

over the seething waves, and the drift slowly sank, the water gradually creeping up toward my neck.

About the time I had been drowning, my mother at home, four miles away, had the impression that she heard me cry for help, and feeling certain that I had met with some misfortune, started out to look for me. She tracked Bess down the left hand road, and by this time the conviction that I was in peril had taken such a hold upon her that she stopped at the mill and organized a rescue party to search for me.

At ten o'clock that night they found me with the water up to my chin. In the moonlight, by the aid of strong ropes and husky swimmers, I was safely re-

moved from the river and carried home, where I soon recovered from the shock and lived to repair my accusing record.

As I recall that experience, it seems to me that those few seconds of drowning wherein I reviewed my past life, were, in comparison, longer than the entire remainder of my conscious existence. And the record of the soul or the subconscious mind, or the astral brain, or anything else one may wish to call it, is not to me now a theory of occultism nor a speculation of psychology; it is a real and terrible fact. So much so that it has taught me to guard my *thoughts*—to think tolerantly and kindly of everyone and everything, for some time, somewhere, I shall again face that Eternal Record.

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## A Plea for the Bible

BY MARY B. ROBERTS

**E**VERY Sunday we hear read from the beautiful Rosicrucian Temple Service these words: "The Bible has been given to the Western World by the Recording Angels." We also find that Chap. 13 in the "Cosmo-Conception" is entitled "Back to the Bible," Chap. 14 is entitled "The Occult Analysis of Genesis," and Chap. 15, "Christ and His Mission." In these chapters Max Heindel has correlated the Bible teachings with the later ones found in the Western Wisdom Teachings, wherein are described the beginning of things and the progress and evolution of mankind and his religions. This should help us to know that we are not through with the Bible, for instruction given by those great individual intelligences, the Recording Angels, is based upon cosmic principles and like the house builded upon the rock has withstood all the storms of time.

Max Heindel once said to a person who asked him for another textbook besides

the "Cosmo": "Why, we have the Bible—that is the Christian's textbook." This article is a plea for the Bible, a plea that we take it up and study it more thoroughly than we have ever done, and learn to interpret it in the light of the Western Wisdom Teachings. The Bible is not an open book, nor was it intended as such. Just as we have been told that we must learn to read between the lines in order to understand the "Cosmo," so we must learn to read between the lines in order to understand the Bible. Rightly interpreted, it contains many gems and pearls of great price, which will be found by those who study it with reverence.

The Bible must be studied with the mind, intelligently; and with the heart, devotionally. It is capable of many interpretations along many lines, suitable to the consciousness of any and all who choose to study and meditate upon it. Christ said to His disciples, "Unto you it is given to know the mysteries of the Kingdom of God, but unto them that

are without, all these things are done in parables." This saying applies not only to the New Testament scriptures, but also to the Old Testament.

Some time ago the "Rays" contained an article on the Tabernacle in the Wilderness, the Atlantean Mystery School. In this article Max Heindel said, "The Tabernacle in the Wilderness was the Atlantean Mystery School, the mystic symbol which preceded the Rose Cross, and if we can understand what this means, we shall be better able to apply the modern teachings in our own lives. It is for this very reason that the ancient teachings contained in the Old Testament have been retained and coupled with the new teachings given in the Gospels." And it is well for us to remember that these Western Wisdom Teachings enable their students to interpret the Bible in a much more comprehensive way than has been done in the orthodox churches.

We know that nature does nothing in an abrupt manner. There is always the overlapping of the old methods with the new when any changes are made. We do not throw to the winds the lessons we have learned in our school days in one grade when we are found proficient enough to pass to another; and so Christ said, "I am not come to destroy the Law or the prophets, but to fulfill them." "Fulfill" means "to complete or carry out."

We hear much these days about being a law unto ourselves, and living above the Law, but by their deeds ye shall know them." It matters little whether we believe we are justified in breaking the Law or not, only applied knowledge will save us. Only when we *live the Law* shall we be free. The Bible says the Law is the schoolmaster which brings us to Christ, and that it was given by Jehovah to Moses, but that grace and truth came by Jesus Christ. Now, this grace, what is it? When an offender is pardoned and the sentence is suspended, such a one may be said to be under grace, and therefore saved; but let him

commit another offense of a similar nature, and again the Law begins to work.

In the liberty of the coming Aquarian Age we no doubt shall find many who have not learned to keep the Law, and as the Bible states, there will be those who have "forgotten that they have been purged of their old sins." For all who mistake license for liberty, sorrow and suffering must be their portion until they have learned to keep the Law.

The writer has been meditating upon and keeping in mind for some time one of the beautiful Psalms which is read frequently at Mt. Ecclesia, Psalm 121, and believes it to be a formula of Initiation.

#### PSALM 121.

"I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills from whence cometh my help.

My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth.

He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber.

The Lord is thy keeper: the Lord is thy shade upon thy right hand.

The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night.

The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil: He shall preserve thy soul.

The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore."

#### INTERPRETATION

"I will lift up mine eyes to the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord which made heaven and earth." In the Bible, "hills" and "mountains" represent places of observation, and eyes are organs of vision, "windows of the soul," the light of the body. Christ said, "If I be lifted up, I will draw all men unto me." And the Bible further states, "They shall say unto you, lo here and lo there is Christ. Believe them not, for it is the Christ in you, the hope of glory." Can we doubt that this verse refers to the lifting up of the Christ consciousness within each and

everyone of us? In the human body, the spinal canal which is ruled by Neptune is filled with what we call spirit fire, the creative power of God, and the head is that high place or hill of the body where the spirit fire sets into action the pituitary body and the pineal gland, which are particularly correlated with the spiritual side of our nature. When this awakening process has been accomplished, our sight is spiritualized, lifted up, and we look beyond the low horizon of the physical world to the more ethereal realms, taking a new step in consciousness and advancement. One who experiences this change will be ready to declare, "My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth."

"He will not suffer thy foot to be moved; he that keepeth thee will not slumber."

We depend upon our feet to keep the equilibrium of the body. When the physical feet are weak, the body stumbles. So through lack of spiritual understanding do we stumble and fall short of living up to our ideals of attainment; and today because of the lack of understanding relative to life and being, we find many people going from one society to another, from one lecture to another, seeking—seeking they know not what. But the man who has found the God within himself bows in adoration and in his heart exclaims, "I know in whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day" (any day that can come to him). Surely, "He will not suffer thy foot to be moved," and "He that keepeth thee will not slumber."

"The Lord is thy keeper: The Lord is thy shade upon thy right hand." This is not a far-fetched idea. There is a Guardian Angel who is ever near, who is the embodiment of all the good deeds performed in past lives. This spiritual self ever seeks to lead the personality into paths of righteousness and speaks words of counsel, warning or cheer. Thus "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." And there is a

shade which walks continually by our side. We are told that before we can reach the Higher Self, the threefold spirit, we must meet and pass the "Dweller on the Threshold," that entity of sin which is the personified expression of all our evil deeds. But he too is of God, for it takes power to sin, and he therefore represents power. Before we can pass him we must agree to redeem and transmute into righteousness the powers of this devil which we have made. Thus will God preserve our souls.

"The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night." Why such a promise, such an assurance? Here we have symbolized by the sun and moon the two great creative powers of God, the positive and negative poles of manifestation. This great Father-Mother principle of God, which has been brought down from heaven has been plunged into sensuality by mankind. This has been the means of adulterating in humanity the very essence of life, and has brought to our earth sin, death, and the grave. The Will, that great attribute of the Father, has so dominated the Love or Wisdom principle that some of the forms of humanity generated under this ignorant misuse have degenerated to such a degree that the virgin spirits inhabiting the forms will lose all their experience in this scheme of evolution and have to go back into chaos as naked spirits, there to wait for another opportunity. There is also a second group of evolving spirits which hangs in the balance, the anthropoids, and it is doubtful whether they will be able to "make the grade."

Those who are among the highest in spiritual attainment have been forced to roam the wilderness of sorrow and suffering for ages, yes, for aeons. But this promise is made to the faithful keeper of the Law: "The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night."

"The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore." Occult students are taught that birth and so-

called death are only passing incidents in the life of the immortal spirit, which comes from time to time into a new body at rebirth and goes out at so-called death. But it is not enough to be born of the flesh. "Ye must be born of the spirit"; and the following passages of Scripture give some of the qualifications of one who has been given spiritual birth or Initiation.

"The wind bloweth where it listeth and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the spirit." "They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like an eagle; they shall run, and not be weary; they shall walk, and not faint." In Max Heindel's "Lessons to Students" we find the following statement: "Please put this down where it will burn itself into your consciousness in letters of fire: Initiation is a spiritual process, and spiritual progress can not be achieved nor accomplished by physical means, but only by spiritual exercises" (living the Christ life).

Upon the fact that the spirit is able to go out of and come back into its body consciously when it has reached the attainment of spiritual birth (so-called in the Bible) is based the healing ministry of the Invisible Helpers. This is why we say at the Rosicrucian evening service, "Tonight while our bodies are resting in sleep may each and every one of us be found faithfully working in the vineyard of Christ." The faithful students belonging to the inner school of the Rosicrucian Fellowship while out of the dense body are being taught to heal the sick by speaking the word. Christ spoke the word and healed the centurion's servant, and Jehovah spoke the word and healed the people. Let us note here how the Law given by Jehovah is coupled with the divine Love given by Christ.

May God hasten the day when all shall

know Him from the least to the greatest and when all will be able to go in and out of their bodies at will, or as the "Cosmo" gives it, "travel in foreign countries." The spiritual birth or Initiation which makes this possible is the coming religion.

Man is made in the image of God. We are told that a ray from the Cosmic Christ is the Planetary Spirit of the earth, and it is He who gives His love, light, and life for the whole world. Thus we find that Christians have, indeed, a most wonderful Savior, the Christ, a World Savior who not only guides the earth in its orbit around the sun, but furnishes life for everything upon it. At the Last Supper, Christ Jesus took bread and blessed it and gave it to His disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." Then He took the cup and rendered thanks to the Father, and gave it to them saying, "Drink ye all of it." (Matthew 26:26-27). It is a fact that every time we eat, and drink we do eat of the body and drink of the blood of the Christ Spirit which is within the earth.

"As above, so below." As the Christ sends a ray of Himself into the earth, so do the Group Spirits of the other life waves. The Group Spirit of the animal dwells in the Desire World and guides its wards on the physical plane. The ego, the threefold spirit, is said to have its home in the Region of Abstract Thought. The Divine Spirit, one of the three aspects of the ego, is specially correlated to the physical body, the Life Spirit to the vital body, and the Human Spirit to the desire body. The link of mind transmits thoughts to and from the threefold spirit and its threefold body. Thus we find that thought is the pathway over which we travel from the physical to the invisible realms. Our God is triune, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Together they work for our eternal welfare and progress: the great Father of Light in whom there is no variableness, neither shadow of turning;

Christ Jesus, the Lord of Love and Life; and Jehovah, the Law-giver, the Spirit of Truth, the Comforter.

Let us keep our Bibles near at hand, read them often, and pray that we may receive greater understanding. We live in a Christian land and if we can give

Christian people a better understanding of the Bible we shall be in a position to forward to an ever greater degree the great Work given out by the Brothers of the Rose Cross and help many a seeking soul to find the Star which shall lead him to the Christ within.

## Beyond the Veil

BY LIDA ELINOR WEST

**I**T WAS midnight. The shaded lamp in her daughter's sick room threw weird shadows on the figured wall paper, and the fleur-de-lis in dull blue patterns grinned like hideous death's heads at the tired mother as she sat rigid in her rocking chair. She was almost afraid to breathe lest the chair should creak and arouse the fitful sleeper on the bed and the pale slim fingers should go to plucking aimlessly at the bed quilt again.

The nurse, Miss Sutton, was resting in another room until the clock should chime the half hour when the ice pack must be renewed and the dose of soothing powders be given.

This was the third night of watchful waiting—but the mother could not sleep; she could only fold and refold the pleats in her dress while her ample bosom rose and fell with long-drawn sighs.

"Oh Marjorie!" she moaned. "Marjorie, my darling! Must you go as little Steve did? Doctor Sharp tried to save him too, but failed. If your father were only alive now he could save you. But Doctor Sharp will never be the physician your father was; he has no sympathy, no intuitive skill; he is without a spark of originality—so coldly scientific. Oh, if your father were only here now!"

Her shoulders heaved as she sobbed, and tears blinded her vision as she said: "Dear Orlan. You gave your life serving your fellow men in that terrible 'flu' epidemic; 'Greater love hath no man than this.'"

Then the mother's heart was lifted in supplication: "God in heaven, give Marjorie back to me—but if I be unworthy to ask this boon for myself, yet, dear Lord, wilt Thou spare her for Harry's sake? Let her live for her lover who is even now coming through the storm in answer to my telegram." Then with a spirit of resignation she concluded: "Yet not my will but thine be done." A peace that passed understanding seemed to enwrap the mother's soul. She glimpsed a star of hope, and something seemed to whisper, "As long as there is life, there is hope."

Marjorie was yet alive. Her great brown eyes opened wide—so very wide, and her purple lips moved: "Mother!" she whispered, "Father's here and there's a strange nurse over there in the corner." Her voice became stronger. "Don't you see them? They are coming toward you—they want you to write something: Listen, Mother, while I tell you!"

The mother started to obey, thinking, "She is delirious, she is dying!" Scarcely knowing what she was doing she picked up a pencil while her hand rested on the nurse's report blank. Then as Marjorie continued, she wrote down the words which she spoke: "Change treatment—use hot compress, and absolutely no food or medicine for thirty-six hours.—Orlan Wright."

There was a pause, then Marjorie again spoke: "Father has gone; didn't you see him, Mother?"

"No, dear." Her voice sounded like