

SPIRITICITY, May 1963

THE INFLUENCE OF MOTHER

By Alden Truesdell

THE IDEAL of motherhood is worthy of a special dedication, such as Mother's Day. The ideal mother and the ideal of motherhood are, without a doubt, the most effective character-building agencies in the race. Children look back upon a mother-directed childhood with astonishment, marveling at the many wise decisions and understanding activities that they recall. Because children mirror back, or reflect, dominant traits of the parents, mothers see the need for adequate example, diligent direction, and conscientious correction.

In spiritual symbology, woman represents love. Love expresses through the inner affectional nature. Man, the symbol of wisdom, expresses through the intellects, and his functions are executive in the realm of manifest things. The masculine tendency is to direct, conserve, and husband whatever is at hand, improving whatever appears to be desirable or profitable. The feminine principle (love) reproduces whatever is given to it. Any objective upon which the affectional or feminine nature is centered is affected for good or for evil according to the degree of purity of the love influencing it. When the feminine nature is projected into the outer realm, it reproduces the things that are seen, heard, felt, tasted, and thought; it magnifies the things of sense. When it is directed toward God, its influence transforms everything within its sphere of action and it magnifies the things of the Spirit.

That mothers have been held in high regard in this country is indicative of the aspiring soul of a great nation in the building. The South in particular has been famed for its exaltation of womanhood, and it would surely seem to have been prophetic of the complete metamorphosis that this region has undergone. Pioneers in frontier countries have always held their womenfolk in high esteem; and, as a rule, the confidence has been warranted. The phenomenal developments following the opening of new regions by our venturesome trail-blazers are indications of constructive soul activity preceding the adventure.

When we enter a home, it is the mother influence of the woman who is the heart of that particular sanctuary that is felt. And, as homes are charged with the influence of the mother, and this influence is called "the soul of the home," so do communities have souls - also cities, states, and nations. Without seeking to do so I have seen the soul of the Orient, represented by a woman, being submerged in water, evidently of great depth.

But we have closer soul unfoldments to consider. The very soul of this country has let down its standards, as is always the case in times of military dominance. This is no indictment of particular and specific mothers, but a collective letting down of ideals, aspirations, and standards. This, therefore, is the time to look up; this is the time to lift up this mothering influence, even though one might seem to be the only one in a given area who is willing to lift the inner eye of the heart to the Giver of all good and perfect gifts.

The standards, the spiritual and soul aspirations and inspirations that have maintained and sustained this Nation in its ongoing must not be lowered. If woman has power through spiritual channels and practice to retain or reject Paradise, and to influence the rise and fall of nations, why should she settle for equality or for competition with men? If woman causes disintegration by low-

ered vision, then she must reverse her attention and give equal opportunity for integration by a wholesome consideration of the All-competent Original. She must be willing to emulate the Mother of Jesus Christ, who listened to the call from the Heights, and who "kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart."

Mary, the Mother of Jesus, represents the affectional nature trained toward the Heights above the material and mental realms, conceiving only that which is real and true: pure Life with no adulteration or lack of life, the Eternally Alive. That which she conceived was able to say, "I AM the Way, the Truth, and the Life." The triumph of the Resurrection was conceived in Mary before it was consummated in Jesus.

The God-department that overbroods all mankind, protecting, directing, and serving all humanity, is the Maternal Department of Being. Jesus exemplified this activity, when He wept over Jerusalem, crying, "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not! Behold, your house is left unto you desolate. For I say unto you, Ye shall not see Me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord." Herein is Maternal Protection and Provision offered and rejected. Herein is instruction as to how it may be regained.

Let us then celebrate Mother's Day by relegating to the Mother Ministration the complete potential as Queen of Heaven on earth. And, as mothers have set the tempo for the Nation, let mothers be honored in the highest by the Most High.

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TRAIN YOURSELF

By Nell Truesdell

ARE YOU INTERESTED in what God is doing through you now? Or do you lament your lost opportunities of the past? Your part in the past is over. If in the past you had had faith in God, you would have known that the work you were doing was in God's hands. And you would now know that God is just beginning to carry out His work through you. The time of beginning is always now.

The human being learns all his lessons by experience because he has not mastered the art of unquestioning faith in God. Experience uncovers the truth that we do not love God. We love ourselves and the things that we think God ought to give to us. However, instead of our feeling that God owes us everything, we should ask, "What do I owe God?"

Gratitude to God for knowledge of Him should be first on the list. With the Psalmist we should cry: "Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted within me? Hope thou in God; for I shall yet praise Him, who is the health of my countenance, and my God." How lost we should be without an awareness of God's Presence! How hopeless!

Gratitude for the consolation of the Christ Truth should be next on our list. Paul wrote to the Philippians: "If there is any consolation in Christ, any incentive of love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ... Have this mind among yourselves, which you have in Christ Jesus." (RSV)

When we are aware of our oneness with Christ - the Activity of God in us - we are one with all others. The Activity of God is the Life in all alike; all of us are one body in Christ Jesus. Conscious oneness with Christ is the pivot on which our spiritual welfare swings.

We question how it is possible for us to be consciously one with Christ and, at the same time, fulfill our worldly responsibilities. A man has to attend to business; a woman has to do housework and keep her family together; a child has to study lessons. Yet all want spiritual comfort, encouragement, and relief from the tensions of everyday existence.

Here is where training in the Christ Truth comes in. We learn that by giving our attention to God for a certain length of time every day (One hour in prayer, and one in spiritual reading, especially the Gospels.), we cultivate an awareness of His Presence that remains with us during our busiest hours, when we have no opportunity to go apart to commune with God. This is what Jesus of Nazareth revealed to mankind: God is the closely near, ready and able to bless man right where he is; for man is the instrument through which God works. Anytime we remember God while we work, the work is done with ease and dispatch.

I recall the experience of a tiny old woman who planned to move to another house after her husband, a barber, had died. She packed all the equipment in the shop, then tried to move the big barber's chair because she wanted the piece of good linoleum under it. She could not budge the chair. After a few tries she saw how difficult the task was, so she decided to ask God for help. With childlike faith she prayed for strength; then gave thanks that with God all things are possible. Suddenly, she sprang to her feet and, without thinking about what she was doing, moved the chair to a bare spot on the floor. She said, "All I know is that God moved that chair."

Some earnest students think that life would be wonderful if they could withdraw entirely from the world. Here, there is need not only for good judgment, but for steady nerves and a pliant body. For an untrained person, complete seclusion is not the answer. A few years of testing and practice to determine the genuineness of spiritual aspiration are necessary for a student to discover whether he is simply irked with the daily grind and longs for escape or is truly ready to dedicate his life to God. Too sudden separation from relatives, from worldly comforts, and from mental and bodily satisfactions may create a void in consciousness that desire for a spiritual life cannot bridge. In this state meditation and contemplation are impossible. Attempted continuous devotion to God can bring on a mental breakdown for one who has not yet reached the point of complete dedication.

Remember that Jesus of Nazareth trained Himself for eighteen years while He carried on His daily carpenter work before He went into the wilderness to prove His steadfast intention before God, and to overcome the temptations of the world, flesh, and devil.

To begin, a student should withdraw for at least two hours every day from the world. (He must be free to do so; he cannot shirk legitimate work and make

spiritual progress.) In his hours of withdrawal, he must examine his consciousness and begin to eliminate his faults one by one. For this, he will use the correct denials so that he will not injure his mental-emotional equipment. There must be no hurry, for the cleansing of consciousness takes a long time. His daily practice must be to rid himself of faults as he carries on his work. As he denies error, he must affirm and reaffirm the Presence and Goodness of God, until God is the only Reality for him. He must remember Jesus Christ for through Jesus Christ he will discover his own sonship to God. He must learn to recognize the Holy Spirit when, in some unexpected instant, It makes Itself known to him.

As he practices the Presence of God his tasks will become easy; he will not be anxious about himself or about others. He will know that as he knows God within himself, he helps make God known to his fellows. He will remember the statement of Isaiah: "How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good tidings, who publishes peace, who brings good tidings of good, ... who says, ... 'Your God reigns!'" (RSV)

SPIRITICITY MAY 1963

PHYSICS AND METAPHYSICS

By Robert Applegate, Jr.

(Continued from last month)

Scientific Method

"THE RESEARCH WORKER remains a student all his life."

- W. I. B. Beveridge

The greatest contribution that science has to offer us is not in its findings but in its method. For science is primarily a method of investigation (and also a way of life). The tremendous progress that science has made shows that this method works.

In previous articles, I have, I hope, shown how modern science supports many of the propositions that metaphysicians and spiritual leaders have made throughout the ages: that matter is not the reality that it seems to be; that time and space are not real; that the causes of the events that we see lie in a realm beyond time and space; that the closer we come to truth, the simpler our statements become.

We are glad to have this support from science, for today science speaks with authority. We will not build our belief about God on the discoveries of science. The scientists themselves warn us not to do this, for their views are continually changing. But we are glad to find them agreeing with us on so many points. We should expect this agreement, for all paths leading to Truth must converge. Truth is one and the closer any two people come to Truth, the closer they must come together.

Truth is like the summit of a mountain. There may be many paths leading up to it. Some may reach the top and some may not; some may be winding and some direct. But the closer any two paths come to the top of the mountain, the closer they must come together. So we should expect that the different

approaches to Truth would come close to one another as they come close to Truth. And this is what we find. We find biologists like Alexis Carrel, physicists like Sir James Jeans and Sir Arthur Eddington, historians like Arnold Toynbee, and of course all spiritual leaders, pointing to a Reality that we cannot comprehend directly, but of which we can see the unmistakable workings. This Reality, they tell us, is the one ruling force in the Universe, the Unseen Cause of all the events that we see. We cannot describe it; we cannot explain it; we can only say, "This is the way it works."

But to return to the method by which science has advanced - it is empirical, not authoritarian. This is the essence of it. A scientist tests everything; he takes nothing on authority. Aspiring scientists are advised to study the history of science and particularly the lives of the great pioneers. But no scientist ever accepts any statement, no matter who made it, unless it can be checked and proved. Robert Oppenheimer says that the most rigorous honesty is forced upon scientists, for any misstatement will last only until the next issue of one of the scientific journals. If a physicist makes a statement that he cannot prove, every other physicist in the country will jump on him. Oppenheimer says that the elaborate structure of science is largely dedicated to the detecting of error. Scientists know that the slightest error or the slightest fuzziness of statement ruins everything.

In religion, today, the general attitude is just the opposite. Most people feel that it does not make much difference what you believe. The first Christians knew better. They knew that there is all the difference in the world between true teaching and false, and they were adamant against false teachers. "Blemishes, ... waterless clouds, ... fruitless trees," Jude called them. John called them "antichrists." These men knew that it makes a great difference what we believe about God, because our belief about God determines what we are and what we do. They knew that in the teaching of Jesus Christ we have been given the touchstone of Truth. To tamper with this, to compromise it, to pervert it, is heinous.

After all, the essence of the scientific method was given by Jesus Christ in His statement, "By their fruits ye shall know them." Max Planck, the founder of Quantum Mechanics, quotes this statement in his discussion of the scientist's outlook on life. He says:

"We wish to emphasize ... scrupulousness in criticism of self, perseverance in the fight for true knowledge, ... and finally, a lasting confidence in the force of the Word which, for more than 1900 years, has given us an ultimate infallible test for distinguishing false prophets from true - 'By their fruits ye shall know them!'"

This should always be the test in religion as in science. Jesus Christ applied it to Himself. He said, "The works that I do in my Father's Name, they bear witness to me. ... Even though you do not believe me, believe the works. ... If I am not doing the works of my Father, then do not believe me."

An honest weighing of the evidence and an open-mindedness - a willingness to abandon old ideas, however, "obvious," however firmly entrenched - have preceded all scientific discovery. This is why great discoveries have often been made by men relatively ignorant of the field they were working in. They had few wrong ideas to get rid of. Similarly, nearly all the spiritual pioneers have been men (and women) outside the ecclesiastical hierarchy. Of the men who wrote our Scripture, only one was the product of religious training. That was

Paul, and he had to be knocked down and made blind before he could let go of his wrong ideas. All the prophets and apostles were laymen.

The open mind is extremely hard to come by. The ideas with which we have been brought up are so much a part of us that letting go of them is like having an arm cut off. This is why men have always persecuted their prophets and saints.

"The dispassionate intellect, the open mind, the unprejudiced observer, exist in an exact sense only in a sort of intellectualist folk-lore; states even approaching them cannot be reached without a moral and emotional effort most of us cannot or will not make." - Wilfred Trotter

Yet this effort is just what we must make if we want to get out of the rut we are in. So Rudolf Flesh writes:

"What we need is ... an attitude of distrust toward our own ideas. This is the scientific habit of thought: as soon as you have an idea, try to disprove it. ... To doubt our own first principles is the hardest thing of all. ... Clear thinking is rare. To approach it, we need above all that indispensable quality of the scientific spirit - humility."

Honesty, open-mindedness, humility, absorption in his work, are the marks of a scientist. It used to be very hard to get a Ph.D. in physics. Only those made it who were willing to sacrifice time, money, and comfort; and to look forward to a life of small pay and little prestige. The result was a weeding process whereby only those became physicists who were eager to lose themselves in their work for its own sake. And so the physicists of the first part of this century have been scientists of high calibre. Now scholarships and other encouragements make it easier to get a physics Ph.D. and the rewards in money and prestige are greater. Teachers are afraid the quality of future scientists will decline.

For it is perseverance and absorption in his work that make a man a scientist. Einstein said "I think and think, for months, for years. Ninety-nine times the conclusion is false. The hundredth time I am right."

Max Planck has written:

"To remain a trustworthy guide, it (belief) must be continually verified by logic and experience, and to this end the only ultimate aid is conscientious and often wearisome and self-denying effort. He is no scientist who is not at least competent and willing to do the lowliest work, if necessary, whether in the laboratory or in the library, in the open air or at the desk. It is in such severe surroundings that the view of the world is ripened and purified."

This could have been written by any of the great mystics.

Why do scientists undertake such labor and discipline? Because they cannot help it. There is a joy in discovering the littlest bit of Truth that is worth every effort. This is so whether you seek Truth by the intellectual path of science or by the more direct (and so steeper) path of direct communion with God. Jesus Christ "for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame." (Heb.12:2)

The lives of great scientists are remarkably like the lives of great mystics. They are lives we can all profitably emulate to the best of our ability.

(To be concluded)

Alphabet of
DAILY MEDITATIONS
for every Week Day of the Month

MAY 1963

1. The Spirit searcheth ALL things.
2. Who is my mother and my BRETHREN?
3. I will COMFORT you.
4. I will DIRECT my prayer unto Thee.

6. I have ESTEEMED the words of His mouth.
7. The FRUIT of the Spirit is Love.
8. Show Thy servant Thy GREATNESS.
9. Lay up HIS words in thine HEART.
10. IN all thy ways acknowledge Him.
11. With JOY shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation.

13. He is ... of great KINDNESS.
14. LEAN not to thine own understanding.
15. MAKE MENTION that His Name is exalted.
16. Maintain good works for NECESSARY uses.
17. Set thine house in ORDER.
18. PURIFY your heart.

20. QUICKEN me ... for Thy Name's sake.
21. REJOICE, for the Lord will do great things.
22. Thou SHALT STAND upon a Rock.
23. TURN again unto the Lord.
24. Unto the UPRIGHT there ariseth light in the darkness.
25. Pay thy VOWS.

27. WALK in the Spirit.
28. Turn ye even to Me with all YOUR heart.
29. Ye are ZEALOUS of spiritual Gifts.
30. Be at peace: good shall come unto thee.
31. Fear (awe) of the Lord is the instruction of wisdom.

"When thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly."

SPIRITICITY is the working Power of the Spiritual Principle,
As electricity is the working power of the electrical principle.