

WESTERN WISDOM BIBLE STUDY

THE BOOK OF ACTS

Fruitage of the Ministry

CORINNE HELINE

*The Work in Samaria —
Simon Magus Rebuked*

Acts 8:18-23

And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money,

Saying, Give me also this power that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost.

But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money.

Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God.

Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee.

For I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity.

Again the subtle test is presented. The higher the progress, the greater the opportunities to misuse newly gained powers. Peter here enunciates the principal mystic maxim which has been taught in every true Temple of Wisdom since man came into possession of the deeper teachings: *The gifts of God cannot be purchased with money.*

Philip's Ministry for Ethiopia

Acts 8:26

And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert.

Implicit obedience is required of the candidate as a requisite for receiving more light. The various steps of progress for all who would attain are marked in this Book. Philip was accomplishing great good in Samaria when an Angel appeared and told him to go to Gaza, a small unfrequented place in the desert. Had he followed his reasoning mind he would have said, "No, that would be a waste of time; my work is here." But Philip had learned to follow the higher law implicitly, and great good came of his obedience. Gaza means "hard," and refers to the subtlety of the temptation of disobedience.

Acts 8:27-31

And he arose and went: and behold, a man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority under Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who had charge of all her treasure, and had come to Jerusalem for to worship,

Was returning, and sitting in his chariot, read Esaias the prophet.

Then the spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot.

And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest?

And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him.

Ethiopia was a vast region just south of Egypt. It included what are now Nubia and Abyssinia. Candace was a name common to all the queens of Ethiopia as the name Ptolemy was used in Egypt and Caesar

in Rome. "Eunuch" means esoterically a "seeker of light."

Acts 8:36

And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?

The instruction is here veiled. The way they came does not refer to a particular road, nor was the water a specific lake or river encountered on the journey. They are to be read symbolically. Philip became the teacher after the eunuch had made certain preparation. The waters spoken of were those that he passed through while functioning apart from his physical body in the initiatory Rite of Baptism.

Acts 8:39,40

And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing.

But Philip was found at Azotus. Passing through he preached in all the cities, till he came to Caesarea.

That Philip possessed freedom to withdraw from the prison house of the body at will is indicated in the above verses.

*Peter Heals Aeneas,
Whose Name Means Nine*

Acts 9:32-35

And it came to pass, as Peter passed throughout all quarters, he came down also to the saints which dwelt at Lydda.

And there he found a certain man named Aeneas, who had kept his bed eight years, and was sick of the palsy.

And Peter said unto him, Aeneas, Jesus Christ maketh thee whole: arise, and make thy bed. And he arose immediately.

And all that dwelt at Lydda and Saron saw him, and turned to the Lord.

The name Aeneas means "nine." The word is a cipher veiling the fact that he was a disciple who was ready for the degree of unfoldment known as the ninth degree of the Lesser Mysteries.

The Resurrection of Dorcas

Acts 9:36-41

Now there was at Joppa a certain disciple named Tabitha, which by interpretation is called Dorcas: this woman was full of good works and almsdeeds which she did.

And it came to pass in those days, that she was sick, and died: whom when they had washed, they laid her in an upper chamber.

And forasmuch as Lydda was near to Joppa, and the disciples had heard Peter was there, they sent unto him two men, desiring him that he would not delay to come to them.

Then Peter arose and went with them. When he was come they brought him into the upper chamber: and all the widows stood by him weeping and shewing the coats and garments that Dorcas made, while she was with them.

But Peter put them all forth and kneeled down, and prayed: and turning to the body said, Tabitha, arise. And she opened her eyes: and when she saw Peter she sat up.

And he gave her his hand, and lifted her up, and when he had called the saints and widows, presented her alive.

Tabitha, or Dorcas, had been prepared for further spiritual progression through her good works. In modern parlance she would be termed a social service worker. Mystically interpreted, her preparation had been made in an upper chamber; that is, she had awakened the spiritual organs in the head. The coats that Dorcas had made were in preparation for Initiation. An understanding of the proper connection to be established between head and heart, both physiologically and mystically, is revealed

in the ninth of the Lesser Mysteries. It is this understanding which caused Aeneas to arise and Dorcas to become alive. The masculine pole of spirit which functions through the intellect has, like the feminine, the intuitive or image-making faculty, also fallen, but not so low as the latter. The masculine pole was only palsied, motionless; the feminine was sick and died. Through the power of faith — faith in the original image and likeness of God — this feminine power is made alive. Such is the process of renewal which must take place in the entire human race. Among pioneers, this attainment becomes theirs by a few lives of intensive effort. For the majority it is found only after countless lives of sorrow as they are prodded forward by the urge of evolutionary law. "The masses move in circles, the wise ones in spirals."

NUTRITION IN THE NEWS

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spawned? What kind of food system should we move toward in the future, not only for ourselves but for the rest of the world? Are world hunger and malnutrition to be combated with massive doses of instant junk foods? Individual, as well as collective, responses to these issues will determine to a great extent the quality of life and environment available in the coming decades. Let us take every opportunity to educate and be examples to our brothers and sisters in the endeavor to promote proper nutrition and the right to a diet that will sustain a sound body.

PSYCHE

[Continued from page 211]

she at last presents herself at the court of Venus and is set to work by the goddess Love. And what tasks are these, each more difficult than the preceding and all nearly impossible! But the soul that works for love, though it may realize its own weakness and the enormity of the task before it, is also soon made aware that it is not alone in its struggle; it is working in harmony with nature, unselfishly and for the good of the unborn, even, represented by the babe in the womb of Psyche, a babe that is higher than she, being partly divine. The soul is then helped by all things in nature. The ants that separated the seed for Psyche are willing workers in nature and ministering spirits to help us in our labors of love. They are all about us and our necessity is their opportunity for advancing the good.

Out of the waters of Being Psyche obtains a portion for Love or Venus. Into the realms of Death she travels, also at the command of Love or Venus. She refuses nothing though each task seems to her as though it must surely end in her destruction. Therefore, having shown her willingness to lay down her life for Love's or Venus's sake, she is at last elevated to the heavenly realm where in the kingdom of the gods she is received as one of themselves. Thus Love is won by love, and lasting bliss is the result of unselfish perseverance in well-doing. . . May we all learn to labor for Love!

Take time to laugh, it is the music of the soul. . . Take time to think, it is the source of power. . . Take time to play, it is the source of perpetual youth. . . Take time to read, it is the fountain of wisdom. . . Take time to pray, it is the greatest power on earth. . . Take time to love and to be loved, it is a God-given privilege. . . Take time to be friendly, it is the road to happiness. . . Take time to give, it is too short a day to be selfish. . . Take time to work, it is the price of success.

Anonymous
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