition, radiating its inspirational messages through the mortal mind of man.

It is possible that all spiritually developed beings of the next millenium will have that creative quality which today is ascribed only to genius.

What Is Man's Ultimate Goal?

Progress implies a continuous development toward an innate or destined goal or station. Things are progressing when they are steadily moving in the direction of such goals.

If homo sapiens was the intended goal of evolution, then nature has been steadily progressing from the amoeba up to man.

If spiritual attainment—man made in the image of God—is the innate and ultimate human station, then man is individually progressing only when he is moving toward that goal. And man is retrogressing insofar as he moves away from that goal.

Letting the Cosmic Mind Work Through Us

The truth that we set down by intellection is limited to acquired knowledge—knowledge that has been acquired through our own experience or from the experience of others. Experience is what the intellect deals with, and its powers are limited to this field of action.

But we have inherent in us a greater power than that of the intellect—a power of the soul which is called INTUITION. This is a marvelous power, for it is di-

rectly conjoined with Cosmic Power. And since there are no limits to Cosmic Power, so there are no limits to the creative power of the intuition. For the soul by the power of intuition is able to tap in some degree the limitless resources of the Universal.

There are other advantages which the intuition possesses. Whereas the workings of the intellect are laborious and prone to error, the workings of the intuition are characterized by immediacy and 100 per cent perfection. In the field of science this creative power produces miracles for human benefit and progress. In the field of the arts it produces works of incomparable beauty and unimaginable perfection.

In view of these incontestable facets, what creative person then would be content to ride a mental plodhorse when he could soar aloft on the wings of Pegasus?

The incomparable superiority of the intuition compels those who realize its magic power to seek ways of putting this power into effect. But how can one do this? Are there any rules to be followed? It is possible for any and every one to accomplish this transubstantiation?

Fortunately, this possibility is open to all human beings. Intuition is an integral part of our endowment awaiting a universal development such as has already taken place with that mental endowment which distinguishes us from the animals. And just as the development of man's intellect has worked wonders for himself for society, so the development of his intuition will work wonders such as are at present inconceivable.

The Most Important Thing

The most important fact in the Universe is God.

In fact, God in a certain sense is the Universe. Or let us say, nothing exists apart from God. He is the Cosmic Continuum in which every form in the universe, including man, subsists.

And the most important thing for man upon this planet to realize is how this Divine Power works upon natural and human life. For Spirit is the creative, directive, and equilibrating force of the Cosmos.

This is the Force back of evolution. And it is the Force that inspires the artist, the inventor, the creators of all new modes of human progress.

Man Is Out of Touch with God

Howard Ives'
"Portals To Freedom"

Man in this age is out of touch with God; he is out of touch with the Kingdom of God; he is out of touch with spiritual susceptibilities; he is out of touch with the Holy Spirit and out of touch with the ideal verities. He is a captive of the tangibilities.

A new epoch is approaching in which the human consciousness will merge into the Divine.

There will be a rebirth of man through the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Work

Madame Rendet

The highest form of life is to live for humanity and to serve it according to one's ability and strength.

How to Benefit by the Supreme Power

Prentice Mulford

The Supreme Power has us in its charge, as it has the suns and endless systems of worlds in space. As we grow more and more to recognize this sublime and exalted Wisdom, we shall learn more and more how to draw it to ourselves, make it a part of ourselves, and thereby be ever making ourselves newer and newer.

This means ever perfecting the health, greater and greater power to enjoy all that exists, gradual transition into a higher state of being and the development of powers we do not now realize as belonging to us.

Let us then daily demand faith, the power to see that all things are part of the Infinite Spirit of God.

How to Do Nothing

The American is very capable—the most capable race the world has yet produced. But there is one thing he cannot learn how to do. That is, how to do nothing. He cannot bear to sit still, and in stillness commune with himself, commune with Nature, commune with the Universal.

The American must be always on the move. Thus it was in his racial beginnings, and thus it is now. A mobile race. An active race. Shall we say, a hectic race?

Even when he has time to sit down and relax at the end of his working day, does he do so? He sits down, it is true. But he does not relax. He must set his TV going in order to still further titillate tired nerves, on the homeopathic idea that another dose of the same thing will relieve him.

How to do nothing—and yet know that you are still alive! How to do nothing—and arrive at an even higher realization of life than when in the midst of useful activity! How to do nothing—and by doing so arrive at the supreme realization, the supreme fulfillment!

My joint American friends (for I am American, too)—friends whom I love and admire—I am not going to try at this point to tell you how to reach this supreme achievement of stillness.

But let me right now say in all earnestness that if we, as a race, *do not learn how to do nothing, the time will come when we shall not be able to do much of anything.* For at the excessive rate at which we are now burning life up—burning the candle at both ends, so to speak, and trying to replenish it with alcohol and drugs—the time will come when Nature will demand her toll and immobilize us.

Let us take warning before it is too late! Let us cease this hyperactivity! Let us release ourselves from this vertigo! Let us learn how to exist most happily when doing nothing.

Individual Progress

Progress for man as an individual implies first the developments and maintenance of a perfect physical vehicle, endowed with agility and precision of the nervous system as well as with mere strength.

Secondly, individual progress implies the complete development of the intelligence. This development and growth should go on through life. Enthusiastic and eager quest for and absorption of knowledge should increase rather than diminish through the years.

The third and most important factor of development is the spiritual. The intellect is merely a tool. How it is used determines its real value. Some of the most culturally developed intellects of the Renaissance were also the most subtle and cold-blooded of murderers, such as the Borgias.

The development of the spirit is the ultimate goal of man. Where the spiritual aspect of life is fully realized and predominant over all other aspects of life, then and then only has man reached his ultimate and destined perfection. And this spiritual development, far from diminishing man's physical and intellectual development, will greatly enhance these values in his life.

The spiritually developed man of the future will hardly know what disease is. And his mental powers will be accelerated by the mysterious aid of the intuition, which is fundamentally a spiritual factor.

Focus Your Powers

Breadth of thought can become so extended as to lose its dynamics. Concentration, as well as extension, is necessary for achievement.

These two principles may seem contradictory to each other. But actually they are not. Electricity actually is a power that is universally extended. But it is not effective until it is focused.

And so with other cosmic forces. They are everywhere existent, but not effective till focused.

How can we focus these powers? By concentrating around a focal center. The most dynamic focal center is the World Revelator.

Freedom of Will

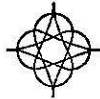
Man was thrust into existence on his own and endowed with free will—the only thing in the Universe so separated from the Creative Will which dominates all Nature.

Man was thus to learn how to exist as a separate entity, his final goal being to harmonize with the Universal and to become one with God.

Man has this precious Cosmic gift of free will. But this freedom of will implies a great number of restraints if we are to live together in a joint humanity.

If society is to survive, crude desires must be restrained. They must be sublimated into something beneficial.

Ultimately service must supplant self-seeking. The effort to make this happen will be the story of man's spiritual evolution upon this planet.



The End of the Play

Leaves falling through the air
To land they know not where;
 Their task is done,
 Their course is run,
They have no further care.

So men let loose their hold
On life, when all is told.
 The curtain falls
 On empty halls;
And the warm seats grow cold.

L'Envoi *Flowing with the* *Currents of Destiny*

Whatever success the writer has had is due to flowing with the currents of Destiny. Looking back, it seems as if we were constantly fulfilling the promptings of our own destiny.

We cannot see that we would have done any better if we had made other decisions or tried to follow other paths. Everything we have done in life seems to have converged to focal points of successful achievement.

Many a time we have had to think creatively and take prompt and energetic action. But it seems, on looking back, as if Destiny had slipped in, whenever needed, to aid us in the fulfillment of our legitimate desires and to support us in the successful expression of our abilities. We did constantly what we most wanted to do, yet never lacked the means to live and carry on.

For this we thank God. And we end WINGS OF THE SPIRIT with this personal note in the hopes that our readers may similarly feel and experience the assurance of a beneficent Destiny.

94-9. Doing Nothing



Photo by Sam Dadian, Milwaukee