

WESTERN WISDOM BIBLE STUDY

The Taking of Oaths

Again, ye have heard that it hath been said by them of old time, Thou shalt not forswear thyself, but shalt perform unto the Lord thine oaths:

But I say unto you, Swear not at all; neither by heaven for it is God's throne:

Nor by the earth; for it is his footstool: neither by Jerusalem; for it is the city of the great King.

Neither shalt thou swear by thy head, because thou canst not make one hair white or black.

But let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay; for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil.—*Matthew* 5:33-37.

The "old time" here referred to is the regime of Jehovah, God of law ("an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth") which existed prior to the coming of Christ as the indwelling Spirit of the Earth. It was then taught (by the Jews) that an oath was not binding unless the name of God, or the gold of the temple, or the sacrifices of the temple, were invoked. (See *Matt.* 23:16-20).

Anyone taking such an oath appeals to God to witness and to judge the truth of his words, and therefore brings himself under solemn obligation "unto the Lord." To do this insincerely is to "for-swear" oneself, or to "take the Lord's name in vain." It is to be expected that this would happen often during the regime of selfishness which flourished under Jehovah, in spite of the injunction to the contrary. Hence it became the source of fraud and resulted in filling our language with profane expletives.

Christ Jesus brought an even higher teaching: "Swear not at all." The true Christian is entirely truthful, and his word is sufficient without the use of oaths. Hence the admonition: "Let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay," and some sects refuse to take the oath usual in legal requirements because

of this biblical injunction.

In connection with this high standard held up for Christians, it is also well to realize the full significance of the power of speech. In the light of occult philosophy the word spoken by a human being is revealed as a microcosmic manifestation of the macrocosmic Word which brought our world into existence. Hence speech is truly sacred, and, as Max Heindel has pointed out: "The use of words to express thought is the highest human privilege and can be exercised only by a reasoning, thinking entity like man." The occult student knows that one of his duties here on the Earth plane is to learn to speak the "word of life and power" which all are destined to possess at some future time.

It is further taught that: "In the Jupiter Period an element of a spiritual nature will be added, which will unite with the speech so that words will invariably carry with them understanding . . . When a man of the Jupiter Period says 'red' or speaks the name of an object, a clear and exact reproduction of the particular shade of red of which he is thinking, or of the object to which he refers, will be presented to his inner vision and will also be quite visible to the hearer.

"The new wine cup mentioned as an ideal for the future epoch, the New Galilee, is an etheric organ built within the head and throat by the unspent sex force, which to the spiritual sight appears as the stem of a flower ascending from the lower part of the trunk. This calix, or seed cup, is truly a creative organ, capable of speaking the word of life and power . . . This organ we are now building by service."