

the next day. It happens quite often that we abuse our bodies by overstrain or overeating and do not feel the effects until the next day. So also from one life to another. We go through what we call sleep during the dark night. We are active during this time in the invisible realms but we are not conscious of the fact unless we have to some extent built the soul body of the two higher ethers, which enables one to travel consciously in the higher worlds—otherwise we bring back no memory of our activities. We have no fear when we go to sleep at night that we shall not awake in the morning and go on with our tasks and interests. So it is in death and rebirth. These states should be regarded as being as natural as the passing of the seasons. The plants, trees, and flowers apparently die and come forth again at the new spring. If some one were to tell us, "Spring won't come this year," we wouldn't believe it. We would say "Why, that's impossible! Spring always comes. It is one of Nature's laws. Why of course Spring will come!" It is just as natural for man to come again to his Spring of life.

Rebirth was taught long before the

Christian religion; but there came a time when man's progress depended on his material efforts and so this truth was kept hidden from the masses, although it has been taught secretly to the few—those who were advanced enough to receive it. There is evidence that Christ taught the Law of Rebirth to His disciples. When the disciples asked, concerning the blind man, "Who did sin, this man or his parents, that he is born blind?" Christ answered, "Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents, but that the works of (the) God should be made manifest in him." Meaning that it was the Ego (the God) within that had gone astray in some past life.

We are told that the earth also has its rebirths. Having gone through the Saturn, Sun, and Moon Periods, it is now experiencing the Earth Period or birth. As the earth grows and changes, man also grows and progresses, for he gains his sustenance from the earth.

The time has come when the Laws of Rebirth and Consequence may be taught publicly; and humanity will take a big step forward when it learns the workings of these laws and lives in harmony with them.

Esoteric Bible Studies

BY CORINNE S. DUNKLEE

FAMOUS SONGS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

VIII.—*The Song of Hannah.*

1. And Hannah prayed, and said, My heart rejoiceth in the Lord, mine horn is exalted in the Lord: my mouth is enlarged over mine enemies; because I rejoice in thy salvation.

2. There is none holy as the Lord: for there is none beside thee: neither is there any rock like our God.

3. Talk no more so exceeding proudly; let not arrogancy come out of your mouth: for the Lord is a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed.

4. The bows of the mighty men are broken, and they that stumbled are girded with strength.

5. They that were full have hired out themselves for bread; and they that were hungry ceased: so that the barren hath born seven; and she that hath many children is waxed feeble.

6. The Lord killeth, and maketh alive:

and bringeth down to the grave, and bringeth up.

7. The Lord maketh poor, and maketh rich: he bringeth low, and lifteth up.

8. He raiseth up the poor out of the dust, and lifteth up the beggar from the dunghill, to set them among princes, and to make them inherit the throne of glory: for the pillars of the earth are the Lord's, and he hath set the world upon them.

9. He will keep the feet of his saints, and the wicked shall be silent in darkness; for by strength shall no man prevail.

10. The adversaries of the Lord shall be broken to pieces; out of heaven shall he thunder upon them: the Lord shall judge the ends of the earth; and he shall give strength unto his king, and exalt the horn of his anointed.

I. *Samuel* 2:1-10.

INTERPRETATION

In the esoteric study of the Bible, one must understand that the enemies so

frequently mentioned *to be overcome are within our own selves*. Consequently the rejoicing is for the victory of the overcoming of mortal or material man.

The name Hannah means "grace." She is described as one of the beautiful, feminine characters of the Old Testament. She, the mother of Samuel, has often been compared in many ways with Mary, the spotless Virgin of the New Testament. The song of Hannah is a song of Annunciation, or Initiation, marking a certain state of spiritual development and the ability to read certain records in God's "Book of Remembrance."

The outer occurrences as recorded in the Bible always conceal an inner or hidden meaning. The birth of the child Samuel refers also to a new spiritual development taking place within Hannah herself.

The word Samuel means God's Name. Hannah in presenting him in the temple made a promise, saying, "As long as he liveth he shall be lent to the Lord."

In all true esoteric work no promise is ever required or made to any other person. The dedication is always within and made only to the Higher Self. So, as we meditate upon the inner meaning of this song of Hannah, we shall find it to be a song of thanksgiving, a rhapsody of ecstasy at the wonder, the beauty, and the vistas of truth which are revealed to the Ego upon each forward step upon the path of Initiation. Verse 5 is filled with a depth of new meaning for us in the light of esoteric understanding.

The supreme promise to every seeking soul is, "They that do hunger and thirst after *righteousness*, they shall be filled." Hannah has realized the fulfillment of this promise as she tells us in her song. For the aspiring ones who are endeavoring to so live that the seven roses may come to bloom upon the cross of the physical body, her words bear a holy meaning when she proclaims—*The barren hath born seven*.

As we analyze this song of Hannah's

thanksgiving we shall find its principle theme to be *humility*. Every one who has spiritual attainment has first been tested in order to prove that such a one is always humble and self-effacing. Dante and Virgil in their journey through Paradise were stopped by the Angel of Humility who beat his wings upon the forehead of Dante. Then he heard voices saying, "Blessed are the poor in spirit." And he discovered that although he was climbing, progress was easier than it had been on level ground. When he asked an explanation, Virgil told him, that one of the seven sin marks, *that of pride*, has been erased from his forehead by the angel's wings and that as a result the remaining six had become much fainter. (Is not, therefore, pride the most powerful and the most subtle of all sins?) Dante was an Initiate and understood well all the trials and tests that block the way unto the finding of eternal life, (through Initiation). We also perceive the beautiful spirit of humility permeating every line of Hannah's song. "By strength, (of one's own self) shall no man prevail," but "He will keep the feet of His saints."

"Talk no more so exceeding proudly, let not arrogance come out of your mouth," she adds. For one who has glimpsed that eternal splendor must always realize his own insignificance. One who is proud of his own attainments, has only caught a reflection of the true light.

From the glorious height of her spiritual vision, Hannah *forgets self* and sings, "There is none holy as the Lord for there is none beside Thee."

The Supreme Teacher, who came as the great Way-shower for all who would walk the Initiate's Way, He, too, forgot self and said, "Not I, but the Father, He doeth the works."

Walt Whitman, that great cosmic poet said, "Where I pass all my children know me." And so, too, every Initiate has left illumined guide posts along the way for those who come after him and are able to decipher these symbols.

Humility is never satisfied with its own attainment, even though its inheritance it knows to be "the throne of glory." "The pillars of the earth are the Lord's, and He hath set the world upon them." These pillars are the great united powers of "*Fire and Water*" whose harmonious blending is manifest on the earth and all evolving life upon it. The Initiate comprehends the deeper meaning and purpose and power of these two great principles (positive and negative) which underlie all creation. And so in all reverence, for the keynote of humility is reverence, the inspired one sings, "He shall give strength unto His king," (one who walks in His ways), "and exalt the horn of His anointed," (the power of one who has attained, or been anointed with the Christos, or power of *conscious eternal Life*).

The Vision

BY FRANCES ELLIOTT

IT WAS when I was, as we say, completely down and out that someone said to me, "Do you praise God for the day?"

My finances were at the lowest ebb; my health was very bad; a disease that is considered to be incurable had fastened on me; in addition to that my personal affairs had gone hopelessly astray.

Praise God for the day! The—to me—monotonous day with its undertone of frustration, unrealized hopes, starved love life, often acute pain?

Yet that was the word given. Praise God that for the day.

Months have passed since I began to put that in practice. And a miracle has come to pass. Since the first day that I have thanked God I have never had a bad day. They are increasingly good. Some of them joyous, radiant.

The first thing I learned was to be thankful to God, the All-giver, for the little things. A call from a friend; a letter from the far-away one that cheered

like a tonic; a case of fragrant flowers; a book full of understanding and wisdom; wonderful music from a municipal band where all could go and be soothed and strengthened; the charm of a lovely actress; a lecture full of old wisdom which is ever new. All these things that I had taken as a matter of course and had not valued stood out in their true light as gifts from a treasure house of plenty.

A ticket to hear Paderewski, the great master whom I had always longed to hear, dropped out of a clear sky. People who could help me with my pressing problems of health and daily living seemed to be drawn to me by an irresistible power. I began to have intuitions that led me to greater efficiency in my work. I tapped hitherto unknown fields of well-being. My health began to grow better. I lost that feeling of being done for and used up while still comparatively a young woman.

I knew and realized that there were years of life within me. Years of development; of accomplishment; of transcendent love.

This came gradually: little by little, day by day, as I studied and learned, as I went into the silence and asked for guidance. It was a complete transformation, so much so that when I went the other day to hear a lecturer, and he said to me: "You must write down your problems;" I answered, "Yes, I would, but I have no problems." And that is the way I feel.

I know that my wants will always be supplied; I know that my health of mind and body is already here; I know that I shall realize my heart's desire.

I have put behind me forever the shadows, and turned on the light. That is all there is to it. It is so simple—when we are all looking for something remote and complicated.

Let us see the way of God and put our feet onto His pathway. Let us with ready hands take up our work and go forward. Praise God for the day! And the vision will follow.