

POWER OF AFFIRMATION.

TEMPLE TEACHINGS.

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No. 3.

It seldom occurs to the advocates of Modern Mental Science that the exercise of the affirmative power as taught by some of their number, may result disastrously to themselves as well as to such innocent and ignorant pupils as are not content with natural evolutionary methods for the awakening and satisfying of desire and ambition. The quiet, unostentatious movements of the slower processes of normal growth are "a weariness to the flesh;" consequently, many are on the *qui vive* for something new,—something that shall stimulate more rapidly the development of their psychic centres.

Unquestionably the power of affirmation is almost illimitable when rightly used; but it is similar to the power of the double-edged sword in the hands of an irresponsible person; for the opposite pole, the power of denial, must manifest simultaneously with that of affirmation; and unless the former can be controlled, the latter may be overruled. Only a few are capable of exercising this control, because of the peculiar existent conditions of the present cycle, and the unlawful purposes to which spiritual power has been prostituted. For example: the use of the words "I am," preceding some expressed desire, or statement relating to possession or control of some form of matter, as for instance, "I am Power," or "I am Wealth," may possibly, under right conditions, bring into action certain latent inner forces or elementals, which may serve to bring about a realization of the expressed desire; but, as before intimated, such a positive affirmation invariably awakens the negative aspect of the particular force affirmed, and unless the operator be a trained occultist, perfectly competent to control all force and matter of lower vibrations than those which govern his individual existence, the negative aspect of the force invoked, in striving for equilibrium, may cause him to lose control of the force affirmed. This is one illustration of the eternal war between matter and spirit.

"He who overcometh shall inherit all things;" and the power of overcoming is the power to control matter, the negative aspect of the eternal positive. Instances are rare indeed where the ordinary nineteenth century man is able to consciously separate the Ego from the physical body and realize the process of merging his personal consciousness with that of the Absolute; and he must be able to stand on this alti-

tude ere it is safe or prudent to call into action the unified forces of the "I am" and direct them toward the accomplishment of a personal desire, however high that desire seems to be; for, sad to say, a pure and undefiled desire is almost an impossibility in this age and among present races, for the element of self enters too largely into every consideration. Only the Masters of the highest Degrees can accomplish such an herculean task, and even they but relatively. While the individual consciousness is passing through the different planes or states of consciousness, it is subject to the "pairs of opposites," and it cannot awaken any positive phase of its lower nature without awakening the negative also; and it must succeed in striking a balance, in gaining a neutral position on each plane or phase of life, before it can reach a point of safety or of power upon that plane or within that phase or state.

If, by the exercise of the power of affirmation, a man has succeeded in drawing to himself (for the power of affirmation is also the power of attraction) a large share of the wealth of the world, the positive forces aroused by the amassing of that wealth will bring into action the opposing or negative forces, and these will take from him something in his nature which is exactly an equivalent to the wealth he has secured; something in manifestation either on the inner or the outer planes of his life. It may be honor, intellect, health, sight, hearing,—but whatever its nature,—the balance will be struck exactly, for natural law cannot swerve from exact justice. If one wins wealth, fame or any other so-called treasure by the method which natural evolutionary law will teach him, that is, by labor, the same forces manifest, but in a far less dangerous manner; for they manifest normally. The same fight occurs, but his foes are far less powerful, and he is more capable of understanding their methods of warfare, and of arming himself against them.

But few appreciate the real power contained in the sentence: "Thy Will be done." It embodies one of the deepest Occult mysteries; for Will in this case is identical with Law. An act of Infinite Will sets in motion a natural law which must eventually bring about the thing willed.

When an Occultist has reached an advanced stage of mastery, an effort of his will connects his individual power with the power of the Infinite—which must bring about the accomplishment of the desire behind the act of will. He could not will to perform an action out of harmony with the Divine Will. And the fact that he has willed the performance of some act is sufficient to show that he has been acted upon

by the Divine Will, to serve as an intermediary or converter of the Divine Will to lower forms of force and matter, upon which the Divine potency could not act without danger to the particular grade of matter acted upon, because of the higher vibration of the substance of Divine Will. This is the real secret of all evidences of will-power shown by Masters.

- The use of the expression quoted above, by Jesus at the crucifixion, would go far to substantiate His claim that He and the Father were One, were there no other evidence. The same expression has been used for thousands of years at a certain point in a great Initiation, and the result is similar in all instances;—that is, it precedes a form of crucifixion.

As powerful as is the action of Will, there is another form of force with which you are all more or less familiar, which is equally great, but which has been slighted or neglected in modern Occultism. This force is expressed by the word "gratitude." We will keep the familiar word because it will be easier for you to remember.

In striving to set aside a personal God, many attributes which were supposed to be especially connected with such a God, but which are in reality most potent Universal Forces, have been ignored or forgotten. This particular force is closely allied to the law of supply and demand,—the demand being the positive aspect of the great law of assimilation, the negative of which is the law of supply. Without the out-pouring or setting free of this force of gratitude—thankfulness, on the accomplishment of an act of will, it is impossible for that act to be fully consummated. It may seem to be so to your limited understanding, but could you see interiorly on the plane of forces, you would learn that just according to the degree of your ingratitude, just so would the real consummation of the act remain unmanifested or the results nullified by some unexpected turn of the wheel of life.

Some one might ask—who or what are we to thank? In answer, simply turn your thoughts inward to Omnipotent Love, and cultivate the Will and the desire for awakening this force within yourselves, which, when cultivated, will flow forth as naturally as does desire for the accomplishment of wish or purpose.

In its last analysis, the occult meaning of the sentence, "Thy Will be done," may be summed up in the word "Indifference" as used by learned Mystics, and one great cause of danger in the exercise of the power of affirmation referred to above, lies in the elimination of this principle, and the putting in its place of the most intense desire. While the

higher or positive side of the desire principle is good, the lower or animal side is evil, and the lower desire elementals are the class that surround and drag down the neophyte or student who has ignorantly or carelessly invaded their sphere, and who has prematurely awakened the corresponding good elementals of the higher side of desire, by forcing them into action; therefore it is plain that until one has become perfectly "indifferent" in the true sense of the word, and can say from his heart "Thy Will be done," he should be cautious about awakening that *Will*. Far be it from me to attempt to minimise or deny any power or attribute belonging to The Absolute. The one thing which I am constantly pleading for with you is a "natural life." The individual life of each of you should grow and expand naturally, and so reach fruition without spot or blemish, instead of being distorted by deformity and imperfection. If there were but one life to be lived,—if men were never again to be capable of experiencing joy or pain, the present mad rush for the gratification of desire would seem more reasonable; but when one comes to realize that by the premature attainment of any special desire, he must eventually relinquish not only that, but all others of a like nature, he will, to say the least, believe it to be a matter of poor policy to risk so much. When man reaches the understanding and realization of the impossibility of gaining something valuable by means of something valueless, and that the law—"by the sweat of thy brow shall thy bread be earned," is irrevocable and immutable, and in action on all planes of life,—and is capable of using this knowledge in all that concerns his daily life, he will have at last succeeded in placing the entering wedge into the mass of all power. And the ability to safely use his developing faculties to acquire absolute control over higher forms of matter will follow, as surely as day follows night.

The expression, "by the sweat of thy brow," is symbolic as well as literal, and means—by the use and control of the heat centres of the inner sheaths or bodies,—for such correspond to the positive spiritual potences.

The labor which causes sweat corresponds to the travail of soul which yields the water of affliction. The positive energy of Spirit or Fire yields the negative of Spirit which is the Water of Life or Purification.

SHIELDS OF NUCLEOLI.

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What I have before intimated concerning the first, or oily envelope of each individual atom of the life principle manifest in human or animal flesh, should indicate the right line of investigation to those interested in physiological problems.

Any force or substance which will operate either to melt or solidify that oily substance, which forms one particular grade of matter in all living bodies, can modify or increase the action of the life principle in every cell of that body, to some extent.

Heat and cold apparently have this power, though in reality neither heat nor cold is the primary source of such action. The power lies in the electric energy, which increases or decreases the vibrations of such molecules as have been energized for the production of heat or cold.

The results of the action of certain chemical elements used in generating Vital Electricity (some of which are obtained from Nitrogenous substances, Hydrogen, etc.) upon the oily substance is similar to those observed upon the application of heat or cold direct.

Cold is in reality but the absence of heat; it is not an energy *in actu*; and the solidifying of the oily substance by cold is accomplished by paralyzing it temporarily, by inhibiting the action of negative electricity between centre and circumference of nucleoli. When the normal action of positive and negative currents is restored, the oily substance will soften and break up again.

The action produced by electric energy direct, or, secondarily, by application of heat or cold, induces most marked changes in any organ of the human body, owing to its effect on that peculiar combination of force and substance known as the life principle, and its oily envelope, which constitutes that grade of matter known as Nervous Ether or nervous fluid. The hallucinations of the fever or freezing patient, the visions of the Lower Psychic plane, noticeably in insanity, are primarily caused by excitation (increased or decreased vibration) of the molecules which compose the nervous fluid by means of Vital Electric energy; but the action of this force upon the oily substance could not produce such effects without the interaction which occurs between the negatively charged envelope and the life

principle within the nucleolus. The former, combined with the elements of water in close association with it, form a shield about each nucleolus, which, in one sense, isolates that fiery atom, and keeps it in a state of temporary subjection, by lowering its vibrations, else it could not be bound in matter, as it now is in all healthy organisms.

When the oily substance is changed by disease or chemical action, leading to disintegration of mass, the nucleolus in the nerve centres of the brain are brought into more direct contact with the inner organs of sense, and the quickened vibrations of the latter open the Lower Astral plane to sense of sight and sound.

While different elements may apparently produce advantageous changes in the oily substance by replacing the broken down cells, or restoring them temporarily to normal conditions, it is unsafe to use such until the life principle is better understood; for the forces generated by means of these elements may prove to be in excess, and the patient using them be killed by too much life;—for, paradoxical as it may seem—it is “too much life that kills”—not too little.

If half the exertion, study and time now used for investigation and experiment along the lower grades of matter were used for the same purpose along the higher lines of life and fire, the greater secrets of life would be more easily approached; for it is the central point in all manifested bodies, whether it be in a world, universe or organ, which contains the most profound mystery of life, and the central point is a fiery atom.

From the centre to the circumference, in spiral lines, and back again, unceasingly, moves all life, from the molecules of a cell, to the Stars of Heaven; and, at the centre of each, is generated the Electro magnetic forces that control the stream of the life-currents in each; but such an idea as the possibility of controlling gross matter by those higher grades of substance which compose the Will, the Mind and the Emotions, will not be tolerated by the average investigator. In some cases he will concede that they are the effects of force; but he will not for a moment admit that they may be not only causes and effects, but also that the effects constitute certain states of matter, which may be manipulated by the Higher Self, or Soul of Man.

There is a wide difference between the conscious act of the Initiate, who sends out and recalls his Astral Body at will, and the man or woman who, through weakness, permits his Astral to oscillate between two planes until he can no longer exert any control over it. The former has absolute control over the substance of the oily envelope of the life principle. The same substance in the body of the latter is diseased or broken down.

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THE PHENOMENA OF SLEEP AND DEATH.

TEMPLE TEACHINGS.

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The welcome truth that Sleep and Death are Twin Sisters, beneficent, healing and vivifying, is gradually making its way through the scientific as well as the religious world, bearing on its wings, faith and trust, in the fundamental laws of life which underlie all phenomena, and casting down forever the great Moloch of fear which stands at the gate of all men's minds, ready to devour each child of hope which has been conceived and born in the joy of life.

Erroneous conceptions of the substance of the brain, and the hitherto mysterious action of interior forces within that substance, are, one by one, giving way to sane, sensible conclusions, and to a better understanding of the phenomena which has so long puzzled Science,—though perfectly understood and explained by ancient Sages; unfortunately—these explanations are oftentimes given in symbolical language not easily interpreted by the unenlightened.

The formation of the cells of the brain and spinal cord, in contradistinction to the formation of the cells of all other organs and tissues, produces some very peculiar characteristics, which have passed by almost unobserved, or at least unexplained, by the average investigator.

The cells of the Spinal cord are classified as branched or stellate cells; these minute branches have a very important office,

as they serve to conduct energy from one cell to the other, as do also the curious little feelers or points of contact with which each brain cell bristles when the blood is coursing naturally through the brain in waking hours, and which are a source of never ending curiosity to the interested observer. If the same observer has ever watched the little feelers on the head of a snail as they disappear when brought into contact with an extraneous substance, he will realize the similarity of the action of the brain cells under excitation; for when the blood currents of the body become sluggish as in sleep, the points of the brain cells are indrawn.

The Electric force or nervous energy generated by and in the blood currents, operates through these points of contact by using them as conveyers of nervous energy from one cell to another; and as each cell is a minature world in embryo, with all its powers dormant save for the particular vibration manifesting in one Cycle, the receipt and expenditure of the force by contact with the points of every contiguous cell, awakens, or rather increases that particular vibration, and permits the higher forms of Electric energy known as mind, which is conveyed by and in these nerve fluids, to pass through and leave its impress within each cell. It is a mistake to think of the cells as repositories of knowledge or power; they are but reflectors and conveyors of different forms of energy. In hours of sleep when these points of contact are indrawn, our consciousness functions on inner planes where such material means of conveying force are not operative, because no longer required, as the energy which required their assistance to contact the physical plane then passes freely from one interior cell to another in the same way as Mundane Electricity passes from one pole to another, as is manifested in the Arc Light, or by the contact of such wires as are used to convey that form of energy.

Time and Space are annihilated in dream life because of the rapid action of the energy of mind when freed from bonds of matter; and life in a state of dream is a foretaste of what life may be when the coarser grades of matter which now hold the embryonic God-man in bondage, are refined; and the energy which now must act under all the difficulties man has ignorantly thrown up by unnatural, unwise methods and practices, through

countless incarnations, will then be guided and controlled by the higher or Spiritual-will of man, for the perfecting of a body as much superior to the bodies of the present races of mankind as the latter are superior to those of the animal creation. There is no questioning the fact that ignorance is the root of all evil. With the dispelling of ignorance and the acquiring of knowledge concerning the laws governing critical states of energy, a new era must dawn for humanity; even now its signs are evident in the interest shown in Mesmerism, Hypnotism and various other forms of force; for these are all differentiations of one great force or energy. Some of you are frequently asked why mental healing is not openly advocated by Temple members, as the power of mental energy is freely acknowledged? As well might they ask a school boy why he does not perform a difficult operation, or take upon himself the care of a case of typhoid fever. Every human passion, every characteristic, every organ of a body, is, in its ultimate state, a form of force subject to Law. If a specific disease attacks some organ, and you try to remedy the evil by mental healing, and you do not know just what form of energy will counteract the force in manifestation as disease, and just how to apply it, and the necessary degrees to be applied,—in fact, know nothing about the subject save that you believe in mental healing and imagine that you have the power to draw from an infinite reservoir of healing force, and that the force itself will find out the cause of disease and counteract it;—can you not see that you are abusing or ignoring the laws which govern all manifestation? Whether it be force as Matter, or simple force, all degrees of manifestation are subject to the action of rigid law, and each degree has its own specific form, which in turn has its peculiar correspondences. If, for instance, you send a force of *contraction* into an organ that requires the force of *expansion* in order to change some condition resident within that organ, or vice-versa, you will inevitably work harm; you *might* hit upon the right form of force, but the chances are you would not; or if you did, you might supply a degree of force that would injuriously affect some other organ. Even admitting that you had so perfected and purified your Will as to enable you to safely direct such forces to a given end, you have a long course of education to complete on interior lines, before it is safe to at-

tempt to tamper with these powers that can kill as easily as create. Countless examples of healing by mental or Christian Science are pointed at as examples of the falsity of our position in this matter. If physical health alone and that for a short period, be the sole aim of the disciple, and if he is capable of the perfect diagnosis that will determine how much or how little he has really been helped, our position may be pronounced untenable by some; but, knowing what we do, we still insist on the truth of our statement.



THE COSMIC LABORATORY.

TEMPLE TEACHINGS.

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The scum which rises to the top of a stagnant pool, is the result of Nature's effort to purify the contents of the pool. The eruption which appears on the skin of a human being, is the result of Nature's effort to purify the blood stream of that person. The flow of nonsense, the uninterrupted volume of words, that even sleep can hardly dam up in individual cases, are due to a corresponding action induced by Nature in order to clarify the mind by casting forth the froth of words minus ideas.

In all such instances, an effort made to condense or conserve the energy in operation before its work is completed, would result in creating deplorable interior conditions. Though the scum, the eruption, the tiresome tirade of words, may not be desirable from an exterior standpoint, the ultimate effect of such action on the interior planes is most decidedly helpful during some phases of evolution, or until the power of right concentration is attained.

The phenomena of the whole physical plane is more easily interpreted when the action of Nature's laws of purification in the process of perfecting matter, are understood; for what is true in the illustration given above, is true of every form and division of substance in manifestation on the physical plane. The latter is, so to speak, the refuse of the higher planes—the workshop or laboratory where the Meta-Chemists of the Universe are at work, purifying, distilling, and re-combining the atoms cast forth from interior planes; and as soon as the work is completed in any given instance, it is transferred to the next higher plane.

The laws of attraction, repulsion and gravitation, will not permit a single atom that vibrates to one key, to remain in the Sphere of energy governed by another key, until it vibrates perfectly to the universal chord of Spirit, Soul and Matter.

The differences which seemingly exist between human beings, are not so great as they are sometimes supposed to be. A person absolutely incapable of living the life of any other person, however good or bad, could not exist for an hour on the physical plane. Many of you would refuse to admit that by any possibility you could duplicate the evil deeds of another person, or perform the great ones of others; but you would be wrong. You may never have had temptation or motive power sufficiently strong to lead you into the first, or opportunities have not occurred for the performance of the last; but under exactly the same circumstances, and with the same amount of desire and energy, the results would be the same in the

case of all normal human beings. As soon as an individual reaches a stage of evolution on any particular plane where he has passed, or has fallen behind his race, Nature removes him temporarily. And this she continues to do in the case of the former, until he has evolved to a state where all matter becomes subservient to him, though aeons of time be consumed in the process; and then it becomes a matter of choice with him as to where he will remain; for he has become one with the Law—a Creator—a Universal Chemist. But even this state does not free him from the possibility of failure and fall; he can never be entirely free from that possibility while in the bonds of matter or substance; and he is always in those bonds while in manifestation as a personality. Only pure spirit is invulnerable, incorruptable. However slight its incasement, or contact with matter, a condition comparable to an alloy of gold and lead exists, from the union of matter and spirit. In the latter instance, the gold may be separated by means of fire; in the former instance, Spirit may be separated from matter by means of pain and suffering, which constitutes one aspect of experience.

Spirit and Matter are two poles of Universal consciousness, and all the intermediate stages between these poles are the battle-grounds and laboratories where countless Souls—Sparks of the Infinite Fire,—win or lose the right to eternal individual conscious life; and where transmutation of gross matter into precious Spiritual Energy is carried on through each great Cycle of Time.

