

The Temple Artisan

January-February-March 2015



THE GREAT DAY

CHILDREN of my love, my life: I think, I feel, I move, I breathe with you. Great is the day we are entering, great the day we have left behind. Day followeth day alike, the greatness and import determined by work well performed, deeds nobly done, service truly rendered, sacrifice joyfully



made, aspiration purely offered, faith firmly held, courage strongly given, opportunity fully used, failures placed under foot, effort ever renewed, love, trust, understanding, compassion covering all. Out of day cometh other days. Out of weakness cometh strength. Out of failure cometh success; out of hard labor, achievement; out of achievement, oftentimes fall. One is termed Day, the other Night. Both are the same with God. Light, darkness, day, night, twilight, dawn — One in Law. The Great Day — the Day Be With Us — is now upon you. Use it, my children. USE IT WELL.

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EDITORIAL MIRROR

The New Year! Why do we celebrate the beginning of each year as the “New Year?” Are we hoping for trouble-free times, unexpected financial windfalls, world peace, surcease of pain or a myriad of other possibilities? Hope does indeed spring eternal in our individual and collective psyche. I would suggest that the excitement and anticipation we feel about anything “new” is ours every day of every year if we choose to make it so. We can start each day with gratitude for what we have. We add to that gratitude a connection with the Divine forces of Love, Light, and Wisdom. Next we ask to become an instrument through which those forces can flow to those around us; then through our prayers we can channel Love, Light and Wisdom to everyone in the world.

Becoming an instrument is not a mysterious process requiring an isolated cave and a lotus position. It does require a choice on our part to greet every minute, every person, every aspect of manifestation with kindness, forbearance, tolerance, and honor of the Divinity within ourselves and the other. This is a simple process involving our choices each and every minute of every day. Happy New Year!

— *Eleanor L. Shumway*
Guardian in Chief



Office Door Photo by A. R. Dunbar

TOOLS OF THE TRADE

Here we are in a brand new year, encountering the same old problems, and yet, we are always asking for new directions, new words, new resolutions, new interpretations, new, new, new. We are really sold on “NEW IS BETTER.” We don’t want to hear the old stuff over and over. There must be some new magic, easy insight. And we want it now, not realizing that we have all the tools needed for spiritual growth, and that we have them now!

Let’s explore these tools for spiritual growth. We have had these directions, words, resolutions and interpretations since the beginning of time. We have just tuned them out! During each time of need in humanity’s unfoldment, someone has come forward to restate these truths in words in the vernacular directing us, the humanity of the time, to look at universal principles in words we could, or would, hopefully understand. Like a dog worrying a large bone, we worked on these principles until something else came along to distract us, precipitate us into crisis, require a new banner bearer. That process is repeated again and again.

Here in the Temple we have been given a rich outpouring of teachings resulting in eight hardbound books of Temple Teachings, plus much unpublished material. We are privileged to have come into being under that so-called “new” teacher, Helena P. Blavatsky. When you look at the shelves full of her writings, you might wonder if she wrote twenty-four hours a day with both hands, especially since all of it was produced with pen and paper. She was followed by William Quan Judge who was nearly as prolific. Humanity has moved forward and we again have these banner bearers who have inspired countless other banner bearers to hold high the Truth in its myriad expressions. I am frequently told, “Well, yes, all those books have the truth, but the language is archaic, the examples dated, and besides, that was then and this is now. Things are different.”

This is true. Things ARE different now. I used to say the same thing to the former Guardian in Chief. He would just smile and

say, "OK, you rewrite it." Through the years I have come to see that the Golden Key that unlocks everything we aspire to is Self Responsibility, and what I understand about those Wisdom Teachings that fill my very being is what I have dug out by my own effort. The time is long passed when it was appropriate for us to be told what to do. Besides, we seldom did it anyway, or only when it was convenient. We are at the point in our evolution when we must decide, based on universal principles, what it is that we must do, and then how we will go about it. Not only that, we must decide and do in the company of all of humanity. We are told "Love ye one another." That's easy to do with friends; but try it on your enemies!

We cannot go it alone; we must all evolve together. With the amazing advances in the fields of information dissemination and communication, we may feel as if we are in an impenetrable jungle of words with no guide and many pitfalls. A message in **From The Mountain Top** tells us that God spoke to men and women in the old days, they listened and were blessed. But now, when current times are particularly dark and we need Him, God no longer speaks and we are cursed. Sometimes it sure feels like that, doesn't it? Foolish, self-centered, and blind we (or everyone else) seem to be. God has never stopped speaking to us, BUT we have stopped listening, destroying our true sense of hearing by listening too intently to the muffled thunder of the sound waves of human passion pounding against our inner ear. We call out to God, to the Masters, to anyone who seems to know his or her way or professes to see into the future, to lead us through all of this seeming darkness to a "promised land" where all will be clear, all will be peaceful, and where we will all be able to rest forever. Nonsense!

There is a portion of ourselves that knows we each must be our own guide, but there is always the testing force looming larger than life, pushing us to look for the easy way out. We spend hours, days, even lifetimes, lost in the beguiling maze of the mental world, hypnotized by words, ideas, theories, philosophies and gadgets. We read at home, we have long or short discussions with

friends and neighbors. Too much of this can lead us in divergent directions away from our true path. We might feel we know it all and sit complacently by, or we might be blinded by all the words, or we might become intoxicated by those same words and want more, more, and still more. One begins to understand the feelings of Eliza Dolittle, in *My Fair Lady*, when she sings about “words, words, words, all day long all I hear are words. Is that all you blighters can do? Don’t give me words, SHOW ME!” I would ask how do we find the true direction? the true balance between head and heart? between the darkness and the light? between truly doing and truly being?

These questions lead us to the concept of Self Responsibility. Again and yet again! Well, what does that mean? As I sat thinking about it, I thought about other tools we have been given to help us in our lifelong task of growing and transforming, that each of us must pick up and use ourselves. On the physical plane, I pictured Chris, James or others leaving town to go to work in a truck filled with modern tools for carpentry, masonry, electrical work, etc. The next picture that flashed into my mind was one of my father sixty years ago as a general contractor, leaving town in his pickup truck with a wooden box he could carry himself, filled with hand tools to do much the same kind of work as Chris, James, or others. Using this analogy, a self responsible occult student might well ask him/herself just what basic tools are really needed for the job of growth and transformation?

If you ask fifty sincere Temple students for a list of ten basic rules to live by, I am reasonably sure that you might very well get lists of three or four hundred different rules. Each list would reflect the unique point of view of the student. There would be some overlapping, of course. That overlapping might very well include the following rules which are actually the only tools one needs for this entire lifetime, let alone any lifetime that will follow.

They are the “Ten Rules of Discipleship” paraphrased in the following manner.

1. Love God, your neighbor and yourself with a love that is totally unconditional.
2. Obey the laws of life as expressed on all the planes of existence.
3. Be especially mindful of the sacred Creative Fire contained within.
4. Hold all life sacred.
5. Do not speak falsely, unnecessarily or critically about anyone. Because when you do, the force put into action rebounds mightily against you.
6. Never forget that every thing and every body is a part of God and act accordingly.
7. In the morning and in the evening set aside a time to talk to God with all your heart and soul, speaking in words that hold all you know of purity, thanksgiving and unselfishness.
8. Give from your abundance to the poor. Give your selfishness and lower desires to the Great Mother, that through her love she can help you to overcome any negativity.
9. Honor all aspects of Matter, Force, and Consciousness including your own, having faith beyond any doubt that you are in the right place, at the right time, doing and saying the right thing.
10. Divine Love, expressing itself through karma, has brought us to the place where we can begin to see the path that leads to spiritual illumination. We must keep that path clear for ourselves and others and obey the Master.

These ten Rules embody all the truth and universal principles humanity can use at this time. Until we can put each one into daily and hourly practice all the time, like breathing out and breathing in, we are not ready for anything “new”; it’s the just same “old” stuff. We cannot go on to the next classroom until we master this one. We need to practice dispassionate, loving but firm, self-examination of our obedience to these Rules. Each small step in our understanding, acceptance, and use is an important one. Remember that old saying: “The only way to eat an elephant is one bite at a time.” We might add, “. . . a small bite, chewed carefully and thoughtfully, and swallowed slowly.”

Another basic tool for our spiritual growth would be the

books **From The Mountain Top**. "Wait a minute!" I can hear some of you insisting, "The books of the Teachings are the most important." It is true they are important, but the passages in **From The Mountain Top** speak to the intuition, providing the vital balance to the busy brain that sets up such a deafening noise that we miss the quiet, still voice of truth. We are told this very point in a Mountain Top message entitled *Simplicity* reminds us that we are so busy clothing the simple thoughts of God in too many words, too much rhetoric, that we miss the precious vital spark, the truth contained in those simple thoughts. This truth might well feed and warm a hungry shivering multitude whose hands are lifted to us in wordless supplication!

We are so busy gathering others of our kind to listen to an ever-flowing stream of extravagant exaggeration and senseless phrasing that we are missing the fact that the simple unclothed truth pleads silently to us for simple words. Is it any wonder that so many people feel so tired so much of the time? If we would listen with the ear of spirit we might hear and hearing, gladly pass the living word to deadened ears.

"The simple things, the simple words, the simple deeds of daily, hourly life, hold treasures vast beyond computing, for in these treasures lie the first faint shadowing, the first beginnings of the seed of all the flowers of spirit, the seed of life eternal."

George Carlin once said, "[We] . . . spend too recklessly, laugh too little, drive too fast, get too angry, stay up too late, get up too tired, read too little, watch TV too much, and pray too seldom. We have multiplied our possessions but reduced our values. We talk too much, love too seldom, and hate too often. We've learned how to make a living, but not a life. We've added years to life not life to years. We've been all the way to the moon and back, but have trouble crossing the street to meet a new neighbor. We have conquered outer space, but not inner space. We build more computers to hold more information, to produce more copies than ever, but we communicate less and less."

OK, OK, we say, I'll pay attention to the simple things, words, and deeds and that will be easy, right? Not possible, not even desirable. Real growth and insight comes another way as outlined

in *The Path is Hard* from the first volume of **From the Mountain Top**. Filled with truth and Love it says, "In a sense we may say it is the same path that the Master Jesus followed. There is no other path, no other way to find the true self, save through effort and suffering. When we think of it from an earthly standpoint, it seems pitiful that poor, weak, human beings should have apparently so little light to guide them on the way, so little of the comfort that it would seem might be theirs; but those of you who have had an opportunity of watching the wealthy or the so-called 'well-to-do', those who seem to enjoy all the good things of this life, know that they are often 'of all men or women most miserable.' They are using the gauds of earth to dress up their scarred and tainted carcasses, while their souls are often naked and hungry; and that would show you how little the soul can gain from worldly wealth. It is the strain, the stress, the exercise of power, that gives the final victory."

The Master goes on to tell us if there were any other way, he would have told us, but we are, as He is, of God, and only



Sioux Ceremonial Gloves Photo by A. R. Dunbar

through the strength of the God within ourselves and the power we can gain over these adverse conditions through endurance and courage will we be enabled to meet and overcome what will be before us in this and in many lives. Anyone who tries to make us believe that we can gain spiritual growth without passing through 'Golgotha' is deluded. But there is no reason why we should not see the beauty, the good, and the glory that there is in life. It is around us on every side; it is ours to take and use as it seems best, always in the right spirit. He would not have us look only at the hells of life, but more often at the heavens which also lie about us.

Another tool for our spiritual growth I would suggest is that of a truly open mind. An open mind that does not judge, that listens with empathy and sees beyond the facade that each of us build so carefully. Speaking for all of us, that famous and often quoted author, Anonymous, once wrote in part:

PLEASE HEAR WHAT I'M SAYING

Don't be fooled by me.

Don't be fooled by the face I wear.

For I wear a mask, a thousand masks,
masks that I'm afraid to take off,
and none of them are me. . . .

Who am I, you may wonder?

I am someone you know very well.

For I am every man you meet and

I am every woman you meet.

As we move through this year of 2015 let us resolve to express with open arms, hearts and minds our willingness to consciously do and to be. In our resolutions if we use such phrases as "I should," "I must," or "I must not," we set up barriers for ourselves. Louise Hay once said "Stop should-ing on yourself!"

We create the necessity to try and see what we can get away with, to figure out how we can get around the conditions we have set up for ourselves. One of the most destructive acts we participate in (and I am sorry to say we seem to do it on a daily basis) is that of criticizing others by thought or word. This is

terrorism in its most elemental form. The idea seems to be that if we put down, or criticize, someone else, we feel better about ourselves.

There are a couple of one-liners from the Teachings that pound themselves against my consciousness over and over: (1) "The same life is in those we hate as in those we love, so why hate ourselves?" and (2) "When will humanity learn that there is more than one right way to do things?" But if every thought and word is centered in "my way is the only way", then anything done by others is judged as being "wrong", and the terrorist within shoots poisoned, critical words. This is NOT God in action.

Remember that story about the pianist Paderewski who was asked by a musician, "Could you be ready to play a recital on short notice?" "I'm always ready," Paderewski answered. "I've practiced eight hours daily for forty years." "I wish I had been born with such determination," sighed the other. "All are born with it," replied the pianist. "I just used mine."

I would suggest we need to ensoul our resolutions, our ideals, in words that allow us to flow, even in small steps, toward those ideals, thereby becoming much closer to the reality of God in Action. These words include "I will, I feel, I honor, I allow, I believe, I am." And we might also include "you will, you feel, you honor, you allow, you believe, you are."

So, in this New Year, we will use the tools of old and tried directions, of words, of resolutions, and of interpretations with which to tackle life. I urge you to simplify, simplify, simplify, and open your eyes and hearts and look on everyone with humanity, with humility, and with rejoicing in our unity, one with another. With enthusiasm, with renewed commitment and insight we can make this year, 2015, into a banner year of brother/sisterhood, peace and commitment to the Higher Law.

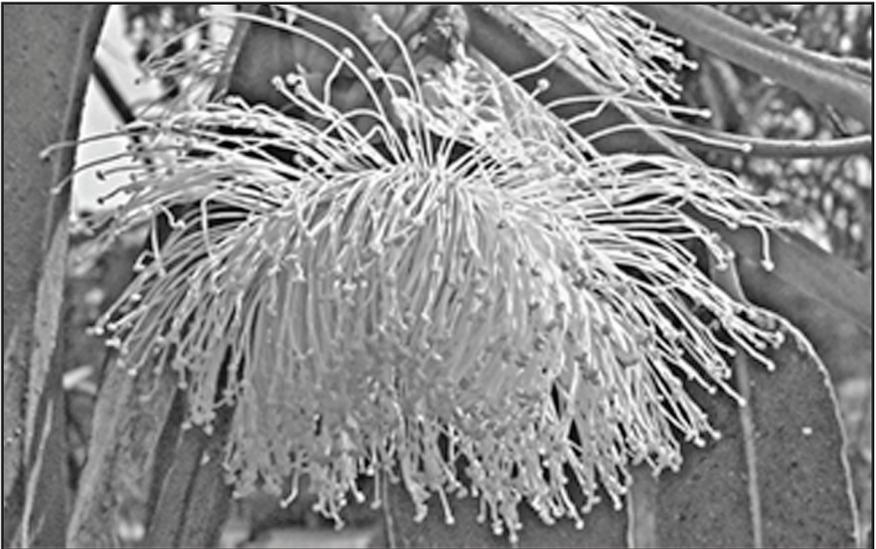
— Eleanor L. Shumway
Guardian in Chief

SEA OF MEN

There are many faces in the sea of men
Quietly working
I feel their shoulders next to mine
I feel the strength, the mind
Something huge strong and kind
Inspiring us all to knowing
All is as it should be

Man is truly free
Touch heaven or hell as he would
Create either one as he stood
On the threshold of greatness each day
Oh! How plainly I now see the way

—*Anne R. Dunbar* 1996



Eucalyptus Flower. Photo by A. R. Dunbar

THE HEALING MEDITATION

A very important part of the prayer work in the Temple is the Healing meditation. “We will now hold the Healing Meditation, calling in the healing forces of the Lodge. With the Power of the White Light let us surround the Guardian-in-Chief, Temple Officers, all members here and elsewhere who are in need of help; all who have sent in their names for the Healing Bowl; and everyone who is searching for the Light.

“May the Master purify us that we may more worthily perform this service. In the strength of the Christos do we repel all evil from this Thy Holy Altar and sanctuary; and we pray our Heavenly Father/Mother that Thou wilt send Thy Holy Angels to help us build a Spiritual Temple, through which Thy Strength and Blessings may be poured forth upon the world.

“To Thee, Almighty Father/Mother/Son, Creator of Life, spiritual and material, we lift our hearts in faith that, if it be according to Thy Will, the Sun of Thy righteous and omnipotent Love may shine upon and within us, lifting the fallen shadows of disease and suffering, and restoring us to mental, moral, and physical health. AMEN”

What are we actually doing when we say or hear these words? What do they really mean? Let’s take a closer look. We have been told many times and in many ways of the creative power of sound. In announcing the formation of the world, The Bible tells us in the beginning there was the Word and the Word was with God, and God spoke the world into being. Our own Teachings are full of references to this power of Sound.

Why then do we speak the words of the Healing Meditation? We do this to tune into the creative power of this primal Divine Force. In order to use this meditation for healing, our motive must be sincere. It must be a heartfelt desire to help everyone, including ourselves, to meet the challenges facing us. This motive needs to be articulated by and within each person present as the invocation begins, “We will now hold the Healing Meditation.” This articulation can be instantaneous, for thought happens faster than the speed of Light.

When we hold a meditation, instead of sending “out” light or prayers, we go within. We see ourselves following the Light deep within our hearts; then suddenly it opens out into the real world containing the essence of everything in manifestation. As we go within our hearts, we conserve energy and become more and more effective in our role of partner and co-creator with the Masters and God.

We connect with all the good, all the positive forces of the Great White Lodge with the words, “calling in the healing forces of the Lodge.” We acknowledge the Love, Guidance, and the Presence of the Masters and Their Love, and our right to call upon Them. Even though we are never actually outside of that presence and Love, we must ask each day for the spiritual food we need to keep us spiritually healthy and connected. This is our responsibility in the partnership we have with All That Is, or God.

We make the inner connection, then we say, “With the Power of the White Light,” by which we acknowledge, that as part of the team, we are going to use that Power of the White Light creatively under the Higher Law to do the following: “. . .let us surround the Guardian-in-Chief, Temple Officers. . . ” Note this is not by personal name, but rather by the point made manifest by the office itself. We are asking that the White Light enable each office to most effectively function its duties.

The personality currently occupying that point is included in the following “. . . all members here and elsewhere who are in need of help. . . ” We see ourselves and each person in our Temple family surrounded by the White Light, helping us all to meet whatever challenge we face. Then we spread this beneficent Light in ever increasing circles to: “. . .all who have sent in their names for the Healing Bowl; and everyone who is searching for the Light.” This effectively covers the world and beyond. We must actively engage in this process. Our responsibility is not met by just listening and drifting along. We must see ourselves as being a power station, actively engaged in helping to send the Light in all directions.

Nelson Mandela expressed our feelings so clearly:

"Our deepest fear is not
that we are inadequate.

Our deepest fear is that we are powerful
beyond measure.

It is our Light, not our Darkness,
that frightens us." . . .

In the next part of the Meditation, we ask the Master to help us clear out the extraneous—the garbage—inside ourselves that gets in the way of our being an effective instrument or partner in the healing process. "May the Master purify us that we may more worthily perform this service." We begin with ourselves, then we move inward to the specifics of the task at hand. "In the strength of the Christos do we repel all evil from this Thy Holy Altar and sanctuary." We see ourselves standing guard, upright, strong, and invincible, as a Warrior of Light. As that Warrior, we do not raise a sword or gun, we simply ARE the Light. We find that evil, or the shadows, fall back defeated. At this point we pray, "our Heavenly Father/Mother that Thou wilt send Thy Holy Angels to help us build a Spiritual Temple, through which Thy Strength and Blessings may be poured forth upon the world." We ask for help in our inner building process of becoming a conduit through which that help may reach us as well as all others.

And finally, we make a passionate plea, asking that the warmth and nurturing of the Spiritual Sun, like the warmth of the physical sun, will shine on us helping to dispel the shadows of disease and suffering. As we do this, we move into our Divine mental, moral, and physical health. "To Thee, Almighty Father/Mother/Son, Creator of Life, spiritual and material, we lift our hearts in faith that, if it be according to Thy Will, the Sun of Thy righteous and omnipotent Love may shine upon and within us, lifting the fallen shadows of disease and suffering, and restoring us to mental, moral, and physical health."

We address these words to the Father/Mother/Son, Creator of Life, spiritual and material, acknowledging the three-fold unity of being, the Creator of all Life. We understand that there is no way to be outside of this Creator, looking in. We ARE it. Simply stated, we understand that we live according to Divine Law, knowing we are not victims of blind chance, but are active partners in the creation of all Life. With the help and guidance of this three-fold expression of Divinity, we gain the heights, and help others to stand beside us. We request "if it be according to Thy Will," thereby recognizing the Law of Karma, which is balance and Love or God in action.

The vibratory rate of the words of this Healing Meditation brings us into alignment with the Forces of Divinity, thereby helping us to function more effectively and restoring us to mental, moral, and physical health. Together these spell spiritual health. We are irrevocably connected with every atom in the manifested universe; therefore, as we seek and find mental, moral and physical health, we send increased balance to every other part of God. When we feel this is too much of a responsibility, we are often either too tired or too busy to remember the power of a small candle in a dark room. When we all light our small candles we create a powerful Light, the Light of Love, the Light of God.

— Eleanor L. Shumway
Guardian in Chief

LOVE

LIVE BROADLY, REACH HIGH;
MAY STABILITY OF PURPOSE,
LIGHT OF TRUTH,
BRING MANY HAPPY NEW YEARS
TO YOU.

THE WORDS OF FORCE

Every week during Temple meetings we repeat these words of force: "Out of the Darkness shineth the Light of the Glorified Triple Star, into the hearts of Humanity, raising the pulse of the Cosmic Heart, and driving the shadows into the blackness of the Great Abyss." Many use these words as an affirmation during their daily meditation. What do these words mean, and how do they operate in our lives?

The title, "Words of Force," gives us the first clue to the power inherent in this affirmation. "In the Beginning was the Word and the Word was with God". All manifestation comes from this Word. It is the differentiation of God into our world in order for us to grow, evolve, experience, and return to our natural state of full consciousness of God and the Unity of all life. The Force is that energy inherent in the Word; it is the strength, the vigor, the power of Fohat, the universal propelling Vital Force, which is at once the propeller and the resultant. As we say these words aloud, alone or together, we are invoking or calling on the Divine within ourselves as well as in all manifestation. We need to be focused when we do this. We need to be alert, and aware in order to properly absorb the force as we become attuned to it. We are told we always get what we ask for, sent to us in terms of our real needs based on the Divine time schedule. Of course, with our personal agendas, this is not often when or what we think we need!

"Out of the Darkness shineth the Light of the Glorified Triple Star . . ." Coming from the holy place of the Darkness of the unmanifested, or the undifferentiated, pours the Light from the first trinity. That trinity, the White Light of the Absolute, ever combining and recombining, constantly in motion, interpenetrating all of the Cosmos with the synthesis of all colors, is the power of all we know. The trinity, expressed through the Glorified Triple Star, has other names: Desire, Will and Motion; Love, Will and Wisdom; Light, Heat and Electricity; the Thinker, the Thought and the Expression; Atma, Buddhi and Manas. All these names are an effort of ours to describe the indescribable. We know it with our hearts, not always with our brain/mind.

The Light of the Glorified Triple Star pours out into the hearts of humanity. As the light of the physical sun pours down upon the planet we call home, without distinction, without choosing one place over another, so does the Light of the Triple Star constantly bathe each and every one of us, as well as everything about us. As local weather conditions can obscure the sunlight temporarily, so can our choices of negativity, hatred, malice, self-centeredness, and greed obscure the Light of Love that continues to surround us without discrimination. It simply IS. This Divine Light raises the pulse of the Cosmic Heart, the Heart that connects all of us with every other thing and being in the Cosmos. We cannot escape this connection, no matter how separate we feel, one from the other.

Our point of responsibility in this affirmation is that of staying connected with all manifestation. The Master tells us on page 325 of Volume 1 of the **Teachings of the Temple**, “Tear down the barriers, children of my soul! Shut out from your hearts nothing in the Universe save the thing or creature that would separate you from other human souls; for only in union with those other human souls will you ever find God—find Love Incarnate—find Peace and Fulfillment. Every barrier you build between other human souls is a barrier between your God and your own soul, between your Higher Self and you.” He is telling us that we have the responsibility to keep ourselves free from barriers.

Dr. Dower emphasizes this responsibility when he writes, “The mistakes of our brothers or sisters are our mistakes and not one of us can fall without causing pain for all of us. When we keep this unalterable law in mind, we find the courage to hold steady, to keep the faith, and to endure that the rest of us may not suffer because of our limitations. When we can see each other with eyes so steady that neither light nor shade, joy or pain, can keep from us a realization of our oneness each with the other and thus replace condemnation and criticism with patience and understanding, then indeed can we open the Place of Refuge to the Avatar and make radiant with understanding love that Dwelling Place.”

When we actively participate in the process of the Light pouring in, on, and through every fiber of our being, raising the pulse of the Cosmic Heart to which we are all firmly attached, we are nourishing not only ourselves but all of manifestation, and strengthening the power of the Light. It is, indeed, a most profound symbiotic relationship, a Cosmic “you scratch my back, I’ll scratch yours,” situation! As this process happens, the shadows of negativity, of doubt, despair, separation, and self-centeredness are driven into the blackness of the Great Abyss. The Great Abyss is that place of oblivion, of absolutely undifferentiated matter, of total non-being. One might call it a cosmic soup, or a place of waiting for the next round of manifestation.

“Out of the darkness shineth the Light of the Glorified Triple Star into the hearts of humanity, raising the pulse of the Cosmic Heart and driving the shadows into the blackness of the Great Abyss.” With these words we are affirming our recognition of the way the Divine Light pours into the hearts of each and every one of us, indeed, of all manifestation. Inherent in this recognition must come the acknowledgment of our responsibility in the process. As we are an integral part of the evolution of consciousness, we become more and more aware of the process, reaching toward the Light and helping to drive the shadows in ourselves into the Great Abyss. This is accomplished by means of the process of transmutation, as we work on our own areas darkness. We can only work on our own, however tempting it is to try to fix someone else’s!

When one considers the cyclic nature of all manifestation, from darkness to Light and back to darkness, this one sentence tells the story of manifestation in a manvantara and then withdrawal into pralaya, or rest. One short sentence, one incomprehensibly long period of time. Yet another paradox!

How do we translate this paradox into our daily living? By polishing up the little things of life: kindness, courtesy, forbearance, tolerance, silence, love, insight, compassion, restraint; the list is wonderfully long. All of these seemingly little

things contribute to world peace, as their counterparts add to the darkness in the world. It is up to each of us, every day. It is not the job of government, nor the armies, nor the pacifists or the terrorists, for in their totality they are us. So you and I, today, depending on our choices, can tip the scales for the end of life as we know it by force, or create the beginning of the flowering of peace on earth.

“Out of the Darkness shineth the Light of the Glorified Triple Star, into the Hearts of Humanity, raising the pulse of the Cosmic Heart, and driving the shadows into the blackness of the Great Abyss.” We can do this! But we do not have to do it alone because we are not alone. We have the Light of the Glorified Triple Star guiding us.

— Eleanor L. Shumway
Guardian in Chief

ILLUMINATION

The path of insight
Is illumined in understanding
The nature of the unreal;
Within and beyond,
Compassion proclaims:
Rejoice! Your cruel master,
The self, does not exist.

— Basil W. R. Jenkins

LOVE ONE ANOTHER

Dear Temple Sisters and Brothers, dear Friends,

Do you feel as I do that time runs faster each year, especially between Christmas and New Year? One has hardly reached the firm intention of what to improve in the new year when — 1 - 2 - 3 — the year has nearly gone and we have to ask ourselves what we have achieved. Many things have come and gone while others have taken their place. But one item, the item of all items — Love — never loses its significance. Love is the sun that gives and keeps life and growth. Everyone yearns for someone or something to devote his or her love to, and — if possible — to be loved in return.

We are told in the Temple Teachings: “There never was a need created or a demand made by a man but that somehow, somewhere, that need could be met, that demand could be supplied. It is for us to find the way. If we need a Christ, be sure there is a Christ; if we need a God, a heaven or hell, we may be sure they exist in some form, in some place. If we need another life or other lives on earth, or in some other sphere, we shall surely live those lives. If we have need of human love and human sympathy, it is ours for the seeking rightly. If we know where or how some of these needs may be supplied, and tell you so, would it not be very foolish in you to turn face about and go in some other direction. Believing we do know where the great gifts are to be found, we ask you to open your heart and mind to what we may be able to tell you. . .” (TT, vol. III, *The Way Out*, p. 32)

“The proof of the awakening of Love in the human Soul is the awakening of an overwhelming desire to give itself and all it possesses for the best good of all. It is only as we are enabled to give ourselves to Love that we can find life in abundance.” (TT, vol. III, *The Awakening of Love*, p. 11) We know that equal attracts equal. Attraction is the same form of energy that we now understand to be Spiritual Love. “Spiritual Love can only be understood by a perfect knowledge of what Love is supposed to be, even on the

physical plane. You have only to read the definition of 'Charity'.

Furthermore the Master tells us that repulsion " ... is always caused by the critical aspect of the mind which always at once attempts to find some reason why it should not yield itself. Love is perfect self-sacrifice. The human organism rebels at that — the giving up to itself in sacrifice — and it will not yield easily. Hatred, revenge, all the evils awakened by the lower pole of life shut the door, as it were, to the spiritual realms. You can in reality determine the position of an individual in the scale of life by the exhibition of his feeling toward the rest of humanity." (TT, vol. III, *Universal Forces*, p. 56)

In the same way we can determine our own stand in the scale of life, which is even more important. As we can only see what is at least latent in us, we condemn ourselves when we are critical. At the same time we give away our own shortcomings. Foolish, isn't it?

"The power to withhold judgment and give Love is necessary where a weak or erring brother stands in need of it. Come back to me, my child, who have wandered far away into the by-paths made by faithlessness, by false judgment, by lovelessness, until you can no longer hear my voice, no longer see my outstretched hand. Open your hearts to that Divine Love which as a mirror reflects our unity.

"Take my hand, and with me seek your straying brothers and enfold them in the Love that is the apotheosis of all things, the Love that can conquer all things, even death itself." (TT, vol. III, *The Awakening of Love*, p. 13-14)

Furthermore consider that Sound returns to that form of energy of which it is an integral part. "In like manner, the thoughts of Love, compassion, and devotion which well up in the human heart, pass beyond the ken of their creators, to mingle with like forces in the realms of spirit. These, too, are subject to recall, and come as angel visitants to those who have prepared a dwelling place for them." (TT, vol. III, *The Awakening of Love*, p. 14)

Here too the law of attraction is in force. We think over 70,000 thoughts a day, but 90% are always the same. Here we have to lay aside what we do not want to send into the world and to invite into our lives. That's one of the most difficult task and the most satisfying one. As we rid ourselves of the old we gain so much space for the new and better.

"We are exactly what we think, not what we appear. If we think truth we become truth, and finally our consciousness rises to and becomes infinite truth. If we recognize, believe, and act with the law of the eternal brotherhood of souls, Love — the underlying law of all creation — will identify us forever with that great Brotherhood of souls and with the Masters of all wisdom, power, and might. We will go in and out of our Father's house, members of one great family. . ." (TT, vol. III, *A Brotherhood of Souls*, p. 92)

"... After all is said, it is the simplest thing that is asked, simple Faith and trust and LOVE and work. You are asked to perform no great deed, nothing but your simple daily duty; one hour, one minute a time; nothing more, nothing less." (TT, vol. III, *OM or Aum*, p. 73)

What follows is my favorite passage: "The Ego will beat its own Path through its own course of time on the Ground of Love and Justice. . . It remains to be seen if you can recognize your own opportunities. This is called out by the conditions and forces always obtaining — and at your service if you are wise enough to claim them." (TT, vol. III, *Attainment*, p. 59-60)

It is with good intentions that we start into the New Year 2015. May it be a successful and happy one.

Yours as always with LOVE

— Annegret Liebig

SEARCHING FOR THE LIGHT

In this world the Pilgrim
Searching for the Light
Must forsake the outer glare
And seek the luminous within.

— Basil W. R. Jenkins



Photo by
Anne R. Dunbar

TEMPLE ACTIVITIES AND NOTICES

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

The William Quan Judge Library serves Temple members, residents of Halcyon, and friends with an interest in Theosophy or who are doing research involving some of our special collections. Our library is staffed by volunteers. Hours are Tuesdays, 9:30-11:30am. Other hours are by appointment through the Temple office.

The University Center Gallery is being prepared for a new showing of Harold Forgostein's inspiring American Indian paintings. This show will open about Easter time.

The Temple Healing Service is held at Noon each day in the Temple. All are welcome to attend.

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

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

Speakers in the Sunday Services were: December 14, Eleanor L. Shumway: *You are Invited to a Banquet*; December 21, George Colendich: *A Spiritual Perspective*; January 11, Eleanor L. Shumway: *Responsibility*; January 18, Symposium on Loyalty.

Information about the Temple, past issues of *The Temple Artisan*, recent talks, and other resources can be found on the Temple web site:

www.templeofthepeople.org

The Temple of the People

PO Box 7100 • Halcyon, California 93421-7100

Tel: 805.489.2822 • Fax: 805.481.9446 • ginc@templeofthepeople.org