

## Western Wisdom Bible Study

*To aid those interested in a deeper understanding of the scriptures, we offer a correspondence course of 28 lessons compiled from Max Heindel's writings. These lessons reveal the basic harmony of religion and science, and offer logical explanations for many misunderstood basic doctrines of the Church. This Western Wisdom Bible Course is available on a free-will offering basis.*

# The New Body

*For a certain man named Demetrius, a silversmith, which made silver shrines for Diana, brought no small gain unto the craftsmen: Whom he called together with the workmen of like occupation, and said, Sirs, ye know that by this craft we have our wealth. Moreover ye see and hear, that not alone at Ephesus, but almost throughout Asia, this Paul hath persuaded and turned away much people, saying that they be no gods, which are made with hands. So that not only this our craft is in danger to be set at naught; but also that the temple of the great goddess Diana should be despised, and her magnificence should be destroyed, whom all Asia and the world worshippeth. — Acts 19: 24-27.*

This passage is used by our literally minded churchmen as an example of business versus religion. If we look at it closely we see that Diana of Ephesus was the Moon Goddess, for silver, is ruled by the Moon. It was she who took over in the last centuries of the Aryan Age the degenerating worship of the great Magna Mater, goddess of fertility, of the Taurean Age.

We find all occult traditions in accord on the theory that as men descended into matter and learned to work with the Lords of Form under Jehovah and His angels, it was an involuntary growth. All currents in the body went counter clockwise. Men wrote from right to left, as the orientals still do, and not from left to right as do the peoples of the new western world.

It was a natural thing in those involving ages that men should worship forms since they were learning to build forms; thus Cain is a builder, but Paul is now preaching that there are "no gods which are made with hands." Not that we are to stop working with our hands and building things but we must consciously look for something higher. The physical world and its material things are not ends in themselves but merely means to a much higher end: in working with things we learn to understand about them, and learn their limitations.

The ancients personified the Principles or Intelligences that have been helping us to build forms. In Greek mythology it is Hermes or Mercury who works with the concrete brain and enables us to make laws to govern ourselves. In Norse mythology it is Wotan who builds Valhalla (or brain) and who, according to Wagner's interpretations in the *Ring Cycle*, becomes so involved in his own laws and creeds that he becomes desperate. He tries to create someone who is free and who will be able to free him from his bonds. But he finally finds that "The free are their own creators, Slaves are all I can make."

This wonderful brain of ours can locate and refine the silver, and the forces working through Diana or the Moon can help us to create forms or beautiful altars. But can these Principles working through our hands and brain free us from our creeds, our desires for fame, wealth, and power?

Then what in us must we "make without hands?" And what may we look up to as a means of freeing us from our own selfishness? It is the new body, the Golden Wedding Garment that we must make and in which we will function as free people, free from the shackles of things. It is made from the essence extracted from our purest thoughts and from our deeds of loving, self-forgetting service, far removed from the Moon-inspired forms of material things. We shall use our body and not be used by it. We shall be in this world, but not be influenced by its customs. This is a challenging goal, but what a rich reward is promised! □