

WESTERN WISDOM BIBLE STUDY

Christian Initiatory Teachings

Conscious Invisible Helpership

And the same day when the even was come, he saith unto them, Let us pass over unto the other side.

And when they had sent away the multitude, they took him even as he was in the ship. And there were also with him other little ships.

And there arose a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full.

And he was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow; and they awake him, and say unto him, Master, carest thou not that we perish?

And he arose and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.

And he said unto them, Why are ye so fearful? How is it that ye have no faith? —*Mark 4:35-40.*

Here the Master is teaching the Disciples how to control the elements. He sent the multitudes away, for this work is given only to advanced pupils who have learned how to function consciously on the inner planes. Jesus was in the ship (his own soul body); and there were other little ships (the soul bodies of the Disciples). He was asleep. That is, He was away from them, functioning on still higher planes. Because of His absence they were afraid. The pupil must learn to work fearlessly and apart from the guidance of the Teacher. Christ Jesus addressed separately the powers of the wind (sylphs) and the spirits of the sea (undines). One who has learned to control these elements, possesses the power to command the nature spirits to do his bidding.

But as they sailed he fell asleep; and there came down a storm of wind on the lake; and they were filled with water, and were in jeopardy.

And they came to him, and awoke him, saying, Master, master, we perish. Then he arose and rebuked the wind and the raging of the water; and they ceased and there was a calm.

And he said unto them, Where is your faith? And they being afraid wondered,

saying one to another, What manner of man is this? For he commandeth even the winds and the water, and they obey him. —*Luke 8:23-25.*

There are four paths leading to every Temple of Initiation: the paths (symbolic) Fire, Air, Water, and Earth. Aspirants follow these according to temperament and development. The essences of the experiences of these four paths are all amalgamated in the Mystery Teachings of the Christ. He came as the great unifier of all things.

See *Matthew 8:18-26.*

A few verses in the Bible often cover events, experiences, or developments that extend over a long period of time. The supreme test of discipleship is learning to renounce all things of this world for His sake and to make the great surrender of the personal to the universal. Matthew here recounts the failure of the many to do this and their consequent inability to qualify for the deeper teachings. When the Master entered into the ship (His spiritual body) only the Disciples (who had renounced all to follow Him) were able to go with Him and to be instructed in the control of the elements.

See *John 6:16-21.*

The Invisible Helper must learn to pass through fire, water, air, and earth on errands of mercy. (Here we refer to the natural, not the symbolic, elements.) He discovers that fire cannot burn, nor water drown the etheric vehicle in which he now functions. He learns the exhilaration of conscious communion with the spirit of these elements; he finds that they are not averse to man's interests but, on the contrary, become his most powerful friends when he learns how to use them aright. This use implies, first of all, complete *self-control*. This is exem-

plified in the incident connected with the development of Peter.

Walking upon the water represents the mastery of the emotional life, which includes the domination of fear and the attainment of the power of *faith*.

Peter's attempt to walk upon the waves, his faltering, and the assistance given him by Christ Jesus, all picture the aspirant's effort to attain this goal. Peter, at this stage of his advancement, had not entirely overcome fear, nor had he developed sufficient faith to retain his poise. It is only the great power of a rational faith that enables one to say: "None of these things move me."

See *Luke 7:20-23*.

By their fruits ye shall know them. No sign shall be given, asserted Christ Jesus, but the sign of Jonas (the dove, symbol of the Initiate and the insigne of the Knights of the Holy Grail). The sign of Jonas is the sign of the Initiate whose powers transcend physical laws by calling into operation the higher laws of super-physical planes. The crystallizations of inharmony or *dis-ease* are changed into the rhythmic, harmonious vibrations which can manifest only as new life and health. The limitation of blindness, both physical and spiritual, is effaced by an inflow of the Life that is Light. Gravitation is superseded by levitation. The spirit of inertia is no more; the limitations of the physical world are superseded by the more expansive consciousness of the super-physical world.

"Let there be Light" is the supreme mandate of the Book of Books. The search for Light is the one inescapable responsibility of the disciples of Truth, and an ever-increasing luminosity is the heritage of its ministers.

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LITTLE THINGS

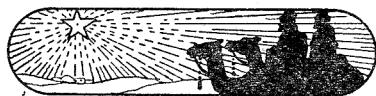
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of harming another. But neither is it necessary to allow ourselves to be harmed. People who behave in a hurtful way to

others have problems, or they would not behave in this way. If we act by silently blessing them, and send forth love, we can redeem the situation. We protect ourselves in this way and very often the other is helped, too.

How much better it is to train ourselves to use positively each moment and occasion than to allow the day to be filled with little bits of negativity! We keep our daily times of study, devotion, and meditation. We try to handle each problem as it comes along, but often we are unaware of the many little, seemingly unimportant, things that fill our days. These many things, when added together, fill the greater part of our lives. We see, then, the necessity of bringing all things — all thoughts, words, actions, and reactions — into conscious control if we would be successful in training ourselves in the life of the Spirit — if we would do the works, and the "greater works" that we have been told we can do.

So, we "press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus," and one of the ways we do this is by transmuting the little things of our lives into building blocks, building into the subconscious those qualities which will be a solid foundation, and which will come forth as the rock of Truth instead of shifting sand.



Christmas

*Yet doth the Star of Bethlehem shed
A lustre pure and sweet;
And still it leads, as once it led,
To the Messiah's feet.
O Father, may that holy Star
Grow every year more bright,
And send its glorious beams afar
To fill the world with light.*

—WILLIAM CULLEN BRYANT