

# The Temple Artisan

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April-May-June 2014

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*Behold, I give*



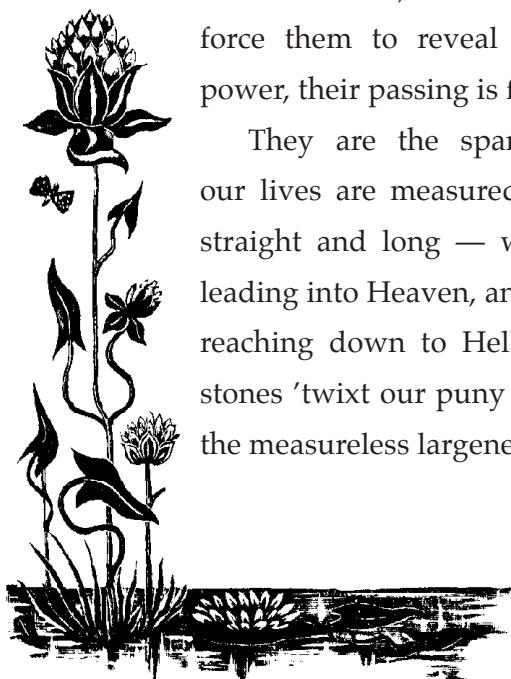
*unto thee a key.*

## LIFE'S OPPORTUNITIES

Life's opportunities, like angel visitants, pass swiftly, silently — and if we fail to catch the first faint echo of their coming footfalls, or, all untrained

to action swift, we fail to seize and force them to reveal their hidden power, their passing is for aye.

They are the spans by which our lives are measured — a ladder straight and long — with one step leading into Heaven, and yet another reaching down to Hell — the mile stones 'twixt our puny littleness and the measureless largeness of God.



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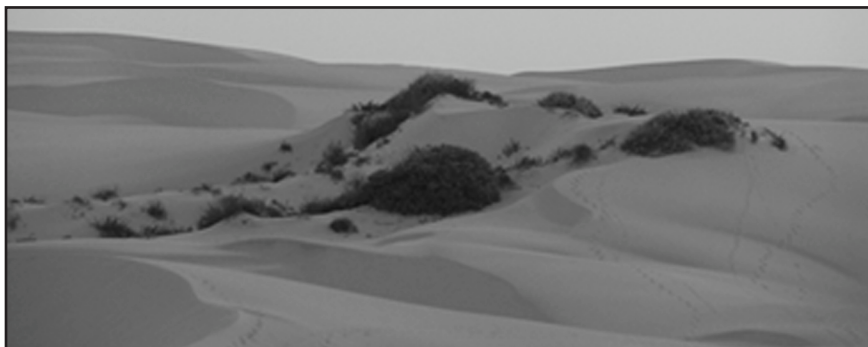
## EDITORIAL MIRROR

The abundance of wisdom we have been given through the Teachings of the Temple is immense. There are eight hardback volumes in print and material for more. There isn't a page we can open at random that doesn't speak to us specifically about some aspect of our lives. The task seems to be overwhelming as we flounder about scattering these wonderful teachings in all directions as a beginning swimmer scatters drops of water to sparkle in sunshine while he or she paddles furiously to keep afloat.

Pushing that analogy a bit further, the new swimmer learns to be still, to use the water to keep afloat, to trust the water and him / her self and then, with self-discipline and experience, to swim using any one of a number of strokes. No one can learn to swim for someone else. No one can learn to swim without getting into the water and practicing. Through experience will come wisdom, and the disciplined ability to move around in another element with a degree of comfort, skill and trust in that element.

So it is with our paddling about in the element of spiritual aspiration as expressed through the Temple Teachings. In reality all paths of aspiration lead to God, and all those paths lie within each of us. Our responsibility is to choose and to follow steadily. Does it matter the name we give to that path? No. What matters is our self-discipline and Faith.

— Eleanor L. Shumway  
*Guardian in Chief*



*Evening Dunes 2.* Photo by Anne R. Dunbar

*The Law of Centralization is the only law that every soul should follow if they would find the Light. In other words, we must go in, and in, and more in to the depths of our spiritual consciousness; and if we can realize our own center, we will find that our own center is the center for all things, beings, worlds, and universes.*

— Dr. William H. Dower,  
*Second Guardian in Chief*

## AFFIRMATION, ASPIRATION, AND PRAYER

It is up to each of us to look within, to find the place where something is singing, and to bring that song into action on all planes. Each of us must do it for ourselves, and by the act of doing we enrich everyone. Truth, in all its guises, shines like a beacon light from the heights of our aspirations, leading us on if we keep our eyes uplifted and ears open. It is our responsibility to make these connections. Dr. Dower once said, “Search for hidden causes in your own heart and the hearts of people and things. Stand on your own mental and soul feet and realize that no other can grow for you, no other can live for you, no other can eat for you. Try to realize unity with God — the Omnific Principle of Life and Love — *now*. To get acquainted with our real selves, the God within is, and should be, the divine purpose of life, and to that end all else should be subordinated. And when we do realize it — then we shall know what to do next — how to help the other fragments of our Greater Self to realize it — to point out as far as the Great Law will permit the true Path that winds uphill all the way and at the end of which is the Goal of Light and Life Eternal.”

We have such richness of Masterly love, wisdom, and experience to draw from as we walk that true path, and yet they are simple steps. For example, affirmation, aspiration and prayer are steps that help us in the process of knowing ourselves, and as we know ourselves we begin to more deeply understand and love ourselves and others.

Let me examine these steps in light of our Temple Teachings. *Affirmation* is an act of positive assertion, of validation, and confirmation. *Aspiration* is more a desire to achieve something high or great, a feeling of ascending or soaring to heights indescribable,

a pledge of the very best within ourselves to the very highest we can imagine. *Prayer* is an act of petition, an entreaty or a request to God, to the Infinite Spirit, to All That Is, or to whatever we term the Universal Consciousness from which we came and in which we have our being. *Affirmation*, *Aspiration*, *Prayer*: all three are aspects of the same indwelling, upwelling search for unity with God, each having a little different aspect of this universal Truth. They are different, yet blurring as they approach each other, intermingling, and bearing with them our inmost essence.

We hear a lot about the power of affirmations and the material things we can manifest in our lives by simply affirming what we want. What isn't often mentioned in the popular press about the power of affirmation is that as we access the power of certain latent inner forces or elementals through our affirmation, we also set in motion the negative aspect of the force invoked. We probably do not have the training or the power to handle these pairs of opposites, but we gain that power and training by doing it and learning from the doing. After all, even the Masters of the highest degrees are still in training.

The process of labor and growth involves stepping back from ourselves to begin to consciously work on ourselves, as we separate the "big E" Ego from the physical body one tiny step at a time and merging the personal consciousness with that of the Absolute. This involves telling the noisy "little e" ego to be quiet and sit down while the *real* us is busy. Only at this height of evolution is it safe to call into action the unified forces of the "I Am" and direct them toward the accomplishment of a personal desire. The stumbling block below this height is personal desire, because even if we can justify a desire by assuring the universe that such desire is pure and undefiled, the fact remains that the element of self enters into the picture in some way, more and more subtly as we advance on The Path. The little "e" ego is very skilled in rationalization and justification. That we will gain this power over self is a given under the laws governing the evolution of consciousness. This power is gained "through the quiet, unostentatious movements of the slower process of normal growth." The following statement from Master Morya's writings is particularly helpful: "Knowledge for the mind, like food for the body, is intended to feed and help

to growth, but it requires to be well digested, and the more thoroughly and slowly the process is carried out the better, both for body and mind." We must remember there are no shortcuts.

We need to pay attention to the affirmations we make every day in a variety of ways. Our power comes in becoming more mindful. Sometimes the distinction between affirmation and prayer, both of which seem to be propelled by aspiration, becomes blurred.

For instance, let us consider the Consecration Hymn. We sing it frequently, usually struggling to sing that high F note with some degree of accuracy and wishing it could be in some other key. But how often do we pay single-focused, mindful attention to the words we are singing? "Holy Father, Only Son, Holy Spirit, three in One — Filled with trust we bow to Thee, Power and Force and Majesty." There is no doubt who or what we are addressing. There is no possible way that we can be separated from this Power, Force and Majesty. It is not outside of us; it is an interpenetrating, integral part of our being. Our responsibility is to consciously trust that Power, Force, and Majesty.

Next comes a simple, powerful affirmation that stops us in our tracks: "All we are or hope to be, here and now we offer Thee. Take and use it for Thy Child, sinless, pure and undefiled." Remember, we *are* that Child, each of us. We are speaking not to a God sitting on a throne, but to the three-fold aspect of all creation which is not outside of us, but interpenetrates every atom of the manifested universe. That Universal Spirit listens, accepts, records, and then holds us absolutely accountable for delivery. We make this promise *every* time we give voice to that song, and the thing that should thrill through our beings as we sing is the *trust* that the Universal Spirit has in us to be responsible for our choices and our commitments.

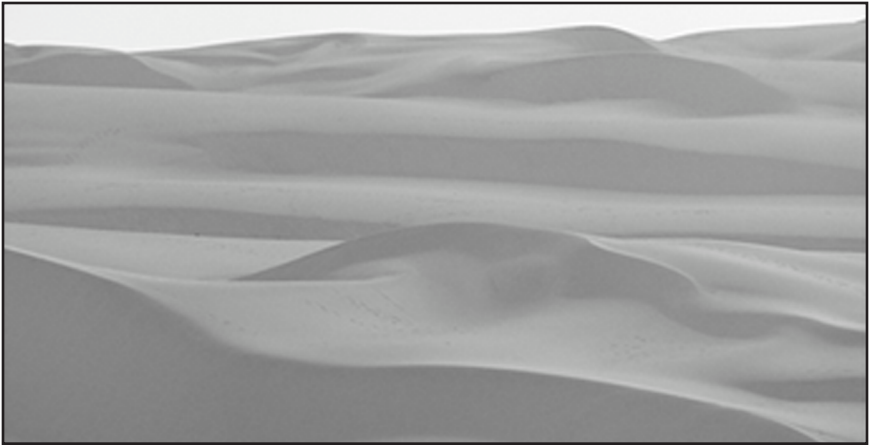
Remember the three R's: Respect for self, Respect for others, Responsibility for all our actions. We have so much help, so much Love, so much encouragement, and so much responsibility in this process of actually remembering that we are one with the Father.

Part of this responsibility is to give expression to the force of gratitude. This force is powerful, closely allied to the law of

supply and demand. We need to set free this force of gratitude, or thankfulness, for the tremendous supply of everything we receive, all we have demanded of the Universe. The force of gratitude serves to complete the circuit. We are told, "Simply turn your thoughts inward to Omnipotent Love, and cultivate the will and desire for awakening this force within yourself, which, when cultivated, will flow forth as naturally as does desire for the accomplishment of wish or purpose." We have so much for which to be grateful.

In the *Teachings of the Temple*, Volume 1, Lesson 21 is entitled "Prayer." In it the Master says that we ask over and over that the governing laws of the Universe be changed in order that some personal desire be gratified, and often ask that the great law of Karma — cause and effect — be modified or changed in order that we may obtain some favor or win some power which we have not earned. He tells us we have no way of knowing of the problems, of the unspeakable anguish to us if we were allowed to do just as we desired, no matter how we dress up those desires. He goes on to say, "The strained, tense condition of the nerves from which countless thousands of people are now suffering is responsible for much of the evil that falls upon them. The same law that renders a relaxation of the body necessary is behind an equal necessity for soul relaxation, the law commonly known as gravitation, and true prayer should result in the relaxation of soul. The energy, which should be evenly distributed throughout all the nerves and muscles, is used up thoughtlessly or ignorantly in sustaining this tension, while for the time being it enables the ambitious man or woman to accomplish herculean tasks in business or pleasure; consequently, the body is robbed of necessary force, and the mind cannot function evenly and naturally; antagonism is engendered, and finally, incipient disease or decay manifests. You must learn to relax this tension by power of will, and I have already told you how you must evolve such willpower if you are to obtain it."

No one quarrels with that statement about the strained, tense condition of the nerves that much of humanity suffers from. Today we call it stress, and now are stressed about our stress! The statement that catches my eye is the last one, where He says we must learn to relax the tension by power of will, and that He has



*Evening Dunes.* Photo by Anne R. Dunbar

already told us how we must evolve such willpower if we are to obtain it. *What? Did I miss something?* Read that over again, and again, and again! We get something — willpower — by evolving it and we already have been told how to do that.

Earlier in the lesson he said that anger, hatred, unbrotherly conduct, harsh criticism of others generates within our own auras a corroding, devitalizing form of force which not only results in illness of the physical body but also acts on the astral body and the organs of consciousness on the mind plane like a poison acts on the physical body in the physical world. If we are unyielding and unpliant we are broken on the wheel of the world; if we can be pliant we can bend beneath the storm, and the storm either passes over our heads and leaves us untouched or touches us so lightly by comparison that our rebound to a normal position is accomplished with very little difficulty when the danger is over. Those operational words of instruction seem to be that of evolving this willpower by practicing love, tolerance, acceptance and discipline of self. Trust in the evolutionary process is also an important element, as is balance. We are not being told that we are heavy with sin or guilt. Rather, we are trusted to listen, to take what we need at this time and use it wisely, and know that we are loved and to love without reservation in return.

Elsewhere in our Teachings there is a specific lesson about the



development of willpower, where it is pointed out that too often stubbornness and willpower are confused. How often will we claim to be full of willpower, but not claim any part of being stubborn? Those two words are *not* interchangeable. Stubbornness belongs to the mental plane and willpower to the spiritual. Willpower must be carefully cultivated in a systematic manner, and by the use of the mental faculties of decision and perseverance in accordance with Moral and Spiritual Law, to avoid falling into black magic.

With a great deal of love and understanding the Master sets forth several steps on cultivating willpower. After formulating in the mind an act to be willed, meditate carefully and then choose an act in accordance with your present power of accomplishment. For instance, you might choose to do some right thing from a right motive at the right time and place. Then decide on the time, methods, etc., to devote to that special act of the will. He tells us that one by one, as each difficulty comes up, set it aside, quietly but firmly. Rest assured that that noisy, wordy “little e” ego will fling a thousand and one difficulties our way. Keep the goal firmly in your mind’s eye whenever it is possible, allow nothing derogatory to the purpose to influence you to stumble.

Each time you accomplish some task in this process, put it in the background and rest for at least twenty-four hours before setting yourself another one. Make each one a little more difficult, giving yourself plenty of time. Try to realize that the Will is a dynamic force of inconceivable power and requires guidance on all planes. It must be guided by Love and Wisdom. The Master’s love shines forth when he tells us, “Remember, you probably have been working on this process in prior incarnations. If the Will is not under perfect control and guidance by the Ego, then you have the double job of bringing it under control and guiding its further development and growth. You can do it. Don’t be discouraged, for nothing can harm you more, nothing can so nullify your every effort. If Karma has placed you under restrictions, do all you conscientiously can in every direction, and rest secure in the knowledge that when the debt has been paid, the way will be opened wide before you.” You can do this.

The lesson called *Prayer* also contains these instructions: “If



from the higher point of renunciation, the soul, while in a perfect state of relaxation sends forth a prayer to the Infinite — not for some personal favor, but of faith, of love for that Infinite — the same law which compels one pole of electricity to respond to the other will compel a response from the Infinite Domains, and the response will be in accordance with the real needs of the aspiring soul. You will frequently find that the surest way of winning a thing is to give up even the desire for that thing." Notice that the response we will get to our prayer is "...in accordance with the real needs of our aspiring soul." That which is comfortable and heads our list of personal wants is often widely divergent from that which is our real need. This is hard to remember when the going really gets tough, that the seeming difficulties are often just what we *need* from the standpoint of our aspirations. Not getting what we want is sometimes a stroke of luck. The burning of the dross from our lower natures is never comfortable, but it is the thing our Real Self is working on whether we like it or not. As we begin to understand this, we can more easily move from the plane of the personality onto the plane of forces for a clearer view of our needs, rather than our wants. The paradox is that, as the process goes on with our conscious cooperation, we begin to want what we truly need rather than seeming to need what we want.

The lesson finishes with these words: "The wisdom of the ages is compressed in the words spoken by Jesus, 'Not my will but Thine be done.' Only when prayer is preceded by that sentence, winged by an unselfish love that asks only to love, not for love, that Omnipotence can answer. The highest power is commonly won by renunciation. Renounce with thy whole heart, love with thy whole heart, work with thy whole heart, and all things in heaven and earth are thine." But we had better be careful what we ask for, because at this stage of our evolution, we may not be prepared to receive it! We must remember to pray, understanding that there is immeasurable power in prayer. We can make every minute of every day an unceasing prayer, and still be actively functioning on the physical plane.

*Affirmation, Aspiration, and Prayer...* how do we translate these into action in today's world? Under the tremendous pressures of the present time, we cannot live a completely contemplative or

secluded life, nor is it necessary. We must interact with each other and with ourselves. This is how we learn. As we do so in the light of the Temple Teachings we find another dimension of life, with a depth and color that deepens and unfolds as our consciousness reaches within and without, touching all the other aspects of the Divine. Most of us get such a high when we are tuned into the right keynote that we want to shout it from the housetops. The real test is to put it into daily, hourly use without saying a word, without being self-righteous in thought or deed, simply letting it shine from our beings.

Part of our work is learning to recognize that we are already practicing many of these things to some degree. We need to acknowledge our own worth, our own connection with God, in order to proceed with the fine-tuning, adjusting, and balancing that are necessary before taking the next step. We often speak of the necessity of *being* the thing we believe in. We can only *be* one tiny step at a time. But as a wise elder used to say, "The only way to eat an elephant is one bite at a time." Sometimes that step of *being* is faltering and hesitant, but at other times it is confident and sure, as we gain confidence in ourselves.

We must continue to look with honesty, wonder and love at our strengths, our weaknesses, our courage, our fortitude, and our true Brother/Sisterhood in every part of the manifested and unmanifested Universe. It is a wakeup call to break the bindings of our lower selves and take the next step on the Path toward our conscious reunion with the Divine.

This call is expressed in the powerful affirmation of our highest Aspiration: *I will endeavor to realise the presence of the Avatar as a living power in my life.* So Be It.

—Eleanor L. Shumway  
Guardian in Chief



### TEMPLE NOTICE FROM THE GUARDIAN IN CHIEF

*Any correspondence coming personally from Istvan Balogh does not come from the Temple or carry the endorsement of the Guardian in Chief.*

## ABOVE THE FOG

We children of earth have a great need at the present time to rise higher and yet higher above the miasma of poison fumes surrounding our entire planet, up into the rarefied atmosphere of the spirit. "There's always room at the top" is a statement as true on higher levels as on those where the average man and woman dwells. There is no congestion on the higher planes of life, and if we can increasingly raise our center of operations up to those levels there need be none for us.

Our job is to learn to act as spiritual conductors, transmuting the forces that impinge upon the solar plexus and conversely, transmitting — stepping down — divine impulsations so that when they reach the outer planes they will not be so high powered as to electrocute the unevolved ones to whom those forces must now be directed.

As yet, this work has not become so real to us that it is at all times the center of our operations. As yet, we are inclined to divert divine inspiration into channels of the human will and intellect. While this is to be expected, it is not to be accepted supinely, with no alertness of effort for the overcoming.

"If thine eye be single, thy whole body will be full of light." Let us work on the concept of the single eye. The steadfast gaze, centered on the Light, can see no shadow. Let us lift our eyes and behold the splendor of His countenance.

— Joyce Hedin

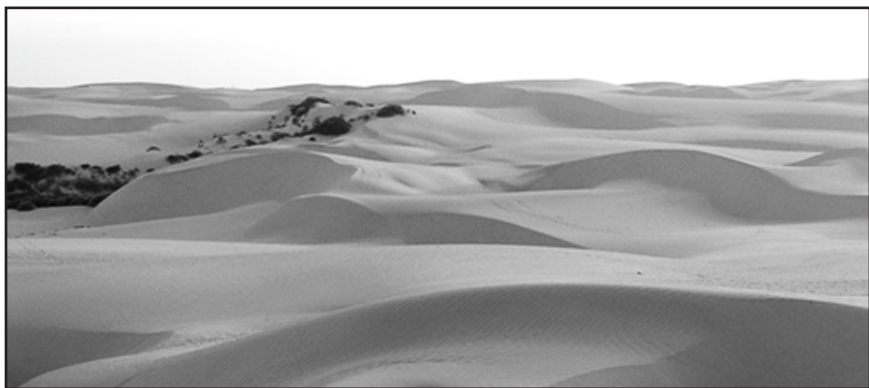


*Halcyon Fog.* Photo by Anne R. Dunbar

## GOLDEN THREADS

*The Golden Threads that bind all human hearts,  
That pass from land to land, from world to world,  
Invisible except to eyes of faith,  
Inaudible to all but those whose ears  
Are tuned to catch the cosmic harmonies  
As indestructible as life itself;  
These are the deeds of loving kindness,  
Of faith and courage, hope and strong resolve,  
That reproduce themselves in loving hearts  
And give a glory to our Brother/Sisterhood.*

— Agnes Varian, 1906



*Evening Dunes 3. Photo by Annie R. Dunbar*

## DEAR FEAR

Dear Fear,

Hopefully you won't take this too personally, but it is my sincere desire to end my ongoing relationship with you. It's really been quite an affair. Looking back at our life together, you've been a mixed blessing, yet for the most part you've been a pretty good friend. While you may have been responsible for my missing an opportunity or two and even embarrassing me now and then, I'm certain that it was you who saved my life on more than one occasion and for that I am truly grateful.

It's difficult to imagine life without you, for it seems as if you are instinctively hard-wired throughout my entire bodily system. While you've done your best to keep me from danger, your usefulness when it comes to increasing my reliance on my Higher Self appears to have run its course. Unfortunately for you, the journey I'm on requires me to try to go on without you. The evolution of matter, force, and consciousness demands it. Needless to say, leaving the comfort of our relationship on a permanent basis seems like no easy task.

Surely you've sensed this was coming? You must have noticed my ever-evolving dependency on common sense, my attempts at having faith and courage. Certainly you must have known that a life without you would be meaningless without a serious and continuous commitment to my Higher Self. It comes as no surprise to me that you take no pleasure in hearing, "Yea though I walk through the valley of death, I will fear no evil; for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me," and "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself." It's been a long time since you captured my innocence as a small child by way of introducing me to those little monsters you let out of my closet whenever my night light went out. Ah yes, you remain the clever one.

You *are* the master of cleverness, especially when it comes to the little things that occupy my every waking moment. Come to think of it, you are superb in your ability to disguise the nature of your presence, the influence and control you exert over my life. Now, rather than keeping me safe from danger, you spend most of your time causing me to be suspicious, critical and judgmental

of myself and others. Yet, isn't it you who are the catalyst to Unity before each and every disaster?

I have come to realize that when I endeavor to practice or live Theosophy, the Ancient Wisdom, by loving myself and those around me, I need to be constantly alert and vigilant to guard against your return. Yes, your battle with Love is a force, a feeling to be reckoned with. Being on the Path, vowing never to forsake my Higher Self for the likes of you, I remain challenged by your power. Verily, He said that, "This day, even in this night, before the cock crows twice, thou shalt deny Me thrice."

So I say that fearlessness is not necessarily the absence of you in my life, but in having the ability to maintain my connection with my Higher Self, no matter who or what may inadvertently attempt to sever that connection during this day, even in this night. It's in the adventure from the known into the unknown where you seem to cling to my insecurities. These include not having my perceived needs met, concern for the safety of myself and others, my struggle with empathy and forgiveness — moving from my experience of pain and suffering to knowing True Joy — to my willingness to Serve and Sacrifice, to letting go and letting Love.

You grow fainter the more I become aware of my Karmic responsibilities and obligations, and when my belief becomes faith in the reality of Reincarnation. Knowing begins with believing. From believing to knowing through experience, from my religious beliefs to my scientific knowledge to the Eternal Truth, I will endeavor to transmute you into Love. When I practice living the Golden Rule one moment at a time as my understanding of the Unity of all Life and the need to be of Service to my fellows evolves, I will come to know that it is through the Path of Faith and Gratitude that my independence of you may come into power.

I will find my freedom from you in always knowing that "Out of the darkness shineth the Light of the Glorified Triple Star into the hearts of humanity;" that "Creeds Disappear, Hearts Remain;" that "Though clouds and darkness seem to be about me yet dwell I eternally in the Light;" that "I will endeavor to

realize the Presence of the Avatar as living Power in my life;" that "There is a Peace that passeth understanding, there is a Power that maketh all things new."

As I strive for a life free of your dominance, surely will I encounter your presence now and again — if not within myself, most certainly will I find you in others. Nevertheless, it is my heartfelt wish that you never leave any of us completely alone, at least that is, not until our bond with our Sacred Higher Self is securely established. For without your efforts in this regard, our ever-evolving collective loyalty to trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship shall perish from this earth.

So here's to you my old friend!  
With all my Love, Me.

— Rick London

## THE TEMPLE MANTRAMS

I BELIEVE THAT IN ME DWELLETH  
EVERY GOOD AND PERFECT SPIRIT.

BELIEVING THIS, I WILL SHOW FORTH THIS DAY,  
BY THOUGHT, WORD, AND DEED,  
ALL THAT PERFECTION THAT DWELLETH IN ME.

I AM ONE WITH GOD AND ALL GOOD.  
EVIL HATH NO POWER OVER ME.

THOUGH CLOUDS AND DARKNESS  
SEEM TO BE ABOUT ME,  
YET DWELL I ETERNALLY IN THE LIGHT.



## OUR DAILY BREAD

*Morsels from Temple writings to nourish body, soul, and spirit*

### **APRIL: WILL**

- You may rejoice in the gratitude of another, but you may not demand that gift as your right.
- We are pictures painted on the screen of Nature by our own thoughts, desires and aspirations.
- Yet every failure has a lesson to teach; and even mistaken efforts are not fruitless when a true motive actuates them.

### **MAY: OBEDIENCE**

- Suns or stars, planets or comets, we each have our own choice of becoming, and according as we choose so shall we become, as surely as the words now uttered fall upon your ears.
- The Light of Life is all about, within and over thee. Open wide the portal of thy soul and send that Light, like blessed dew, upon thy brethren wandering now in parched and desert places.
- Man is a microcosm in a macrocosm. There is no force or power in the Universe but may be found in him.

### **JUNE: LOYALTY**

- So, you cannot observe the entire Self of another individual without the aid of another reflector, i.e., without the clear, pure energy of the Christ Love, which throws so strong a reflection that you may be able to perceive the inner Self as well as the outer semblance of that other.
- When perfect harmony or health rules in any organism the law of interdependence reigns there supreme.
- No human being, no angel, no God, can find its true center outside of its own soul.

## PRAYER

"The whole purpose of prayer is to unify myself with God, the Creative Spirit."

Is there anything more wonderful than this statement by James Dillet Freeman, poet and Unity minister? But how do we do this? How do we unify ourselves with God? From my perspective, this is a process that begins with finding the place of peace within ourselves.

Many years ago, during informal discussion sessions held here in Halcyon, a point was made that gratitude is one of the highest forms of prayer. That little seed that was planted in me took hold and started to grow. I began to look at each and every thing as a gift from God, taking nothing for granted. I started compiling lists of the things I am grateful for.

It was difficult at first, but once the pencil hit the paper, things began to pour out. I still have these lists and look at them frequently. On one of the first lists made early one morning, I was profoundly grateful for hot water, shaving cream, and a sharp razor. I soon discovered we can't be grateful and unhappy at the same time.

In a publication called *The Daily Word*, I once read this: "The more we pray, the more we experience God's grace — not because grace is something we must request or earn. Our prayers keep us focused on, and receptive to, all the blessings that our loving Creator is pouring out to us. The inspiration we receive during our times of sacred communion opens us to the truth of God's grace."

From an inner vision, we understand that we are living each day by the grace of God. We understand that the love and mercy of God's grace are not withheld from us in our current circumstances and will not be absent in our future ones. God's grace has cleared many obstacles in our way so that we can move forward.

Historically, there are two types of prayer: Conventional and affirmative. In conventional or theistic prayer, one reaches out to God and prays to make contact. The eternal question is, "Why wasn't my prayer answered?" Numerous clichés result

from this cry for help, such as “It is God’s will,” or “God is punishing you for your sins.” As long as people view God as Santa Claus, making a list of those who are naughty and nice, the results of prayer will be unanswered and continue to create confusion that spirals into disillusionment.

With affirmative prayer, we continuously affirm the truth for ourselves by using powerful statements such as “I am one with God and All Good, Evil has no power over me.” In this statement we affirm our relationship with God, just as Jesus affirmed this very truth not only for Himself but also for others. We find throughout history that this affirmative approach has been obscured because early translators had no concept of the “I am” statement and therefore could not translate it. Thus most of these statements are made into supplications and petitions.

Look at The Lord’s Prayer. In the traditional sense, it is a prayer of petition; however, when viewed in the more current approach using the affirmative statement, we see The Lord’s Prayer written as follows:

*Our Father in heaven, hallowed is your name. Your kingdom is now coming forth. Your will is always being done in earth as it is in Heaven. You give us this day our daily bread. You always forgive us as we forgive. You would never lead us into temptation, but are the very power of deliverance from limitation. For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory for ever. Amen.*

Affirmative prayer is the highest form of creative thought. It includes the release of counterproductive thoughts as well as holding in mind statements of spiritual truths. Through prayer and meditation, we experience the presence of God. Both prayer and meditation heighten our awareness and thereby transform our lives. We pray *with* our consciousness, not to escape *from* it. The goal is to align our consciousness with an affirmative thought and focus deeply on it for a period of time.

What then is the best way to pray? As we move towards living in a state of Grace and begin to identify with that state, we recognize how that state gives deeper meaning to our lives and how our lives can be re-created each and every moment. It’s not necessary to be a boat on the water without compass or

rudder. We can take hold of the tiller that steers our lives and with that instrumentation chart our own course.

According to James Dillet Freeman, "When we begin to form a consciousness of the presence of God, whose good pleasure it is to give us the Kingdom, we realize that prayer is not conquering God's reluctance. It is synchronizing ourselves in consciousness with the cosmic flow, which is God's eternal willingness." When we pray we do not speak the words to make them true any more than we state a chemical equation to make it so. Nature has created it to be so. Truth is true even before we affirm it. We affirm the truth as we believe it, not to get a response from God, but to synchronize with the Higher Self.

May healing action do its work and aid you in becoming one with God and All Good.

— *Chris R. Thyrring*

## A PRAYER

FATHER-MOTHER-SON,  
FROM OUR INMOST HEARTS WE PLEAD  
FOR POWER TO LOVE UNSELFISHLY;  
FOR WISDOM TO PERCEIVE ARIGHT;  
FOR PERCEPTION OF RIGHTEOUS COURSE;  
FOR DETERMINATION OF PURPOSE;  
FOR POWER OF ACTION  
ACCORDING TO THY WILL.

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## THE CHRIST WITHIN ALL

The Holy Presence is ever waiting to manifest in and through all who are prepared — in whom selfishness is being transmuted to self-less-ness and in whom the closed bud of a personal idea is unfolding to the blossom of the One Eternal Universal Self.

While in Messianic cycles the Christos may manifest through one sensitive opening in the great iron wall that surrounds humanity and shuts out that humanity from the shine of its Inner Higher Self, yet the great fact remains that the Christ is always with and in us — though we know it not — and though we look afar for that which is ever at hand.

Assuredly, until we are able to recognize the Christ within ourselves and in one another, we shall never be able to recognize Him where He will manifest in fullest power through some particular embodiment, at some particular time. We would be more apt to reject Him because we had not learned the lesson of the Christly “signs” — the lessons which the Heart alone can teach.

Get out of the personal ruts. Smash the hard crystallized thought-forms in the mind which have become a creed as to how this one or that one, or the Masters and the Gods, should conduct themselves in your view. Rather, ask yourself if you are conducting yourself in accord with love and brotherhood, instead of hate and disunity.

If we, as students of the Higher Life, allow ourselves to become attached to any mortal plan concerning ourselves or others, the Lords of Karma and spiritual evolution will assuredly break us to pieces on that point.

For the great and Eternal Truth is — that Humanity is One on a higher plane and on the lower planes of human life, the karmic lines and bonds forged, made, and broken through ages past must be adjusted and readjusted while we learn the basic lesson of our Unity with the All — with all our other selves — as we help to bear the burden of the Great World-Mother in service and love.

— *Dr. William H. Dower*  
*Second Guardian in Chief*

## LOOK WITHIN

To be still does not mean to be idle, but to prepare an environment where we can more easily hear that inner direction which the Bible calls “the still small voice”...to pause in our outer busyness and to take a good hard look at ourselves is a therapeutic process. Our true teacher is not apart from us; it is the part of us that listens. How often we have been instructed to listen to the still small voice, the incomparable teacher, but almost as often our automatic response is, “Yes, just as soon as I have time.” Think of how much of our living is done on the horizontal.

Going, doing, adjusting, shuttling back and forth between foresight and hindsight, forgetting to *look within*, forgetting even the reason for all this hectic activity. How too bad. It is sort of like dehydrating our life experience. Could we not shift the reluctant gears of habit and change our direction so that our actions would be prefaced by an inward look? If we could achieve this, think of how many false steps we would save ourselves and how much richness we could bring to the pattern of our daily lives.

There is no need to accept monotony as a part of our lives, for each of us carries within us that divine spark that can change any dull activity into an inspiring experience once we learn to Look Within, and by so doing to add a whole new dimension to our lives.

— Gertrude Tedford



Temple Flowers Pan 2. Photo by Anne R. Dunbar



## THE TRUE PURPOSE

YOU MUST NEVER LOSE SIGHT OF ONE FACT.

THE HIGHER PURPOSE,  
THE AIM OF ALL THOSE WHO ARE TRUE TEMPLARS,  
WAS AND STILL IS THE PREPARATION OF A PLACE  
WHERE IT MIGHT BECOME POSSIBLE  
FOR THE OVERSHADOWING CHRIST TO ENTER AND  
SEND FORTH THE MESSAGE WHICH  
THE WORLD HAS WAITED FOR SO LONG.

IT WOULD BE TRULY IMPOSSIBLE FOR SUCH AN  
OVERSHADOWING OF THE SPIRITUAL FORCES  
TO ENTER AND DWELL WITH A NUMBER OF  
DISAFFECTED, TREACHEROUS, INHUMAN ELEMENTS.  
IT COULD NOT DO THE WORK FOR WHICH IT CAME,  
EVEN IF IT WERE POSSIBLE TO COME.

SUCH A PLACE REQUIRES QUIET, CONCENTRATION,  
ASPIRATION, UNIFIED ENDEAVOR, AND  
FAITH IN EACH OTHER  
AND IN THE COMMON PURPOSE.

THESE ARE ESSENTIALS; ALL ELSE IS NON-ESSENTIAL.



## FAMILY LETTER

This time of spring and early summer inspires many in our community to be outside manicuring gardens and reveling in the sunshine. These longer days are being spent in preparation for the next Temple Convention, which takes place August 2 through 10.

Repairs and renewal are a constant challenge with older homes. Original brass shower fittings and faucets, saved when the Halcyon Hotel and Sanitarium was sold in 1949, were recently installed in the Open Gate. After extensive roof repairs and a fresh coat of paint, Patte Nolen's home is a beautiful backdrop to her well-established garden. Julia Moiseyeva and Andrew Smirnoff are investing themselves in their yard and home, renovating with young daughter Sasha's help. General town maintenance has included convincing families of skunks, raccoons, and opossums that it is *not* okay to live under our houses. With the help of skilled trapper, Mike Sinay, many of these critters have been relocated to wild places further east. If only we could do this with the gophers!

Jan Scott wrote and directed *Do You Believe in Fairies?*, a new reader's theater play about Ella Young that was performed by Debra Rowlands and Eva Ulz at the Arroyo Grande Historical Society. Ella, noted for her background in Celtic myths and legends and good friend of Gudrun Grell's, lived in Halcyon for many years.

Paul Ivey's book, *Radiance from Halcyon*, has generated much new interest in our community and the Temple. In an exciting development for Paul, it is being translated into Russian.

The Five Cities Fire Authority is working with our community, practicing firefighting techniques near the Temple and at the same time watering our trees. Speaking of trees, the stately redwood on the Temple lawn had to come down due to disease and drought, but the wood will find a higher use as it is turned into lumber, seasoned, and eventually used to construct new Temple altars.

We say farewell to Sarah and Dan McNeil and daughter Hallie, who moved to a new home in Arroyo Grande. Landlord and Halcyon native Carl Carlberg then spent time here repairing and preparing that wonderful abode, welcoming our good Temple friend Brad Carroll back to Halcyon.

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

## 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 now showing *Vignettes from the Past*, featuring art and furniture from our community's rich history. Call the Temple office at 805.489.2822 for information.

**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 University Center on Tuesdays and Fridays. Everyone is welcome to attend.

**Speakers in the Sunday Services** were:

April 13, Eleanor L. Shumway, *A Simple Matter of Becoming Better Fitted*; May 11, Eleanor L. Shumway, *The Peace of Fulfillment*; May 18, Ron Carlson, *Our Builders from the Past*; June 8, Eleanor L. Shumway, *Living by the Teachings*; June 15, Margaret Thyrring reading *On Being a Temple Priest*, reports written by Elaine Wight Cole & Manfred Gronau; June 22, Anne R. Dunbar, *The Value of Sacrifice*.

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

**[www.templeofthepeople.org](http://www.templeofthepeople.org)**

*The Temple of the People*

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