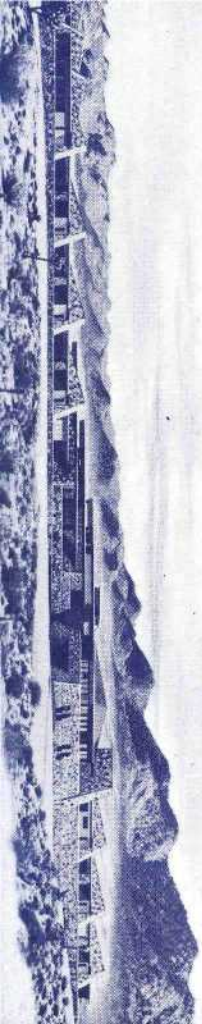
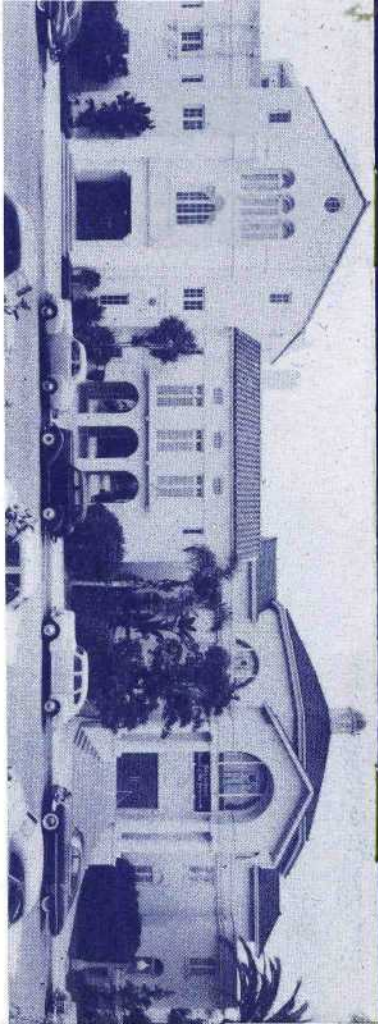


Top: Our Church in Los Angeles, Calif. Below: Caravansary of Joy at Our New City.



LIGHTING HUMAN LAMPS

LIBRARY OF VICTORIOUS LIVING

VOLUME 17

Seven Majestic Word Series—No. 2

What Is the True Compensation of Your Life?

By

Rev. Edwin J. Dingle

Ding Le Mei

(Founder of the Science of Mentalphysics)

LIBRARY OF VICTORIOUS LIVING

The purpose of the 50 little volumes that will make up the "library of Victorious Living" is to present to you who read a perfectly simple and ultimate plan for living a highly successful life from every point of view. Each volume is an invitation to learn—as practically as you may learn anything whatever if you put your effort into it—how to discover your own true nature and your own illimitable powers.

Throughout your life, most likely, with much running to and fro, you may have been (as I was) eagerly seeking in books and teaching, in religion and philosophy, for Truth, for Happiness, for Freedom, for God—or for you knew not what. You may today be weary, fatigued, discouraged, almost destitute of hope. Many times you may have glimpsed the Truth, and then it disappeared, and left you still hungering. Hungry, you sought in vain the Bread of Life—thirsty, you sought but could not find The Stream. Your search, my friend, is now at an end, if you have eyes to see and ears to hear.

No matter what your religious beliefs—indeed, no matter what!—that which you have always sought IS WITHIN YOU. This is Life's most sacred secret. From a careful study of these little books, it is given to me to know, you will gain immeasurable spiritual benefit. As you read, it will be to your Higher Self that you will listen.

If you are ready, as you read and study you will hear the voice of your Higher Self speaking forth from your own heart the secret of Health and Happiness, Success and Abundance, Freedom and that Peace that passes knowledge. Be patient. Be zealous. Learn to surrender into the Joy of your own LORD within you.

THE AUTHOR.

The Science of Mentalphysics was founded in 1927

What is The True Compensation of Your Life?*

By Edwin John Dingle, F.R.G.S.
Founder of the Science of Mentalphysics

INTRODUCTION: "O LORD, THAT LENDS ME LIFE, LEND ME A HEART REPLETE WITH THANKFULNESS"

This is the seventeenth volume in the Library of Victorious Living, "Fifty Little Books" which form a week-by-week whole year's reading, study and practice of the ART of Living. Each volume is complete in itself—that is, it is

*"MAJESTIC WORDS" SERIES (Vol. 16 to Vol. 21).

The titles of the Seven Magic Words in the "Mystery of Creation" are as follows—see pages 31 and 32:

VOL. 16-"WHAT IS THE TRUE URGE OF YOUR LIFE?"
VOL. 17-"WHAT IS THE TRUE COMPENSATION OF YOUR LIFE?"
VOL. 18-"WHAT IS THE TRUE ORDER OF YOUR LIFE?"
VOL. 19--"WHAT IS THE ONE MYSTERY OF YOUR LIFE?"
VOL. 20-"WHAT IS THE TRUE SOURCE OF YOUR LIFE?"
VOL. 21-"WHAT IS THE PURE GOLD OF YOUR LIFE?"

a complete lesson in itself; but each Little Book lays the foundation also for the ones that follow. The serious student is, therefore, advised to acquire those volumes which precede this one, so that the whole of the principles, laws and secrets of truly Victorious Living may be systematically studied and practiced.

Titles of the whole Library may be consulted on pages 31 and 32.

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The title of this lesson-volume asks a question—"What Is the True Compensation of Your Life?" ! hope that I who write, and you who read, may find deep inspiration in this Little Book, and that as a result your life may become immeasurably enriched as you contemplate what is one of the profoundest secrets of Life Itself. I hope that you will receive something, from reading and practicing what is written, that will bring about a real revolution in your life and really lift you to a higher plane of thinking and action. At all events, I feel that all who read will discover that there is nothing whatever in Life that works or can work against us, but that ALL LIFE ii in perfect coordination, peace and harmony—if you wish, working with us, and expressing through us. Most people, however, do not believe this. They think that Life is an unending battle. They think that whenever anything goes wrong in their lives, it is largely because of exterior things and conditions. If

they are "hurt" or "disappointed," they blame some human being. In short, they know little or nothing about Life's unchangeable LAWS; and so they go on through life with no philosophy or truth to hold to, or to make them free.

If YOU should happen to think like this, I wholeheartediy advise you to read the first volume of this Library—"The Secret of Victorious Living"; I know it will present to you a **revelation,** whether you be a "religious" or a "non-religious" man or woman. Whether you "believe in God" or not, that volume will show you how ALL human problems arise and the only way to their solution; it lays an intelligible foundation to all seekers, and among them may be you.

However, I am sure that you, my friend, know in your heart that LIFE ITSELF has its unchangeable LAW. We live in it, we move in it, we have our being in it. Life, too, naturally has its compensating forces everywhere; else the Universe would have blown itself to pieces long ago. In a word, this "true compensation" of your life and my life is GRATITUDE . . . **Gratitude, the True Compensation of Life.** This is one of the greatest secrets. To read this Little Volume will, I know, be well worth your time—may you be blest in your heart and mind as you read. May you be led, through your reading, to that holy goal of Wisdom that lies beyond the purchase of the world.

PART ONE: WHEN YOU RENDER THANKS TO LIFE ITSELF, LIFE'S THROBBING HEART BEATS FASTER IN YOUR BEHALF TO START ITS BLESSING ON ITS WAY TO YOU; GRATITUDE MAKES A MAN DIVINE.

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The Second Majestic Word . . . Gratitude —the Compensation of Life.

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If you will turn back to the footnote on page 1, you will see that this volume—"What Is the True Compensation of Your Life"—is the second in the "Majestic Word" series. In the last volume (No. 16), I dealt with "What Is the True URGE of Your Life," remarking that JOY is the essential force that Life uses to bring all forms of Life into manifestation. In that volume it was shown that

> "True joy is that force which starts the rhythmic motion in the secret waters upon which all Life's essences come forth into expression. Joy propels the fluids of Life. When Joy is established in the mind, its nature to the human being is precisely what the sun is to the earth. And Joy is hidden everywhere in Life, as the fragrance of the rose is hidden in the rose. Joy is a lamp whose flame we should fan, for in this way we may learn the hidden truth of immortality. Joy is the first messenger of Life from the inner to the outer and is obviously the messenger from the Silence. Viewed merely cursorily, Joy is so intense as a human emotion as to be Life's healer. Out of Joy, moreover, come Peace and Strength, imagination and Hope, Energy and Action. Everyone surely knows the effect of Joy in the mind, and as our mind, so our life. Joy tunes our souls to God's eternal harmonies."

(a) The Balancer—The Regulator—The Equilibriumist

In this lesson-volume, I am to show that while JOY is the motivating force for all our action in Life (though few people know much about it), GRATITUDE is the compensation of Life. It is the balancer, the regulator, the equilibriumist. As JOY is the force that sustains the whole Universe—it is a Law—only those who know Joy can possibly know GRATITUDE. And as Life Itself is action (by that I mean that your life can only be measured by what you do), you must discern that Joy and Gratitude are the essence of the LAW of Life, propelling you into Life's purpose, which you may call the Will of God. Therefore, without these two roots of LAW established in your consciousness and working in your own life, you can never perfectly do God's Will—which, of course, is your own complete Success. Gratitude, then, can be seen to be a principle of the Great Unity. This principle of the Great Unity (GOD) is in Man's soul . . . (Man is God in Human Form) . . .making its contact in literature, art, science, engineering, religion, everything that Man can think, feel, and do. The more joyful you are in your action (what you -DO, whether you are a tinker, or tailor, banker or candlestick-maker) the more grateful do you become because you are blessed to do it, the nearer do you rise to your own divine estate, and grow to become what you truly are—God in Human Form.

(b) Without Gratitude, a Man Is Utterly Ignorant of The Way

Gratitude is the seed of your own Divinity. Few human beings know that when they render thanks to Life Itself (to God), Life's throbbing heart beats faster in their behalf to start Its blessing on Its way to them, compensating their life in abundance, beauty and light. This is the WAY of God (the Great Mathematical Mind of Life), and the ancient sages knew that, without Gratitude, a man is utterly ignorant of The Way—of God's Way; he cannot know the Truth; consequently, he cannot be free.

To understand Cosmic Freedom, we must, of course, understand Cosmic Love. In understanding Cosmic Love, you surrender yourself to Gratitude. When Man learns Gratitude, his earth is transmuted truly into Heaven. It is the test of your Gratitude, moreover—and a sign of Wisdom—that you always give thanks when things "go wrong." The wise man's creed of Gratitude never allows him to count sublime things as commonplace, nor reckon as losses and disappointments the discipline which brings him incorruptible treasure. . . Understanding Gratitude, you prepare yourself for reverence. If you are grateful for your power to be grateful, then the Infinity of Life reveals to you many of the hidden truths and apparent secrets of Life.

Nothing can so ennoble human character as Gratitude, for when you give thanks you are happy and bring Joy to others. Just as today you welcome the rain, tomorrow you see increased glory in your own garden—this is the Law of Gratitude in your life.

(c) The Hidden Elixir—The Cup Overflowing

Gratitude to all wise men is the compensation of Life, **that which actually keeps everything in the Universe in Life's balance and rhythm and poise and power. Without Gratitude,** the soul's crowning virtue, a man is literally devoid of true knowledge, even a knowledge of what his own body is; and, in his ignorance, he is consequently helpless against every evil wind that blows upon him. Whereas when he knows Gratitude, he opens continually the floodgates of love through which Life's living stream flows, and upon whose bosom comes to him the hidden elixir which causes his own cup to flow over.

As I have said, few know that when they render thanks to Life Itself, to God, **Life's throbbing heart** beats faster in their behalf to start its blessing on its way to them, compensating their life in abundance, beauty and light. This is the WAY of God. Without **Gratitude,** a man is utterly ignorant of The Way. Very few people, however, understand even these words: **"Life's throbbing heart beats faster in our behalf to start its blessing on its way to us,"** and so on.

But I hope that you who read, as an aspirant to Wisdom, know that what I am talking about is not merely an academic hypothesis, or a toy of philosophy—you know that it is the LAW of Life! Gratitude is a living force! Its

effect is universal! When you feel and express Gratitude, and practice gratefully, the whole of the subtle forces of the Universe are set into motion immediately to reward you on the highest plane of your existence—in your soul, in your mind, in your heart; and whatever that subtle force is, it comes to you and passes out from you in ever-increasing magnitude and strength, so that your life in your own consciousness is immeasurably blessed, and your own life-activity, in all its phases, blesses all whom you meet. And then, as a result, impellingly, as the one result, as a corollary of God's Law, you are perforce blessed fourfold to the degree that the Light passes through you to others. It is, however—though a practical LAW of Life (as all God's Laws are practical)—something that you have to learn for yourself.

(d) Gratitude Is Cosmic in Its Power

This force and substance—Substance is the word that I would emphasize—of GRATITUDE, nonetheless, is the Cosmic force that compensates all Life in the Universe. It is the governors of a gas engine. It is the essence that keeps all things moving in that motion of God's Law that is eternal-pit is essentially Godlike. It is conceivable, of course, that we **can** learn Gratitude without also learning much about God, or recognizing that Gratitude is of the very nature of God. **But** it is only through true spiritual training that a man **can** come to know, and be able to use Gratitude.

You have been good enough to yourself to read thus far.

You may think, "Yes, this is a nice little essay. It is just the talk of a parson. Sounds nice and pretty; but it is not very practical." Now, my friend, that is where you are not rightly informed. If ever you have read anything that is eminently practical in ALL phases of human living, it is what I am writing. Gratitude is a LAW, applicable in all its rich compensations and rewards to all individuals, to communities, to nations—IT IS A LAW from whose effects we cannot escape. Therefore, read on—and be patient.

Well, what does GRATITUDE do?

First, gratitude is a feeling. It seems to come up from within us—never from without. It occurs as a **feeling.**

As you rest in the feeling of Gratitude, this feeling increases until it becomes completely universal to you as a feeling. You are not conscious of any other feeling. It is overwhelming. It is overpowering. Everything is submerged in it. At such times, you are Gratitude in operation! You meet your friend: you are happy to meet him: as he comes to you, a feeling begins, it intensifies itself, it expands, itself, and at the moment of the meeting both you and your friend **are Gratitude.** You are able to see, then, that Gratitude is a strong, inward, living force of Life Itself! Cultivate Gratitude unceasingly! Never forget to give thanks to Thy God!

(e) Let Everything That Hath Breath Praise the Lord

As I am writing I hear a beautiful song in my mind. The

words are: "Let everything that hath breath, praise the Lord"—as you know, the words are from the 150th Psalm. That is Gratitude indeed! If you can see spiritually into the glorious meaning of those simple, yet majestic, words, you will know that Gratitude is NATURAL to the enlightened person. Ingratitude is abnormal; it is indicative of the lowness of the nature of him who displays it. The charge can be made against most of us that we, too, are ungrateful; we never can be grateful enough. To whom, and for what? "O Lord, that lends me Life, lend me a heart replete with thankfulness."

To whom? To That which we know and feel within us that is greater than ourselves—men call it God.

for what? For All That There Is.

To be ungrateful robs you and me of our recognition of our own Divinity in Life Itself; it also causes us to exalt secondary agencies——and more often what we proudly consider our own mortal selves—to a pride of eminence which shuts us off from Divine Light and our own Divine Nature. I am, I hope, writing to you as a philosopher—IT SHUTS US OFF FROM DIVINE LIGHT!

You know what you feel when you feel grateful. There will come a time when you and I shall fully know gratitude . . . we shall always be grateful: we shall BE GRATITUDE! But I am quite sure that you, even if you realize that you as yet know very little of the true Universal Consciousness, do at times feel a great burst of Gratitude, and when you do, you feel that you know what your feeling is.

(f) When You Are Grateful, What Do You Feel?

Bringing back (if you are able to) into your mind the feeling of Gratitude, what is it that you feel? Is it something that you merely imagine? Somebody does something for you, gives you something, is something to you; then you feel grateful and you say, "Thanks very much." Analyzing this feeling of Gratitude, do you not feel a great heat within your very body at the time that you are grateful? Your own birthday . . . Christmas, and all the many times of the year when your children, your family, your relatives, and your friends give to you . . . they may have nothing to give, but they may write just a little note and say, "I have nothing to give you but this," and it may be a little daisy from the field—but at such times there is something that rises within you—a "lump in your throat," perhaps—is there not? It comes from within you, does it not?

And when you feel Gratitude, you KNOW that something spontaneously rises from within you; you recognize it as dormant, latent, inherent within you, but you know that you do not feel it continuously. When you do feel it, however, how wonderful it is!

You may say, "Well, that is true of any emotion," and that is so. You may say, "It is exactly the same with Joy. When I feel Joy, something rises within me." That is true. All our emotions rise from within us. This simple fact should make us see that there is but The One. If we can think of ourselves as what we truly are—God—then we

shall have a totally different idea of Gratitude, Reverence, Beauty, Joy, and all the lovely words that euphemistically express The One Thing that people call God, the Eternal Thing in which we all live and move and have our being. However, to speak of God does not necessarily guarantee that a person knows much about God. Usually the more we talk about anything whatever, the less we know about it. The more we talk about a thing, the greater risk we always run of showing our ignorance. When we know a thing, there is no need for talk! A carpenter just looking at his plane, or any other tool that he uses, knows exactly how it is to be used and he does not need to talk about the way in which he works, because he knows his work; and as you watch him, you know that he knows. The fig tree does not get up and shout among all the other trees and say, "Hey, look at this! See what I can do!" It just goes ahead and does what it knows how to do—to make figs. You will notice that the fig tree cannot produce apples or tomatoes or papayas, or anything else; it can produce only figs, but it is quite an expert at making figs—that part of "God's Will" with which it is entrusted.

(g) How Human Beings Differ—and Why

When you come to the human being, you see a vast difference, as it appears, in the works of human beings. Some human beings seem to know so very much more than others. Some human beings can prove by their work that they know more than others. We will take, we will

say, half a dozen carpenters. Among them you will find two or three who most atrociously butcher wood, and you will find one or two out of the six who are quite skilled workmen — they are joiners — they can prepare and fit wood most expertly, and they know what they are doing. So it is right through the whole human race. But we find that, no matter where we look, something shines through a man, and that something that shines through a man is what you call his work, what he does (that part of "God's Will" with which he is entrusted)—not by any means necessarily what he says; that is a totally different thing.

But, no matter where you go, you find in all the kingdoms, right through the lower kingdoms up to the Human Kingdom, the right estimate of all Life organisms (from the amoeba to a man) is in what they do. A horse, when you mount him, simply knows—something exists within him and you: you both KNOW! It is a wonderful thing. Well, over the way, there is another kind of horse—an old cart-horse. He has known nothing whatever all his life but hard toil, being harnessed up and pulling heavy loads. He does not know much of the Joy of Life that you and your own horse know together. If you should get on his back, he would not know what was happening. Similarly, if you should put your own horse, a spirited animal, to pull the loads that the cart-horse has to pull, he would be most unhappy . . . and so on.

(h) Your Life Is Part of God's Will with Which You Are Entrusted

You see, my friend, Life in all Its expression, with all beings—not only the human being—expresses Its glory, that is, Life shines through every Life organism.

You can see the substance of any Life organism through which LIFE shines.

You can see the Life organism, because of its substance, such as a flower or a tree. And then, you know that within the substance there is an energy, an action (a power that causes motion and movement), and it is by this energy within the substance of YOU that you do the things that you do, That is perfectly clear and easy to see. Our expression (that is, God's expression in us) all comes from within us. Without the substance—well, here ! am writing, talking to you, and there is no doubt whatever in your mind that I am writing because you are reading it . . . it may not be that you give a single thought as to HOW you are reading, but you are quite sure that, by habit, you have become the master of your reading, and so you say, "Well, the man has written this. He has written, and I am reading it." Then you are at liberty to say, "He is either a fool, or a wise man." That is up to you! But that is clear—the action of me comes from the energy of me, **within me.**

Then you see at once that all living things have a Universal Principle within them. The Universal Principle exists within them for one purpose and one purpose only—that is to express! To express what? To express that part of

"God's Will" with which they are entrusted. I suppose it is conceivable that if you did not speak, we will say, for two or three years, you would not have the power to speak. Why? You have the power now to speak, and if you did not speak for an extended length of time you would not have the power to speak. Why? Because even that which you have is taken from you (unless you USE it). We have to keep growing in expressing that part of "God's Will" with which we are entrusted, however—by increasing It—to express more and more fully. The Universe never ceases . . . It is always expressing, and It has within all Its substance the ENERGY, the WISDOM, and everything that is necessary to express Itself to the very highest point of Its knowledge, Its power, Its wisdom to express.

PART TWO: OUR HUMAN MACHINE IS IMPORTANT, BUT WHAT MAKES THE MACHINE CARRY OUT ITS FINAL PURPOSE? . . . GRATITUDE'S PLACE IN THE MYSTIC LAW OF TITHING—HOW LIFE ITSELF EXACTS ITS LAW.

You would not expect a little child of six or seven to say its "12 times" table, but when the child comes to you and says, "Oh, Daddy, two and two make four . . . two times three are six . . . two times four are eight," why, you bless the child and you gather her to your heart and you say, "What a marvelous thing that is, what a miracle!"

It truly is! Then, wait . . . you will live to see that little child grow into great mastership in mathematics.

So it is, my friend, with all of us—practice makes perfect!

(i) The Thing Thou Seekest Is Within Thyself

But the thing in my mind that, perhaps, I am not sufficiently emphasizing, is that all that is necessary, in the machinery, in the equipment, in the apparatus, for us to express resides, is located, WITHIN OURSELVES. Therefore, as that is true, then whenever we make a search, whenever we become conscious that there is something lacking within us, it is no good to look "over there" and say, "Oh, I think what I am looking for is in John Smith . . . or in that lady over there." NO, IT IS TO BE FOUND WITHIN OURSELVES.

In all philosophy we have such expressions as, "The thing that thou seekest is within thyself."

Never trust another person! If there is "another person" to you, then it is obvious that you have not come finally into the knowledge that there is THE ONLY ONE, which men call God. When "other" persons, "other" people, "other" things, "other" differentiated qualities and forms exist for you, it is quite obvious that you have not grown yet into the comprehension of the Eternal One . . , ALL IS ONE AND ONE IS ALL. (Think of the Universality of Life Itself.)

(j) Human Machine Is Important, but What Makes It Work?

We see that most clearly, it seems to me—and categorically, finally—in our own breath. Here am I writing, breathing as I write. It is only by power and virtue of my breath that I write. There you are reading, breathing as you read. Do not get bored! Think upon that simple, infinitely simple, illustration . . . think upon it. Then you will see that, as you contemplate the universality of Breath, and how YOUR life is without doubt linked with this universality, something within you (Wisdom, maybe) unfolds, unravels the tangled skein within what you call your knowledge. It shows you that all that causes you to possess knowledge flows into you. Then, with all your holy magnificent equipment—why, there is nothing made by all the scientists or all the engineers of the world that can compare with your body—you have within you the power to become what God is. With all the apparatus, all the equipment, everything at its absolute apex of excellence, what is called "you" and what is called "me" must surely be recognized as Divine, for we can see without any possibility of doubt that we actually are part of, actually eternally linked with, and cannot be divided from the Universal Thing (men call it God). You see, the machine ("me" and "you") is important, but the machine does not run of itself—no machine does! What makes it run is what men call God—within us. "The thing thou seekest is within thyself!"

I remember once, long years ago—although it seems but yesterday—I was appointed to the job of creating a modern newspaper; and, incidentally, I shook in my shoes. I do not mind telling you that when I appeared they thought I was my uncle, but I put it over on them and I got the job! Then I had to take blank sheets of paper and make a modern morning newspaper. If you know much about modern newspaper work, you know that we planned and planned and developed samples and dummies, every night getting everybody into the run of things, doing what he was supposed to do and entrusted to do. Then the final night came, and we were to be on the streets at 1:00 in the morning. There we were, masters of our trade in every department, everything running like a clock and everybody doing what he was entrusted to do . . . and at two minutes to 1:00 A.M. the current went off!

(k) What If the Current Were Cut Off!

Now, suppose that that ever happened to you. Suppose that the very glory of your planning, of your doing, of your thinking, were at its height, and then, suddenly, the current were to go off!

My friend, what has this to do with Gratitude? Very much indeed! Because Gratitude is the current. Do you see that? I daresay that among my readers there are a good many hard-headed businessmen and businesswomen. Well, run your business by this Law of Gratitude! When you give thanks—and surely no one needs to have pointed

out to him the wisdom of giving thanks—let it become a habit. If we could only see that by continually, by habit, rejoicingly giving thanks, nothing whatsoever in our life can go wrong. Yes, they may crucify us . . . they may scandalize us and libel us and say all manner of things against us falsely! But what would it matter if, with every breath that we took, we were grateful? If I, looking upon you, could feel always that you are as great and wonderful and holy and divine as I know you to be! If I could only see you constantly in the Light of the Eternal Wisdom that I know you are! "Oh, yeah," some one may say, not knowing what he says, "and you and I have never met!"

My friend, this is a great secret—this art of Gratitude! Why need I write of Gratitude to you, my unknown friend? I am not speaking as a college professor and saying, "Now, look here, you ought to address me as 'Sir,' and when you have something done for you, you should say 'thank you.' " That is good advice, however. No, I am speaking of the height, the length, the breadth, the depth of Gratitude, the Essence of the Soul, the substance of Life, the glory of our being in God, that which always keeps the divine current of Life Expression running.

(l) We May Not "Understand," but We Can Practice!

You and I may not be able to understand this LAW in its higher philosophical or occult meaning, but we can at

all events practice. We can all practice doing gratefully in our everyday life that part of "God's Will" with which we are entrusted. We can all practice even being human beings, giving thanks.

My own right hand . . . not a very good thing to look at but a wonderful thing for me to use . . . a doctor once told me it was not worth anything at all. Seven doctors many years ago in Singapore told me: "You may as well have it off. If you do not hove it off, you will die," Well, they were wrong! What could I possibly give to show that I am grateful for that hand? Have you ever been nearly blind? I have. What can I possibly do or give to show my gratitude for the sight of my right eye, which was declared by many specialists in at least twenty large cities of the world to be worthless, but which ! learned to USE to see with?

But I do not want to wear my heart on my sleeve. I do not know how it is with you, but as I begin to think, my mind is simply ablaze with Light as I think of the things that I personally have cause and a righteous duty to give thanks for. Since I was a tiny boy, since I began to be able to think, there is nothing in my life for which I should not give thanks. There are many things in my life that I did not give thanks for, thinking that they were great catastrophes that had happened to me—the passing of my father, leaving me a helpless little boy . . . many, many things—but I have lived long enough to say, and I say it with Gratitude, that some of the greatest apparent losses of the moment have turned out to be the greatest

possible blessings. Never have I had doubt in my own life to question the Wisdom of Life Itself.

"O Lord that lends me life, lend me a heart replete with thankfulness."

(m) Let God Run Your Life As You Run Your Business

Even as little children should, is it not wise for us always to give thanks? "Oh, you do not know. I am in business. I have several deals fluctuating right now, and I cannot get any of them straight. I am a real estate agent, and I cannot close anything." Friend, I have had more experience, perhaps, than you may have had. I was a business and professional man for many years. I know a great deal about business. Let God run your business! Let God run your life! "Oh, that is the talk of an old preacher." Yes, I know; but I have no other words. Let "God" run your life, when you do not know what "God" is? No, that is a mere invitation to the "devil" to step in and take charge! But seek ye first—first . . . there are not two firsts—seek ye first the Kingdom of Heaven within thee, nowhere else. And then what? All these things—ALL, not 99%, but 100%—are added unto you.

Now, what do I mean when I use such words? let "God" run your business! I really MEAN what I say, providing YOU know what God is. Of course, if you still are steeped and held down in the old anthropomorphic idea, I know it will be hard for you to understand my

meaning. Do not turn away, however, and declare that I am all wrong in what I write. If you SEEK you will find—and AS you seek. The fact that you are now reading what I write is proof that you are ready to seek. Begin, then, to seek according to your knowledge. (Read page 30 of this Little Book right now.) **Seek by practice!**

Begin to express Gratitude, the Compensation of Life! Let your countenance shine with Gratitude. Let the very Life, Beauty, Virility, Youth, Glory of Life shine out through your very body! Of course, we do not understand, cannot yet understand, very much that is passing in Life; just let it pass! Kick not against the pricks! Seek continually, in Gratitude, the glory of the living Wisdom of Life within thee.

(n) Never Forget to Give Thanks!

Begin to truly live what you know . . . give thanks when things "go wrong," as we say. Think of that as you let this lesson-volume fall into your lap for a moment—"When things go wrong!" What other way is there for the Wisdom of Life to show us, unless it points out to us that things go "wrong" because of our own conceptions, when we allow darkness of our own creation to creep into the radiant, glorious, scintillatingly brilliant Light of Life Itself. But praise the Lord of Life (the Great Mathematical Mind which is inherent within you) . . . praise the Law . . . live with It . . . know that It is thee . . . let naught of any contrary nature enter thy mind, and if it does, "Why, how. foolish of me! I almost forgot! I forgot to give thanks!"

CONCLUSION: MEASURE OF YOUR SPIRITUAL GROWTH IS YOUR POWER TO RENDER THANKS WHERE AND TO TO WHOM THEY ARE DUE

As you have read the foregoing, you may be so spiritually informed as to understand and endorse all that I have written—and also all that I have not written. But you have not been listening alone to my voice—you have, I trust with all my heart, been listening to another Voice . . . the Voice of your own Highest Self, the Voice of your own divine nature, the Voice of what you may term God within you.

If so, continue to listen.

"Yea, listen to Me, that you may learn of Me and my Eternal Way in you. You desire to learn of My mysteries? Then, fear not, and My mystery in what you call 'your life' will be revealed to you, if you truly wish to know.

"Who am I? I am YOU. I am Your Divine Self, I am the Master within you. i am that part of You Who IS—the same yesterday, today, tomorrow, forever—I am the KNOWER within you, your True SELF, your Teacher, your God, It is I who sit within you that you now hear. I always await my opportunity to speak, for it is I who directs your thought, your feelings, your actions and all your ways.

"It is I who have been with you always, through all your joys and heartaches, your successes and achievements—also your mistakes.

"It is I who have been with you through all your evil-doings, your back-sliding, your wanton ways, your crimes against your brother and against God.

"No matter where you went—onward, backward—upward, downward—straying helplessly from the Path you knew you should have trod, it

was I who brought you through. And I shall continue to stand by and show you how to do all the things you wish to do, for your own eternal growth or even for your own undoing.

"I am your Innermost One. I am the Cause of your Being, and the Root of all that you are. I am Infinite. The Universe is My Body. I am All Intelligence, All Love, All Power, All That There Is. I am You—I am the Dweller in You. You know Me, and sometimes incline yourself to listen to what I say.

"All the sub-human existences of Me and My Cosmos exist for the purpose of your observing, being still, not saying, 'See how great I am,' but submerging, effacing thyself that thou may'st recognize Me in thyself ---I am YOU.

"If you will recognize Me in you, the 'Little Book' in your hand will bring you Truth. Follow after Me if you wish to be wise, and heed My instruction. Rest, and feel ME thinking through you, and as I think in you so shall you become. Fail not in this instruction. Peace be in your heart forevermore!"

In concluding the writing of this lesson-volume, I would like to point out the wisdom of tithing. I hope you can see that the measure of your Spiritual growth is your power to render thanks where and to whom they are due. As we try to give, so the whole great realm of Nature responds to us with Infinite Abundance. In all fellowship there is an interchange of benefits, and wise is he who recognizes that only by the return of the benefits he receives (in the form that he is able to make return) does he raise himself to a position as high as the one by whom the benefits are bestowed upon him.

No matter in what volume we return benefits we have received, we fail (and shall always fail) to make adequate return, for it is simply not within our power to make return for what we receive from God—in friendships from those who teach us from their experience, in material substance that flows ever towards us and into us, in every good gift of life, and for Life Itself . . . it is, I repeat, not within our power to make adequate return. JUSTICE—the greatest of all Law save LOVE, which itself cannot be unless embodied in Justice—demands that for whatever is received, a return as nearly adequate as possible shall be made. If we receive—no matter what it is that we receive—Justice demands that we make a proportional return, for only thus can we grow. This Law is the Law on all planes of existence. In the physical realm, what strictly material return can be made by a person who regains his or her sight or hearing, as examples, or his improved bodily condition, to the person who, by right teaching, leads him to that point of understanding?

HOW, then, CAN we adequately make the return that is due to the Universe—to God and Man? Now, mark this well: There are only two substances we can give anywhere. We know that AS we give, SO WE RECEIVE. The two substances are—

(a) SPIRITUAL SUBSTANCE

(b) MATERIAL SUBSTANCE

(While these are two, in essence they are One.)

When we analyze, we find that there is in all spiritual imparting an alliance with material imparting, and in all material imparting an element of spiritual imparting. If you realize spiritual values—when you are led further along The Path info The Light—you are taking actual **material** values, even though the vehicles through/which they come to you are immaterial. The ONLY way that you can make return for such values is probably only through **material** means . . . AND SO IT IS ABSOLUTE LAW THAT HE WHO HAS RECEIVED SPIRITUAL VALUES AND FAILS TO MAKE RETURN HAS MERELY DEGRADED HIMSELF.

The law is that we must make equal return. There are some individuals and some societies that explicitly adopt and act upon the principle that spiritual values should be systematically and habitually given and accepted **without** the making or expectation of any material return. But THAT IS NOT LAW. Before the Earth gives forth the harvest of her abundance, she demands the **seed.** WE must NEVER accept anything whatever without making ideal return. THE LAW is, that if we receive Spiritual benefits and it is possible for us to return **similar** benefits, then it is right that we should do so. If we withhold our hand from returning spiritual benefits with **material** substance, then we put ourselves into a state of spiritual pauperization, which in turn will mean material pauperization.

That is why so many people in the world have so little, because they have refused systematically to leaven the whole lump with what they themselves can give, in their

ignorance and greed believing that they can perform Cosmic gymnastics by cheating the fundamental Law of the Universe, expecting to reap without sowing the Seed.

If a man is niggardly and mean, that is the effect of the **habit** of niggardliness and meanness of some previous time in his experience—niggardliness and meanness being in his Memory. Multiply this **ad infinitum,** and we see what the human being is and how he has become what he is.

We should never forget those who have given to us real values. We should never forget our Mother, our Father, our Teacher—or anyone from whom we have received the everlasting substance of Knowledge. It is for some to be privileged to feed the hungry, for others to give to the poor and to clothe the naked, for others to supply the intellectual needs of those less informed, for others to give of material and transient and ornamental benefits; but it is given to few to disclose deep spiritual teaching that is of such transcendent permanent application that it alone can be classed as true and real values. But when values of This nature are received it is not possible for the individual to make adequate return—for no matter what the material return, it can never fully compensate. They who endeavor to get something for nothing are merely deluding their higher selves, for they who receive without making such return as lies in their power, do not really receive; or, perhaps one may say it in a different way—they receive but the dregs, for the whole is polluted with their own self-degradation. They do not

USE GRATITUDE, and so impede the wheels of their own life and growth.

At the basis of all true thought which results in happiness and mental and spiritual contentment lies the knowledge that we have given what we **could give;** and if we have not given what we could give, we short the Universal Force, in which all bounty resides. That is why tithing is so important to all whose faces are towards The Light.

My space is gone, which i regret. I would have liked to talk to you on the LAW of tithing, showing how, even when we do **not** give in return for all that we receive, LIFE ITSELF, in ways that are invisible to us, **exacts Its tithe from us.**

If we be wise, we are naturally grateful. If we desire Wisdom, let us practice "Gratitude—The True Compensation of Your Life." Peace be unto you. I am grateful to you for having read this Little Book.

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