

CREATE NEW ROBES FOR THE ANCIENT WISDOM

By Dr. Franklin Merrell-Wolff

One aspect of the task before us is that of reclothing the truths of the ancient Wisdom Religion in the language of modern science and philosophy. The older language reflects the consciousness of another age and in general, cannot be truly understood by the modern mind. The Wisdom Religion is ancient in its spirit but it is subject to new incarnations and because various enrobings add something, it also becomes the new-born truth. A turning back to the ancient forms is the first step toward a new birthing. But this Occult Renaissance stands peculiarly only as an intermediary step. Its work is that of taking the consciousness of the present back into those periods of history when the creative spirit stood in its glory of full action. In the visioning of that activity the new age finds its inspiration to action and in time finds the key to the basic and really ancient part of the Truth. No enrobing of that Truth stands above the law of change, hence only the spirit of the Wisdom Religion is eternal. Beneath its various enrobings the earnest student will find that spirit and it is peculiarly the task of the student of today to seek the spirit beneath the form and then give it a new birth in the forms and peculiar powers of this day. While respect for the greatness and vision of those towering creative periods of the past is no more than their due, yet reverence for the past may well be carried so far as to lead to inaction in the present and that would defeat the Great Work. The Truth is old, yet ever new. In this age it is to its aspect of newness that the most attention should be given. The demand of Spirit is to go forth and create, thrust back the inertia of matter and open new doors to emancipation.

To one who already has such reverence for the greatness of the past I would say, Be not afraid, but go forth and create. Do you not love God well enough to dare to be wrong for Him? Automata can serve only in the lesser ways. For them are not the fruits of Initiation. Dare to enter the holy precincts and take of the powers and riches

hidden there awaiting those who have the power to seize. It has been said of old that Haven must be taken by violence and this is true. If your motives are selfish you can go only so far as the selfish man may reach and that distance falls short of the gates of Heaven. Fear not, if you can force those gates it is your right to enter, and it is the right of all to go as far as they can. Fear of evil binds your arms and feet. Seek good rather than avoid evil. Aspire and trust the power of that aspiration. With a full heart give yourself to the Law in complete renunciation, then believe that your offering has been accepted. Go forth to battle and building, one with the Law. Know that the Law will guide you through your stumblings to the final goal. But if fear of doing wrong keeps you from acting then never will you reach the goal, but rather will you enter the place of stagnation. Far better is it to become one with forces of evil that test the building of Spirit and so serve God than to stagnate. *Go forth and create.*

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And you will find * * * that all inferior artists are continually trying to escape from the necessity of sound work * * * whereas the great men always understand at once that the first morality of a painter, as of everybody else, is to know his business; and so earnest are they in this, that many, whose lives you would think, by the results of their work, had been passed in strong emotion, have in reality subdued themselves, though capable of the very strongest passions, into a calm as absolute as that of a deeply sheltered mountain lake, which reflects every agitation of the clouds in the sky, and every change of the shadows on the hills, but is itself motionless.

—*John Ruskin*

“And let him go where he will, he can only find so much beauty of worth as he carries.”

—*Emerson*