

Chapter 10

Through Astral and Spiritual to Celestial

ANY description of the next life, to be even moderately adequate, should not be confined to the conditions that obtain merely on the various astral levels. It should contain also some details of the still higher velocity spiritual world, and those ranges of velocity above the spiritual called the celestial world. Because the velocities in these worlds are so high as to impart additional properties to all objects and persons of such realms, they are more intense, more conscious, and more real worlds than either the astral or the physical.

But even in a description of the higher astral levels we might exhaust all the pleasant adjectives of the English language and yet fail to convey any idea of the majesty, glory, beauty, and exquisite joys. How, then, is it possible to impart even a meagerly correct impression of the still higher realms that await the human soul?

Realizing that such an undertaking is beyond my power, I shall not attempt it. Instead, I shall mention the chief functions of these worlds in human progress, point out, in broad outline, the steps that lead up to acquiring these new functions, and signify that the various activities of the astral world modified in form to suit the conditions there found are continued in still higher worlds.

It seems to be the chief function of the animal kingdom to confer Simple Consciousness, and the chief function of life in the physical human form to confer Self-Consciousness. Man may also, while on earth in the physical body, through cultivating extra-sensory perception, acquire Cosmic Consciousness and Divine Consciousness. But more commonly he gains Cosmic Consciousness only after he passes to the next life, and acquires Divine Consciousness as a permanent asset only after he moves above the astral levels and discards all remnants of the astral form to function solely in a spiritual body in the still higher velocity spiritual world.

Let us suppose, therefore, that you are an ordinary citizen of the physical world, that you have not lived a life devoid of unselfish acts, but at the same time have made no very great effort to build up your spirituality, and that you have made enough study of occultism that you can readily adapt yourself to the conditions on the astral plane. Perhaps as a result of extra-sensory perception you have had at least flashes of Cosmic Consciousness. And it is to be assumed that at least in rare intervals, you have had extrasensory experiences that have brought to you convincing proof of inner-plane forces, that

conscious life persists beyond the tomb, that the universe is an organic whole dependent upon the co-operation of its parts for progress, and that in other rare instances you have made convincing personal contacts with the all-pervading intelligence of Deity. In other words, suppose you are in enlightenment and spirituality about the average of the present twenty thousand students who read The Brotherhood of Light lessons. What can you expect when you pass to the next life?

Due to the fact that you have a fairly clear conception of what the next life is like, the sleep transition between the physical plane and the astral world will probably be of very short duration. You will awaken after possibly only a few moments loss of consciousness. You will find yourself amid very pleasant surroundings and will be greeted by welcoming friends. Not unlikely someone you have loved on earth who has passed before will be apprised of your coming and condition himself temporarily to the region close to earth where you have your astral birth so that he can explain to you your new surroundings and help you to become thoroughly adjusted.

This period of adjustment for you, because you already know about what to expect, will not take long. Very shortly, feeling vigorous and fully recovered from the strain of transition, you will go, probably guided by a companion, to an astral level above the one into which you were born. Because your own dominant vibratory frequencies are the same as those of this level, you will feel quite comfortable in its atmosphere. Should you later descend toward earth, the atmosphere there will feel thick and foggy and the light dim. But should you attempt to move into a higher level, the light appears dazzling and the atmosphere too rarefied to sustain your existence.

A Preliminary Survey

In this land where you now find yourself you will wish to take an active part. Before going here you already knew that what you get out of this new life, and the advancement you make toward the more desirable life of the higher levels, depends entirely upon yourself. You will have arrived with a certain equipment, and you will wish to know how these qualities you possess may be used to the greatest advantage. This equipment, in terms of natural aptitudes and luck-attracting ability amid each type of environment, will be quite accurately mapped in the chart of your birth into this new life. Perhaps, through a study of your aptitudes and luck-attracting ability while on earth, as mapped in the chart of your physical birth, you already while on earth had come to realize the nature of your cosmic work. Or you may as yet be in some doubt as to just in what your function in cosmic affairs consists. If you do not know, you at once will seek the advice of those who specialize in such matters. And in either case, so soon as you have traveled around the level on which you now find yourself enough to have some general idea of the conditions there, you will enter upon this particular line of work.

While making your preliminary survey of conditions, you probably will be accompanied by a friend or at least by some guide who will see to it that you have proper accommodations for the periods of rest. But so soon as you have decided upon your work, and where it will be conducted, you will probably wish to establish yourself in a home. You can, of course, find quarters for yourself in some large building where others also have suites who at present do not care for a separate home and a more complex form of domestic life. But if you desire it, you can either build or secure a home of beauty and convenience that will give you domestic privacy.

You may have on this plane a loved one awaiting your coming, to share

with you the bliss of domestic partnership. You may have someone on earth, or on some level above or below, to whom your heart belongs; and thus decide to have no intimate domestic partnership until such a time as you both can reside on the same vibratory level. You may decide that your best work for the present, and your greatest happiness, does not require the forming of marriage ties. Or, in this new realm, you may meet someone of the opposite sex and complementary affinity, the mutual attraction resulting in a happy marriage. But at least so soon as you have decided how to proceed with your work you will wish to make some arrangement, even though of a temporary nature, for periods of rest, and perhaps also for the establishment of a separate residence, suitable as a home for yourself and your domestic partner.

If you have not already, while on earth, learned this, you will soon be shown that this work, which you are being fitted to perform, and which, because of your aptitude in it, you find most Joy in doing, is not confined to any one plane or to any one level. To be sure, it is not performed in just the same way, nor under the same conditions, on different levels; but even above the astral, in spiritual and celestial realms, it has the same general functions. Your training in lower life-forms before birth into a human body, your experiences in human form while on earth, and your work on the level of the astral where you now reside, all contribute to your ability to perform this special function in cosmic society.

Vocational astrology is highly important; for make no mistake about this, the most important thing about your existence is your ability to contribute your own work to cosmic welfare. This is true on every level of your life. But the amount you can contribute to cosmic welfare depends, not merely upon the ability you have developed on some particular level, but more particularly upon the level where you function. The higher the level on which a function is performed, the more it contributes to universal good.

Furthermore, each succeeding higher level of the after-life possesses certain definite advantages over the next lower. The higher life progresses the more free does it become, the more power does it exercise, the broader the range of its consciousness, the more ecstatic its joys, and the more exhilarating does it find existence.

On earth it is common to refer to standards of living. The slums represent one standard, and the surroundings and conveniences of those who are refined in tastes, have more than the average education, and some wealth, represent another standard. It is generally believed that a higher living standard for people everywhere is to be desired. And while much that is artificial may enter into the standards of earth, each higher level of the next life represents a very real, and very desirable, higher standard of living.

Therefore, when you become adjusted to your work and domestic existence in the next life, you will not desire to remain forever on the level where you find yourself. Instead, you will wish to move forward, to perfect your knowledge and abilities, and to qualify yourself as soon as possible to move up into the next inhabitable range of vibratory frequencies.

Mere knowledge will not permit you to advance to a new level, although additional knowledge will enable you to increase the range of your usefulness. Not only will it assist you to do your work better where you are, but also, through lending a wider and more accurate comprehension of the meaning of life and the requirements for adequate living, it will enable you the

Your Work

Advancement In The Next Life

**Developing
Harmony
Within**

more readily to develop those characteristics which alone will enable you to function on the next higher level. As a consequence, you will probably decide to spend a certain amount of time and energy gaining mental education.

On this level where you start your life work you will find that within yourself are the same old discords. Your finer form now embraces the thought-cells and thought structures with which you were born into physical existence as these have been added to and reorganized by the experiences you had on the physical plane. Those with whom you associate on this new plane also have discords yet within their astral forms. You are essentially no different than you were while on earth. And your discords still attract to you certain experiences that seem disagreeable.

But on the higher astral levels, to which later you hope to move, these internal discords are considered to indicate emotional immaturity. If they are quite pronounced they may even inhibit the raising of the dominant vibratory rate to any higher level. But at least their continued existence, through attracting obstacles, hindrances and misfortune, detracts from what otherwise might be accomplished for the common good. And as the amount of accomplishment for the common good is the only measure of value in the next life, those who have the spirituality to move to higher levels undergo whatever of training and experience is necessary harmoniously to reorganize the thought-cells of their finer forms.

In order to acquire the knowledge of how this is done you may, or may not, need some instruction. But the actual work of reorganizing your astral form will be done through various experiences in connection with your work, through the social contacts you make in recreation periods, and through your domestic relationship.

When your emotional progress is sufficiently advanced, your response to all the various contacts of life will be pleasurable. You will have outgrown at any time the feeling of irritation, anger, disgust, anxiety, fear, sorrow, or any other disagreeable emotion. Or if, for a few fleeting moments, sorrow or anxiety in connection with some loved one is felt, it will be recognized as a weakness and some other interest substituted which will serve as an antidote to annul the discord thus registered. To be of great value to the society where you now find yourself you must feel only harmonies and refrain from experiencing discords. And among other things, your effort thus to benefit others is a determining factor in establishing a dominant vibratory rate that will permit you to pass to a still higher level.

Harmonies and discords, of course, obtain on every level and in every world. But the residents of higher levels, as a result of their training to work in these realms of high frequency, persistently cultivate and practice the ability to maintain complete inward harmony in the face of any and every impact from their environment. By virtue of this ability they produce results of amazing magnitude. Instead of being buffeted about by the tremendous forces of these high-frequency regions, they are able to direct them into constructive channels of their own choosing.

But in spite of reorganizing your astral body into a more harmonious whole, and thus increasing your usefulness to others and greatly increasing your own happiness, you will not move to a higher plane except through acquiring a higher dominant vibratory rate; that is, through a definite gain in spirituality. Various factors may contribute to this gain.

The desire and the effort to contribute to the welfare of others in the greatest

degree is perhaps the most important and efficacious means of gaining spirituality. You will find opportunity for this in your work.

Yet by a proper attitude toward any event of life it may be purified. Then by combining it with another experience which provides a natural flux, and using it constructively for universal progression, its vibratory rate may be raised, even to the frequency where it imparts its energy to the still higher-velocity substance of the spiritual world. Your social contacts, your domestic experiences, and all your other activities of the next life, through such character cultivation, can be made to assist in raising your dominant vibratory rate.

Still another means that you will probably employ is the refinement of your emotional responses through cultivation of a keener appreciation of that which is beautiful and elevating. The need for this is recognized on all levels above the sordid, and the splendid pageants, light symphonies, musical productions, public exhibitions of dramatic art, dancing and suitable literature, all afford opportunity in this direction.

Thus it is that when you pass to the next life you may expect to take up some definite work that will be of value to others. You will establish yourself in a home very much to your liking. You will resume, or form, domestic ties according to inclination and the circumstances of your previous and your present life. Social contacts will probably be rather numerous. And, quite likely, you will find that amusements are so significant as not to be neglected. Your activities, no doubt, will be quite varied, but the whole pattern of your life will tend to merge into a combination that will rather quickly prepare you to move to the next higher astral level.

It may be, when you have reached this stage of development, that you will have a domestic partner who, hand in hand, will make the transition with you. One or the other may even linger somewhat, to help the other reach a point where the transition is feasible. But whether alone, or with someone, whether you go with a whole group or only as an individual, the time will arrive for you to move to a higher sphere.

Then you will bid old friends good-bye. Some, perhaps, will meet to see you off. By learning how temporarily to lower your dominant vibratory rate you will be able, occasionally, to visit them in the future. And, by means of across the planes thought-transference and other means you will still be able to keep somewhat in touch with them. But your chief activities from now on will be in a new land and amid other acquaintances.

If you make the transition to the new level with a group led by a guide, it may be that those of the land where you now go will make it a gala occasion, and welcome you with a Joyous ceremony. Or, you may prefer not to await such an occasion, and without a guide, by means of aerial travel, make the journey alone without publicity.

Arriving in this new land, where the light seems brighter and all activities more intense, you may require a little time to adjust yourself to its conditions. The people you meet will be courteous, and even though you are a stranger, will be desirous of helping you in every way. And very shortly you will find where your services are needed in your particular kind of work. Thus will you take up your work on this higher level, establish yourself in a home here, enter into the social life, perhaps, of this level, and accustom yourself to its enjoyments.

Here, as on the lower level from which you came you will endeavor, through increasing your mental and emotional education, to make of yourself a more effective person. You will continue to cultivate more refined emo-

tions and in general build up your spirituality. And in due time, as a result of your effort, you will be ready to move to a still more advanced level.

But, because the general process of advancement hinges on effort to promote the general welfare, on proper mental attitudes toward all events, and on the refinement of the emotions, you must not think that it is just a monotonous repetition of the same thing, over and over, on different levels.

Instead, the conditions, problems, and adjustments of different levels give all the variety that could be desired. Entertainments are entertainments, of course. But the methods and the quality of the effect are subject to infinite variation. The people contacted from time to time are tremendously interesting. Some of them do such amazing things, and others have been to such strange places. And even domestic life fails to pall, because expression of pure affection, and the interchange of thought, are given so much wider range than when hampered and restricted by the dense material form.

Interest in one's work is never lacking; for there are always new difficulties to overcome and new obstacles to be removed. These are not such as are attracted by internal discords; but are simply the natural resistance one encounters when endeavoring progressively to accomplish greater and more important tasks. One never reaches the point where there are no still larger jobs to tackle. One thing successfully accomplished prepares and trains the individual for better and more complex work.

And while those on the upper astral levels carefully cultivate the ability to resist any disagreeable thought or feeling that would tend to create an inward discord, they are not free from the impact of environmental forces and conditions that test the power of their resistance. Even as on earth, they sometimes undertake tasks that are beyond their ability, and consequently, at least for the time, fail. Separations from those dearly loved are sometimes necessary. The sorrowing thoughts of dear ones left on earth rise to them with disturbing insistence. A loved one may await them on a higher level, and the long spiritual development necessary to rise to this level may engender irritation.

People must realize in the next life what they should recognize on earth, that never, in the whole span of eternity, will the soul reach a point where there is nothing left to struggle for. At any stage of its journey, when it has done the best its intelligence and energy permit, however unsatisfactory the temporary condition may be, it has no cause for anxiety or perturbation. Those on the higher astral levels do not maintain harmony within themselves because there is nothing left for them intensely to desire, but because they have learned what people on earth should learn, that feeling disagreeable detracts from such ability as they have.

The astrological forces, even as those that reach the earth, are at times harmonious and at other times discordant. But on the higher astral levels the inharmonious astrological forces are neutralized or harmoniously transformed by the person as they reach his astral form. They are not permitted to engender discords within his body.

Yet because of their influence upon the whole environment, they nevertheless aid or hinder the progress of the work in hand. The discords make it imperative that certain things be done. Carrying forward the plan of universal progression meets then with the opposition of the tremendous untamed forces of Nature. When one frontier has been reached and conquered, always there is another beyond. Always something yet to be accomplished in the work of cosmic construction that requires still higher intelligence and ability.

Thus it is that while your work will always perform the same general function, with every new level that you reach in your progress you will find the demands of that work more exacting. As your powers expand, more will be expected of you. And as you advance from level to level the joys derived from the other departments of your life also will correspondingly increase.

As your body becomes more refined, you thus progress from one astral level to another. Gradually you are building a spiritual body. But while you are still on earth, or after you pass to the next life until you leave the astral world, you do not function in this spiritual body. It is, nevertheless, being built by your high aspirations, by your mental attitudes, and by your desire to benefit others. You gradually eliminate the coarser astral particles of your body. And with every higher level you reach in the astral world you increase your dominant vibratory rate.

Because of this higher rate of vibration, a person from a higher level usually appears very bright. This brightness may be so great as to dazzle, even when the person has modified his dominant vibration enough to visit and be seen on some lower level.

This astral world, through the various levels of which you will gradually ascend, is not permanent and immutable. Life on its levels can continue over vast stretches of time, but at last must end. There is no immortality in the astral world. Immortality requires adjustments to still higher conditions. And thus it is, in due course of time, you will leave the astral entirely to live in the realm of the still higher-velocity spiritual world.

At the present time the realization of Cosmic Consciousness, which enables the individual to realize his specific function in the whole and his proper relation to other entities in the universe, is not a common thing while people yet occupy physical bodies on earth. And still more uncommon is the attainment while yet on earth of Divine Consciousness, which is similar to Cosmic Consciousness, except that instead of functioning on the astral plane, its scope and properties are vastly increased through the consciousness gaining its realization on the still higher-velocity spiritual plane.

There is nothing about occupying a physical form which compels the soul to confine its activities, and therefore its consciousness, to any plane, or to any level of a plane. If it can refine its feelings sufficiently and give these high velocity rates sufficient intensity, it can function on and be conscious of, not merely the astral plane, where Cosmic Consciousness more commonly is attained, but the spiritual plane, where Divine Consciousness must be acquired before transition to the realm of the celestial.

These higher states of consciousness, however, cannot be attained merely through reason or other cerebral processes. They can be acquired only through those faculties which science now recognizes under the name of extra-sensory perception. It is only through extra-sensory perception that man can gain for himself first-hand proof of the survival of the personality on inner-planes of existence, or that he can attain Cosmic Consciousness in which he realizes, through his oneness with it, that the universe is an organic whole dependent for its progress upon the intelligent co-operation of its parts, and just what his work is in this co-operative endeavor. If you fail to gain such realization while on earth, you will develop it in your ascent through the astral levels. But if you intelligently work for it, you can gain this state of progress while still on earth in a physical body. One of the reasons it is not common for people to gain this advancement while on earth is because the use of extra-sensory

Birth Into the Spiritual World

perception has been discouraged, and so few have any idea that such consciousness is even a possibility.

Nor is there any impassable barrier to your attaining Divine Consciousness while still occupying a physical body. But to do so, your extra-sensory faculties must function not merely on the astral plane, but be able to function on the still higher-velocity spiritual plane. And you will not be able thus to use your spiritual extra-sensory powers until, through correct living, feeling and thinking, you have built up for yourself more than a fragmentary spiritual body. Because it operates from this interior plane where the powers of the soul are so vastly superior, Divine Consciousness goes beyond Cosmic Consciousness and brings a more perfect conception of God's Great Plan, and what the individual can do at any given time most to further its realization. And it brings other knowledge of significance which is obtainable only by those, whether they still occupy a physical body or have passed to the inner-plane, whose extra-sensory perceptions function on the high-velocity spiritual plane.

The all-pervading intelligence of Deity can be contacted and realized on any plane or any level, but it cannot be thus realized by rational consciousness. It can only be apprehended by the extra-sensory faculties.

Thus to enable people to contact Deity, to prove for themselves the continuation of self-conscious life on inner-planes, and to make it possible for them to gain cosmic consciousness and perhaps even Divine Consciousness while still occupying their physical bodies, one of the chief objectives of The Church of Light is to get people familiar with the facts of extrasensory perception, and to find the most effective way by which people can develop and use it.

Of course, the attainment of a state of consciousness, even if it is a high state which commonly develops on upper levels of the inner-plane, of itself does not advance the individual much. It only gives him the knowledge of the functions of his soul and what he should strive for. The other chief objective of The Church of Light, therefore, is to furnish people with the information that will enable them thus to progress and contribute their utmost to universal welfare. But whether or not you attain the higher states of development while on earth, you will have Cosmic Consciousness before you leave the astral plane. And on that plane at last there will come the so-called second death. But to you, because you have built for yourself a spiritual body, it will not be a death, or even a sleep, but a conscious transition to a new order of being.

You will slough off the remnants of your astral form. Never again will you possess an astral body; for it is left behind, even though eliminated more gradually, as completely as was your physical form. Henceforth you are a bright and radiant being whom those of the astral world and earth may well regard as an angel.

In this new world you will find that existence has properties that are quite amazing. Things that seem impossible to one familiar only with the astral levels are here taken as a matter of course. The speed of movement here is such that a new series of relations, a new set of natural laws, obtain. And because you have tuned in—not merely your consciousness, and not merely as a visitor, but your whole form permanently—to the frequencies of this world, your first task is to become familiar with all these new conditions.

Many strange things might be related of this bright and beautiful world. You have a home here. It already has been built by you, perhaps unconsciously, while you were yet on lower planes. And in this home are trea-

asures and precious jewels, real treasures and real jewels, not the baubles for which men of earth strive with one another. They are the result and tokens of your spiritual achievements. They are yours, and await to be shared by you and your soul's companion .

But all this, and anything else I might say of the conditions you will meet in this high-velocity world, sounds at best like poetic fancy and at worst like irresponsible ravings. How can I, or anyone, describe that which is so different and immeasurably more blessed than anything experienced by man on earth. I shall not try.

Responsibilities are increased in this spiritual world. The guidance, supervision, and government of lower regions is managed. Your work is there, too, but in a form superior to what you now can imagine. Loved ones, social contacts, amusements, education, variety to life, and ecstatic enjoyment, along with serious but intensely interesting work, will occupy your time.

And as in the astral world, due to your own effort, you will rise from one level to another, continuing to refine yourself and to gain in ability to serve the universal cause. And finally you will arrive at the boundary of the sixth and seventh state of the spiritual world. I do not mean that there are only seven distinct levels, because each state contains a number of distinct frequency-levels, each of which is a complete habitat of life. But the spiritual world, like the astral world, has seven broad divisions. And the boundary of the sixth and seventh state of the spiritual world is peculiarly significant, for it is here the permanent and indissoluble union of soul-mates takes place.

It is customary to speak of this permanent union of soul-mates as the fusion of their forms into a single body occupied by both souls. But it should not be thought that this implies the loss of identity, or restricts the freedom of movement of either. Each still possesses a distinctive form; but the two, vitalized by the same ego, are never separate in the sense that the exchange of energy between them ceases. The permanent lines of force over which energy is exchanged unite the two separate bodies and the central ego into a definite system which has a form, moves as a whole, and possesses definite potencies that were impossible to either separate soul.

An atom of matter now is known to be a central positive electrical nucleus, about which revolves one or more electrons. Each of these electrons has its own form and individuality.

The atom of matter with two electrons revolving around the central nucleus possesses definite properties. Neither of the two electrons possesses these properties. What this atom can do easily, could not be done by any number of separate electrons, nor by any number of separate central nuclei, or protons. Because the two electrons have united in a definite, and, under ordinary circumstances, quite permanent, union about a common center, a miniature two-planet solar system is formed. And the properties of the atom, and what it can do, are determined not merely by the electrons and protons, but by their union in this definite system.

Each electron still maintains its own individuality and its own form. But no one would be so foolish as to say that while each electron has a form, the atom which contains them has not also a form. Furthermore, because each planet in our solar system has its own individuality and form, we should not be inclined to say that the solar system, as such, has no form. .As a matter of fact, the solar system has a form, and produces results quite impossible to planets not thus permanently joined into a system.

The Soul-Mate System

The planets in our solar system are sometimes farther from the sun than at other times. Yet the solar system maintains its identity and its peculiar potencies.

Man and wife, upon the earth, blend in loving affection. Each can distinctly feel the exchange of magnetism. And even while separated and each going about his daily duties, so long as the minds of both remain on the vibratory level wherein this blend of energies took place, each continues to feel the nearness of the other, and the continuation of the energy exchange. Between those who are ardently in love, this feeling of nearness and exchange may continue for days and weeks, even though they are far distant in space, until some call upon the attention polarizes the forces of one or the other to a different vibratory frequency and breaks the magnetic connection.

The rapport between them thus broken, to establish the magnetic response again may require that they meet and exchange caresses, it may require an exchange of letters, or even only that each think of the other intently. Yet when man and wife are truly lovers, the periodic establishment of such energy exchange, which usually is not maintained permanently due to the intrusion of conditions which break the rapport, is common experience. And at such times as this rapport is thus complete, they together form a definite system.

One with clairvoyance enough to see finer energies can discern the lines of force extending between them, binding them for the time being into a single magnetic field. This fusion is maintained regardless of the distance from each other that they may travel. And because it is not dependent upon the close proximity of physical bodies, it is called regenerate union.

Durability Of The Fusion

The completeness of such magnetic fusions between husband and wife, and the permanence of the periods during which their affections bind them together into a single unit, depends upon many things. But in proportion as they approach true complementary affinities it is easier to establish and maintain this complete fusion. Which is just another way of saying that some people are more suited to each other in marriage than they might be suited to certain others. But however suited for each other they may be, if they encourage brutality or sensuality it shatters the magnetic field so constructed. The higher the level on which the rapport is formed, the more enduring it is apt to prove.

Thus it is that on the higher astral levels affectional relations more and more bind husband and wife into a co-operative unit with powers quite impossible for either or both to exercise without such co-operation.

On the levels of the spiritual world this complementary unity becomes even more perfect the higher they move.

People Who Think They Are Soul-Mates

While true soul-mates may meet on earth, because this relation can only be perceived from the spiritual plane, only those who have advanced far enough to perceive things as they exist on this spiritual plane can be sure that such a relation exists. Most of those on earth who think they are soul-mates merely experience a strong magnetic attraction. They have not advanced far enough to have any clear conception of what a spiritual attraction would be like.

But when you reach the spiritual world, as the natural result of your upward progress you will possess Divine Consciousness. Or, if you build up a sound and vigorous spiritual body, you can acquire this state of consciousness while you are still on earth.

Among other things, this brings the awareness of the existence and

whereabouts of the soul-mate. And when you pass from the sixth to the seventh state of the spiritual world, as a natural result of having reached this advanced spiritual region, there will be a complete and permanent blending of your energies.

From thence onward you will progress together as a complete system. This system is composed of a male soul, a female soul, and a single ego. The ego corresponds to the nucleus of an atom, and each soul to one of two electrons. Each soul retains both its own form and its own identity. Nor is each limited in its action by the other, except as domestic partners customarily and voluntarily are when striving for accomplishment of some common work. Even here on earth, husband and wife may travel a thousand miles apart without breaking the fusion of their finer forces. In fact, distance in space seems to have no power to dissolve such a system.

Nevertheless, even though each retains liberty of action, a distinct form, and its own identity, both have merged into another and more complex permanent body, or form. Instead of being more or less separate factors, the ego and the two souls now make up a definitely organized group. And just as an atom has a distinct form, or a solar system has a distinct form, this system that has now come into existence also has a definite form.

Furthermore, just as a solar system can accomplish that which would be impossible to its members if these were not thus united, and just as an atom can exhibit qualities impossible to ununited electrons and protons, no matter how numerous, so the Angel thus formed by the permanent union of soul-mates has abilities infinitely superior to those of souls before they were thus permanently united.

Most souls inherit immortality by virtue of being human. But, because the astral body in the course of time, even though that time be long, must dissolve, immortality cannot be completely assured until the spiritual world has been reached.

I do not mean that when the spiritual world is reached that you will remain eternally on some of its levels. On the contrary, there is no place in the universe of which it can be said, you reach this height and no higher. Progression continues, and without end.

But when, while in the flesh or after you reach the astral world, you have built for yourself a spiritual body in which you can function in the spiritual world, your immortality becomes assured. Passing then, from the physical or astral levels to the spiritual world, it is a function of that world to confer Divine Consciousness. The result of this state of consciousness insures that your life and activities at all times are directed by Divine Guidance.

You will not, therefore, remain eternally in the spiritual body with which you now find yourself. But because you have reached the stage where you have such a spiritual form is assurance that you will not be overtaken by any force of Nature that can dissolve this body before you have increased its vibrations sufficiently to function on a still higher level. In this sense, and in this sense alone, can the spiritual body be considered imperishable and immortal.

The possession of such a spiritual form, and the Divine Consciousness conferred by it, will in reality lead to your progress up to the seventh state of the spiritual world. Here the permanent union with your soul-mate will take place,

A New Form And New Powers

Immortality

Into The Celestial

and as a result of this, after a period of adjustment to the new condition thus engendered, you will pass as an Angel quite beyond the spiritual world into the celestial. With this transition you will also pass beyond what it is possible for embodied man clearly to comprehend.

The universe as we know it moves largely through mechanical principles. But behind these principles, and behind the arrangement of the various external and interior worlds, is intelligent direction and guidance.

I have no desire to bolster up the popular superstition that beings higher than man continually meddle with the operation of natural law. But the directive power of mind, even when exercised from the spiritual plane of being, conforms to natural law. And those of the higher spiritual levels exercise a governing function in the progress and development of life within our universe that can only be hinted here.

But what we call natural law, after all, is merely a description of how, under various circumstances, substance and intelligence act. Because, in the universe to which we are accustomed, substance and intelligence act according to a certain sequence, does not prove that in some other universe they may not act in a very different way. It is quite possible that other types of universes, with which we as yet are unfamiliar, and which develop life for entirely different functions in the cosmic economy, may have very different natural laws.

You will readily understand that an Angel, as a definite system generating a field of force that embraces two souls and their ego, has potentialities beyond anything that can be conceived of as merely human. The function of such a unit is not merely guarding and directing that which has already been created, but also of creating.

I am not attempting to tell you how new universes are brought into existence; but I believe they are brought forth by groups of Angels. To such a group you will ultimately belong. Each soul-mate system, by virtue of the function it has been created to perform, takes charge of its own department in this creation, under the leadership of an intelligence still higher than such Angels.

And the existence of such an intelligence indicates that eventually you will move to a world even above the celestial. But even as an Angel you will assist in determining the laws that govern some future universe, and will contribute toward bringing it into existence.

Farther than this I cannot see. And even this is beyond what embodied man can clearly comprehend. But all that which can be seen and comprehended shows the next life to be a progressive series of steps, ever ascending in intelligence, in glory, in ability, and in capacity for enjoyment. It is unutterably stupendous and blessed to be a human soul.

But thus in the contemplation of the glories and joys of future states of existence let us not minimize the importance or the opportunities of present existence. All effort expended on earth for spiritual advancement yields many fold the degree of progress that a similar effort would if delayed until physical life is past. Nor are the opportunities presented to us today different in kind than they will be in the future. Refinement of organism and thought and emotion, and working for the welfare of all, are as available to us now as they will be in any time to come.

Let us recognize also that the road-map of life which will guide our efforts on inner-planes, astrology, is now available. And for following the best path of life to which it guides us we have the same tools we must use to

advance ourselves in the after-life. Those tools by which the destiny can be changed in the direction extra-sensory perception and astrology show to be most advantageous, are the facts of induced emotion and the facts of directed thinking. Therefore, let us be on our way, rapidly, while still occupying the physical form, toward those glorious angelic and celestial levels of whose rapturous qualities as yet we have had but a fleeting glimpse.

Appendix

Study Questions**Turning The Dial To Inner Planes (Serial No. 173)**

1. Why is it advantageous to know the conditions with which we shall be confronted on the next life?
2. What are the three chief sources of information concerning the conditions to be met in the next life?
3. In what way do the objective convictions tend to warp and distort what a seer perceives of the conditions of the next life?
4. Why, even when they are accurately recorded, do the accounts of the conditions in the next life tend to vary?
5. How accurate a picture of the higher astral and spiritual world is it possible to convey to minds still residing on earth?
6. Name 3 men who have contributed much to our information of the next life.
7. In what way do accounts of the conditions of the next life at present fail to meet the exacting requirements of physical science?
8. Indicate how, in the future, it is probable precise proof will be made available.
9. What 3 contrivances probably will be used to furnish this proof?
10. What form of energy made available will promote the invention of these machines?
11. Indicate how the physical plane and the astral plane are like 2 different broadcasting stations either of which can be tuned in on.
12. Illustrate by radio, how it is that when our consciousness is tuned in on what is being broadcast from the physical plane, we may be quite unconscious of what is being broadcast over the system of any other plane.
13. Indicate how certain properties belong only to one plane, and how a plane of higher or lower frequency has properties that are quite different.
14. Illustrate by radio, how Arthur Conan Doyle might be present and giving messages in New York and in London at the same identical moment.
15. Illustrate how an object or person can lose certain properties and gain others without losing its identity.
16. Why is it common for students of the next life to speak of the astral world as a region of four dimensions?
17. Explain the vertical relation of the various astral planes.
18. What results when you raise the essential vibratory rate of your body to the frequency common to some higher plane?

19. Indicate how the objects of one plane, even though having properties quite dissimilar of those of another plane, are equally as real as those of the other plane.
20. Indicate by a comparison with the radio how it might be easy to conclude that the conditions of one plane alone were the only ones existing in the next life.
21. How is it possible for an entity to move across the planes?
22. What are they called, who thus commonly move across the planes?
23. What do they appear to be doing as seen by those living entirely on one plane?
24. Do people walk, or do they fly, in the next life?
25. In the next life, are buildings erected by manual labor, or by means other than the manual process?

Properties Of Life On The Inner Plane (Serial No. 174)

1. Indicate through a comparison with over attention on routine tasks, the condition causing a soul to be earth-bound.
2. Explain why a soldier killed in battle sometimes does not know for a time that he has been killed.
3. Describe the thought-form property of the astral world.
4. Upon what depends the endurance and power to affect environment of a thought-form?
5. By what two methods can a house be built in the next life?
6. Are the thought-built environments of the astral world always harmonious to Nature's progressive purpose?
7. What happens either to entities or environments that oppose the Deific plan of progressive unfoldment?
8. How do people on earth sometimes build an artificial environment on the astral plane?
9. How long does it take an individual in the next life to learn all there is to be known?
10. What kind of intelligence can be imparted to a thought-built entity?
11. To what extent are the conventionalized ideas of heaven and hell realized in the next life?
12. Explain how a visitor from some other planet to earth might at first get a very erroneous notion of the conditions that exist here.
13. How accurately are things perceived by those of earth who travel temporarily on the astral plane?
14. Explain the power of the objective mind to censor what is perceived by a person traveling on the astral when he returns to earth.
15. What effect has desire in the next life?
16. What determines the level to which an individual moves in the next life?
17. What determines the kind of environment on this level to which an individual moves in the next life?
18. What are the five outstanding common properties of existence on the inner plane?
19. What is the scenery like on levels not distant from the earth?
20. What quality have the colors of the astral plane?
21. What takes the place of birds and trees and flowers on higher innerplane levels?
22. Why is there greater segregation of people on the inner plane?

23. Are the ties of physical life continued on the inner plane?
24. How can debts be liquidated on the inner plane without contact with the creditor?
25. Why do those who are above the lower levels of astral life almost never express a desire to return and live again on earth?

Birth Into The Next Life (Serial No. 175)

1. Into what three types may birth on the physical plane be divided?
2. Into what three corresponding types may births into the next life be divided?
3. What conditions usher in the accidental births into the next life?
4. What are the conditions of natural birth into the next life?
5. What is meant by the surgical method of birth into the next life?
6. When people are born into the next life do they at once move into the region where they will dwell for a long time?
7. Why is it often easy for a person who has just passed from the physical plane to communicate with a loved one yet on earth?
8. What is the true time of birth into the next life?
9. Usually are there attendants who from the other side welcome and assist people who pass to the next life?
10. Why does it usually take so long for suicides to be fully born into the next life?
11. Why is it, in the death of the physical body, that often there is full and alert consciousness at the last moment?
12. As soon as a person has passed from the physical plane, does he know all about the condition of his loved ones on earth?
13. What astrological conditions govern the true birth into the next life?
14. What is mapped by the astrological chart of birth into the next life?
15. To what extent do astrological energies continue to influence people after they have passed to the next life?
16. In what way do astrological discords have an influence in the next life?
17. Do we have to wait until we pass to the next life to regulate the manner in which we react to astrological and other discords?
18. What provision is sometimes made to take care of large groups which pass at once to the next life?
19. How may the birth environment of those of mean dispositions differ from the ordinary conditions of birth into the next life?
20. To what extent in the next life do the features express the true inward character?
21. What causes an individual to appear old in the next life?
22. Do those who pass to the next life in childhood remain as children?
23. At what point, after passing to the next life, does advancement begin?
24. What alone keeps an individual in the next life on the level and in the environment where he finds himself?
25. What attracts a teacher or guide to a person who has passed to the next life?

Astrological Influences In The Next Life (Serial No. 176)

1. What is the law which determines the kind of events we attract to us in the next life?
2. What is an individual's character?
3. What determines whether the birth-chart of the next life is more fortunate or less fortunate than the birth-chart of physical life?

4. After passing to the next life, can an individual engage in his favorite recreation?
5. After passing to the next life, does the individual immediately discontinue the use of the foods to which he is accustomed?
6. When the individual arrives in the next life, will he continue to have a heart, a stomach, and lungs?
7. Why is one newly arrived in the next life often guided back on a visit to the loved ones on earth?
8. What effect is produced upon those of the next life by sorrowing for them?
9. The expression of what selfish sentiment usually is the real motive for grieving for those who have passed to the next life?
10. How do those who have passed to the next life often help us?
11. How do people sometimes hinder, and how do they sometimes help, loved ones who have passed to the next life?
12. Do those who pass to the next life usually soon meet loved ones who have passed before?
13. When we have passed to the next life will we meet those we have wronged on earth?
14. Who is the real judge, and when is the judgment day?
15. What are the only two ways in which we can rectify a wrong to another, either in this life or in the next one?
16. What is the effect of "an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth" doctrine on one who holds to it in the next life?
17. What is the nature of the light of the next life?
18. How are those still on earth who have made some spiritual progress recognized by higher intelligences of the next life?
19. What kind of illumination is there in the under-spheres of the next life?
20. What special training is necessary for those who do missionary work in the astral hells?
21. What difficulty is experienced when one tries to move to a sphere higher than his own dominant vibratory rate?
22. What is the nature of the clothing worn in the next life?
23. In what way is a knowledge of the conditions to be encountered in the next life an advantage to one who goes there?
24. How extensive is the influence of astrological forces upon life?
25. Of what value are those astrological influences of the next life that correspond to oppositions and squares?

Occupations Of The Next Life (Serial No. 177)

1. Does money have an existence in any realm of the next life?
2. What is the only currency in the next life that has a real purchasing power?
3. Has ambition a legitimate object in the next life?
4. Are people evaluated falsely in the next life?
5. Is it necessary to pay for the truly desirable things of the next life?
6. What, in the next life, will attract to you those desirous of helping you?
7. Is the "something for nothing" motive valuable on any plane?
8. Why do many people recoil at the idea of work?
9. What determines what we like to do?
10. What is back of the special ability each soul possesses?
11. How does the next life economic system differ from the prevalent system of earth?

12. What function is performed by doctors and nurses in the next life?
13. What is the function of missionaries in the next life?
14. Describe some of the devotional exercises of the next life.
15. What is the origin of the common notion that nearly everyone in the next life is a guide or missionary?
16. Is there much research work conducted by the astrologers in the next life?
17. Are all the astrologers of the next life infallible?
18. Can all the astrological calculations of the astrologers in the next life be understood, even when seen, by astrologers yet on earth?
19. Do people yet on earth sometimes visit the halls of learning of the next life?
20. What functions in the next life are performed by farmers and miners? 21. What functions in the next life are performed by teachers and writers?
22. What functions in the next life are performed by mechanics and engineers?
23. What is the significance of the parable of the talents related in the 25th Chapter of Matthew?
24. What is the origin of the talents with which an individual is born into the physical life, and what the origin of the talents with which he is born into the next life?
25. In what way is the function of the artist much expanded in the next life?

Education And Progress In The Next Life (Serial No. 17S)

1. After passing to the next life, how soon will your education begin?
2. Why is education necessary in the next life?
3. In what way does real education differ from mere schooling?
4. What are the three distinct phases of education in the next life?
5. What is the measure of an individual's mental education?
6. In what respects is the method of educating children in the next life superior to the system employed on earth?
7. In what respect is it a handicap to pass on to the next life in childhood?
8. How do the vicious of the next life sometimes try to satisfy their base desires through someone still on earth?
9. How, in the next life, is an individual assisted to find his cosmic work?
10. Why is technical training desirable in the next life?
11. What is one very satisfactory method of teaching natural science in the next life?
12. What device is sometimes employed in the next life to depict the effect of different political systems?
13. What device is employed on the inner planes to depict the influence of a particular emotion upon the character?
14. Why is an individual's usefulness limited by the discords within himself?
15. Do discords within the finer form diminish the ability of the individual?
16. In the emotional laboratories of the next life how is the individual taught to approach a disagreeable task?
17. Are any discords present on the very highest planes of the next life?
18. In the emotional education of the next life, what is taught regarding the proper attitude toward astrological discords?
19. What is the solution, on the earth or in the next life, of directing the life and destiny?

20. Does the individual who desires to progress avoid obstacles and difficulties?
21. Do events, on any plane, bring us discords?
22. What happens on any plane when an individual stagnates?
23. Has mere information the power to enable an individual to change his plane level?
24. Describe a device used in the schools for spiritual education to show the effect of changing the basic vibratory rate?
25. In what way can the dominant vibratory rate of an individual be increased so that he moves to function on a higher plane?

Earth-Bound Souls And The Astral Hells (Serial No. 179)

1. How extensive are the astral hells?
2. Are the astral hells very important?
3. Why is it desirable to consider the astral hells?
4. How do people become earth-bound?
5. How are earth-bound souls similar to the paranoiacs of earth?
6. What others of the next life are like paranoiacs of earth?
7. What is necessary to cure either a paranoiac or an earth-bound soul?
8. What are some of the specific attachments that bind a soul to earth?
9. What crime associations cause an individual to become earth-bound?
10. Why is it a mistake for people to cling too persistently to thoughts of earth life?
11. Why is it better even for those who believe in repeated human incarnations, not to dwell too constantly on rebirth?
12. What is the process of releasing an earth-bound soul?
13. Why is it often difficult to get into conversation with a ghost?
14. What subject is the easiest avenue to open a conversation with a ghost?
15. Is the earth-bound conditions always complete?
16. What is the condition that causes a soul who is not earth-bound to be strongly earth-attached?
17. Why is it impossible for an entity of a lower plane to injure an individual of a higher plane so long as the higher entity keeps to his own plane?
18. How is it that a lower entity can injure a higher individual if the latter lowers his vibratory rate to the lower plane?
19. How are individuals in the lower strata of society frequently influenced to acts of depravity and crime from the astral slums and hells?
20. How is it that some people who attend seance rooms and who themselves are not strongly influenced, nevertheless afford means of connecting other and more negative individuals with injurious forces from the next life?
21. Explain the significance of electrical potential in determining that an individual may be positive to one person and negative to another.
22. How are the missionaries treated who go into the lowest astral hells?
23. What is the proper method to employ when there is an attempt at obsession?
24. Why is it inadvisable for those of earth to try to help those of the next life who occupy the slums and astral hells?
25. What particular mental attitude alone makes it possible for the vicious of the next life to injure a person yet in the flesh?

Domestic Relations Of The Next Life (Serial No. 180)

1. Does everything at once straighten out in a satisfactory manner in the next life?
2. How is food provided in the next life?
3. Why is shelter needed in the next life?
4. Are there storms in the next life?
5. How do the houses of the next life tend to conserve thought energy?
6. Does day and night exist on the astral plane?
7. What kind of house will you be compelled to live in when you pass to the next life?
8. Will you be compelled to build your own home in the next life?
9. From whom will you procure the clothing you will wear in the next life?
10. Is clothing worn solely for protection and beauty in the next life?
11. Is the next life devoid of wit and humor?
12. Are domestic ties severed at the moment of physical death?
13. Is anyone forced into marriage in the next life?
14. Do people marry for selfish advantages in the next life?
15. What is the basis of attraction into marriage in the next life?
16. Because two people were married on earth are they compelled to eternal companionship?
17. Why are one-sided love attachments rare in the next life?
18. What adjustments takes place in the next life when an individual has had, at different times on earth, several husbands or several wives?
19. When only does the affectional attachment of husband and wife in the next life become permanent?
20. In the next life, are those who have previously been husband and wife but now are separated, or are married to others, still friends, or are they enemies?
21. How are conditions and motives faced in the next life?
22. What is the great problem, on any plane, in regard to available energy?
23. How, in the next life, does harmonious domestic relations assist in the problem of quantity and quality of energy?
24. Is the next life free from trouble, difficulties and disappointments?
25. Why are those of the higher regions of the next life free from sorrow?

Social Contacts And Amusements In The Next Life (Serial No. 181)

1. Will you contact many races of people in your next life?
2. Do all the highly developed beings in the universe have the human form?
3. Explain the origin of the human form.
4. How extensive are the territories possible to visit in the next life?
5. Is one compelled to take trips of exploration in the next life?
6. How are directions determined in the next life?
7. Is it possible to have hazardous adventure in the next life?
8. Does one make any new acquaintances in the next life?
9. How do those of considerable spiritual advancement communicate with their friends on earth?
10. Is there more than one method of inter-world communication?
11. In addition to the well-established stations for communication between the astral world and the earth, what part do ingenious individuals play?
12. How is it that prayer can sometimes be seen on several plane-levels?

13. What determines how high a plane is reached by a prayer?
14. Why is a prayer addressed to an angel or to the Omnific Deity more potent to reach a high level?
15. How can those of the spiritual world communicate with or influence those on earth?
16. Is it rare for information from the true spiritual plane to reach the earth?
17. Explain the relay system of manifesting some phenomena on earth.
18. Are the programs emanating from higher levels always serious?
19. How much importance is given amusement in the next life?
20. What kinds of pleasures alone offer, on any plane, entanglements for the soul?
21. What are the four phases into which the progressive people of the next life divide their activities?
22. When, in the next life, is the education considered complete?
23. What are the facilities for gaining information in the next life?
24. Describe an initiation from a lower to a higher plane.
25. To what extent are the activities of the next life monotonous and stereotyped?

Through Astral And Spiritual To Celestial (Serial No. 182)

1. What is the chief function of the animal kingdom?
2. Where does man usually gain cosmic consciousness?
3. Where does man usually acquire divine consciousness?
4. If you know what to expect, will it shorten the period of adjustment into the next life?
5. Should you descend from the higher levels of the next life, what would the effect of the astral atmosphere be like?
6. What is the purpose of a preliminary survey after you reach the next life?
7. What is the most important thing about your existence?
8. In what way is the standard of living better on each succeeding higher plane?
9. In what way does knowledge assist you to advance in the next life?
10. In what does developing harmony within assist you to progress in the next life?
11. What things contribute to develop a higher basic vibratory rate?
12. Upon what hinges the general process of advancement from one plane level to the next higher?
13. Why is interest in one's work never lacking?
14. Describe the second death.
15. What awaits you in your spiritual home?
16. Are responsibilities less in the spiritual world?
17. What is the peculiar significance of the boundary of the sixth and seventh state of the spiritual world?
18. In the union of soul-mates, is there any loss of identity on the part of either?
19. By comparing with an atomic system, indicate the nature of a soul-mate system.
20. Is the liberty of movement of either soul restricted by the union with the soul-mate?
21. Indicate how the soul-mate system has a form while not altering the individual forms of the two souls it embraces.

22. By the rapport sometimes maintained between husband and wife while on earth, even while they travel widely apart, illustrate the form of the soul-mate system.
23. What condition facilitates husband and wife establishing and maintaining a permanent magnetic rapport?
24. Illustrate how a soul-mate system has powers far exceeding the powers possessed by the two separate souls it embraces.
25. What is the function of the soul-mate system when it passes beyond the spiritual and into the celestial realm?

Appendix

History of The Brotherhood of Light

To trace the origin of The Religion of the Stars, recourse must be made to tradition. Pseudo occultists and charlatans are only too ready to appropriate a name and use it to deceive the unwary. Hence a name and boasted lineage mean nothing in such matters. When genuine they rest upon secret tradition. And such documentary evidence as can be submitted for the genuine may easily be imitated by the spurious.

The only safe criterion of the genuineness of any esoteric teaching is the amount and accuracy of the information contained therein. The Brotherhood of Light lessons are now accessible to all. We welcome investigation with a view to proving their value. The lineage here given is not to claim infallibility or to prove authority, but to disclaim any originality in the ideas set forth beyond their method of presentation. Upon the *prima facie* evidence these lessons contain as expositors of THE RELIGION OF THE STARS, The Church of Light is well content to rest all its claims.

According to tradition, in the year 2,440 B.C., a group separated from the theocracy of Egypt, and through subsequent times, as a secret order, the name of which translated into English means The Brotherhood of Light, has been perpetuated, and has exerted a beneficial influence upon western civilization.

During only one period of Egyptian history did the teachings of The Religion of the Stars have a great influence on Egyptian civilization. This was during the reign of Akhenaten. This king was influenced by The Brotherhood of Light and broke completely with the corrupt priesthood of Amen. He moved to his City of the Horizon and spread stellar art and wisdom throughout Egypt. He died before the establishing of a new civilization could be completed; so the priests of Amen did the best they could to destroy his city and philosophy.

With the ascension of the Greek civilization, the influence of The Brotherhood of Light is seen in the astrology and mythology of Greece. Many of the Greek Mysteries take their basic rites from the ancient Egyptians.

The Greek philosophers, Thales, Pythagoras, Plato, Euxodus, and a score of others famed for learning that might be mentioned, received initiation directly at the hands of the Egyptian members of the fraternity.

At a later date this venerable order gave the impetus to learning in Alexandria, which made the city so justly famous. One of The Brotherhood of Light, the noble Hypatia, who, after the decline of the colleges in that city,

was the last to withstand the onslaughts of superstitious ignorance, and died endeavoring to spread the light of ancient wisdom.

It was The Brotherhood of Light that preserved the taper of learning from complete extinction during the dark ages, and that was responsible for kindling with it the fires of science and philosophy in Europe, even in the face of ruthless persecution.

The Brotherhood of Light not only has persisted as such on the innerplanes, but the line of succession has been kept alive, although at times it became exceedingly thin, also on the physical plane.

Much of our written history is lost in the mist of time. The thread of modern day existence on the physical plane picks up with the following.

M. Theon, for years, was the head of The Brotherhood of Light in Europe. The teachings came to America and were published in two books translated and edited by Emma Harding Britten, *Art Magic* and *Ghost Land*. The original edition of *Art Magic* bears this legend at the bottom of the title page, "Published by the author, at New York, America, 1876."

T.H. Burgoyne was the son of a physician in Scotland. He roamed the moors during his boyhood and became conversant with the birds and flowers. He was an amateur naturalist. He was also a natural seer. Through his seership he contacted The Brotherhood of Light on the innerplane, and later contacted M. Theon in person. Still later he came to America, where he taught and wrote on occult subjects. We find articles on the tarot, written by him, for instance, during 1887 and 1888, in *The Platonist*, published by Thomas M. Johnson at Osceola, Missouri. This was more than a dozen years before Genevieve Stebbins translated the work of P. Christian.

Captain Norman Astley, an officer in the British Army, had traveled extensively. In the performance of his duties he had lived in India and there had pursued occult studies. He also resided a short time in Australia. Later he returned to England to meet M. Theon, having previously contacted The Brotherhood of Light in his travels.

Astley was also a surveyor. Retired from the British Army he surveyed, among other places, what is now Carmel, California. It was such a beautiful region that when he married Genevieve Stebbins, a member of The Brotherhood of Light and a Delsarte teacher in New York, they decided to build their home in Carmel. That was in the 1860's.

As T.H. Burgoyne was a member of the same organization, it was natural he should pay them a visit. Captain and Mrs. Astley, who had contacted a number of earnest students suggested to Burgoyne that he write the basic Brotherhood of Light teachings as a series of lessons. This he agreed to do provided the students would enable him to live while he did this work. The Astleys made contact with students he knew and 12 were found who were willing to donate \$5 per month to this purpose.

Burgoyne lived in the home of the Astleys while he wrote *Light of Egypt*, Volume I. He wrote and issued as a manuscript lesson, which the 12 students were permitted to copy, one chapter each month. He had a white pony which would come at his whistle and follow him as if it were a dog. Each morning the weather was clement, he and his pony would leave the Astley domicile and go to a certain wild spot on Point Lobos to commune with the Monterey pines, to listen to the birds, to caress the flowers, and to hear the noisy surf boil into a little rocky cove above which in spring wild asters grew in profusion. Overlooking the charging and retreating waters, always sitting at the same spot, he wrote the whole of *Light of Egypt*, Volume I.

For reasons set forth in the preface to *Light of Egypt, Volume I*, it was later decided to publish these private lessons in book form. That this might be done it became necessary to finance the venture, and to have some kind of an organization which would resist the attacks it was anticipated would be made by those opposed to the purpose of the book.

Dr. Henry Wagner and Mrs. Belle M. Wagner (both with Jupiter in the tenth house of their birthcharts) agreed to finance the venture, and did so to the extent of \$100,000. And a branch of The Brotherhood of Light called the Hermetic Brotherhood of Luxor, was formed for the express purpose of seeing to it that the *Light of Egypt* and its teachings should receive wide distribution.

The Hermetic Brotherhood of Luxor was governed in all its affairs by a council of three members consisting of a scribe, or secretary, an astrologer and a seer. Burgoyne was the original secretary. He passed to the next plane in March 1894, while residing in Humboldt County, California. Belle Wagner, Sun in Pisces, Aquarius rising and the Moon in the first house in Aquarius, was elected to take his place on the council. Minnie Higgins, Sun in Gemini, was the astrologer. Mrs. Anderson, Sun in Sagittarius, Moon in Cancer, Libra rising, was the seer. Meetings to decide issues were held on the second floor of Mrs. Anderson's large home in Denver, Colorado.

The bylaws of The Hermetic Brotherhood of Luxor made it impossible for any person under 21 years of age to join; made it impossible for a married person to join unless the spouse also joined, and made membership possible only after the individual's record had been thoroughly investigated.

Early in 1909 Minnie Higgins passed to the next plane, and in the spring of that year Elbert Benjamin was called to Denver and elected to take her place on the Council as the astrologer. At this meeting on the second floor of Mrs. Anderson's home, the other two members of the Council did their utmost, as the official minutes of the meeting show, to convince Elbert Benjamin that he should undertake the job of preparing a complete system of education that would enable a wide public to become conversant with The Religion of the Stars. But it was not until April of the following year that he consented to do this work.

Meanwhile he had contacted personally and through correspondence not only members of the Hermetic Brotherhood of Luxor, but members of The Brotherhood of Light who had remained aloof from the organization with headquarters at Denver. But it was chiefly by his becoming more closely associated with The Brotherhood of Light on the innerplane that he overcame his reluctance to take over so imposing a task.

In 1913 the three members of the Council of The Hermetic Brotherhood of Luxor, after due deliberation, voted unanimously to close The Hermetic Brotherhood of Luxor, and since then no members have been accepted.

During the period, 1914 to 1934 that The Brotherhood of Light lessons were being written, there was never any spirit other than that of helpfulness shown toward this work by any member of The Brotherhood of Light or by any person who had been a member of The Brotherhood of Luxor. And, in particular, Captain and Mrs. Astley were helpful. Elbert Benjamin visited them in their home on various occasions, and some of the extensive and encouraging correspondence he received from them helped him in this work.

In 1918 classes were first opened to the public. In order to carry out its objective of reestablishing The Religion of the Stars on earth, The Brotherhood of Light was incorporated as The Church of Light, on November 2,

1932, 9:55 a.m. PST at Los Angeles. The three founders of The Church of Light were Elbert Benjamine (C.C. Zain), who served as President until his demise November 18, 1951; Elizabeth Benjamine, who served as Secretary Treasurer until her passing in 1942; and Fred Skinner, who served as Vice President until his demise in 1940. From the 1920's through the 1940's much astrological research was carried on which has become standard reference for many astrologers.

Much of the history of The Church of Light in years between 1915 and 1951 involve the history of Mr. Benjamine's efforts. His mission on earth being completed through the writing, rewriting and printing of The Brotherhood of Light lessons, he felt that his physical form was worn beyond repair and that he could better serve the cause of Universal Welfare by leaving that body behind and moving to the next phase of his work in God's Great Plan.

In accordance with Mr. Benjamine's instructions, there was no public funeral, and his body was cremated. Because of his desire to be free from thoughts and emotions of grief so he might make a speedy adjustment in his new life, the announcement of his passing was withheld until the Response Day dinner in Los Angeles on December 18, 1951.

He left a priceless heritage in The Brotherhood of Light lessons, which must be preserved and passed on unchanged to succeeding generations.

The Light of Egypt is a consortium of advanced students and Hermiticians who seek to carry on the high traditions of the Brotherhood of Light by contributing our utmost to Universal Welfare without thought of personal gain or recompense.

It continues to work toward fulfilling these purpose by meeting the needs of a new world order with its progressive philosophy of soul development. As always there is a determination that each individual should have the opportunity to Contribute his or her Utmost to Universal Welfare to the end that all people may live with freedom from fear; freedom from want; freedom of speech; freedom of religion, and to be enlightened to the extent they wish by the soul uplifting teachings of The Religion of the Stars.

Appendix

Declaration of Principles

We are a Religious altruistic association. We consider all humanity as equal in the higher sense, and utilize our resources for the purpose of assisting each individual to fulfill their part in the Divine Plan. Our Hermetic Philosophy indicates that each soul is responsible for its spiritual progress; and our lessons provide the best information possible for the attainment of true spirituality and happiness on the physical plane and on each higher plane of progress.

There cannot be Two Orders of Truth in the Universe. Therefore, we deny that there is any antagonism between true Science and true Religion. We accept but one book as infallible in interpreting the Will of Deity. That is the Book of Nature. We worship but one Religion, which is also a Science: Nature's laws.

Students are under no obligation to accept our teachings. We encourage them to investigate all existing religious and occult organizations, and our course on *Evolution of Religion* gives details on how our philosophy relates to many of the religions of the world today.

We teach that the family and the marriage relationship are the most powerful aid in building the spiritual body. It is through the sacrifices of the parents for the children that they give up selfishness and then transfer that love to higher planes of work. Our course, *Ancient Masonry*, gives more detail about this process, as well as the course on Spiritual Alchemy and the one on *Occultism Applied to Daily Life*.

Our view of the reason for existence upon the earth is discussed in the book, *Astrological Signatures*, and the book *Organic Alchemy*. We know from tradition and scientific experiments that the soul and personality survive the transition called death and live on higher planes of existence. This is outlined in the book *The Next Life*. We also have lessons on healing and alchemy (psychology) both from the spiritual and physical plane.

Our philosophy is grounded in two basic studies: The Golden Key of Astrology and the Silver Key of the Sacred Tarot. Only with a thorough knowledge of these two keys may the sanctuary of Nature's Temple be opened. Astrology is the science of finding and utilizing the natural potentialities as indicated by the planetary chart of birth. It becomes a religion when it shows the individual how these natural tendencies can be utilized for the benefit of all humanity and furtherance of the purposes of Deity. This is why we are called The Religion of the Stars.

The *Sacred Tarot* is the pictorial form of the spiritual ideas of our world as viewed by the spiritual giants of the past and checked by subsequent illuminated ones as to accuracy. Initiates of all ages have added their contributions. It is the esoteric presentation of the Hermetic Philosophy, and provides each Neophyte with many sources of meditations and inspiration. Our courses on *The Sacred Tarot* and *Spiritual Astrology* give much insight on these two foundations of Knowledge.

The Religion of the Stars is dedicated to the unfoldment of the Universal Plan for this Aquarian Age. A Nine Point Plan provides the framework for this work. The Nine Point Plan is:

That everyone should have:

Freedom from Want
Freedom of Expression
Freedom from Fear
Freedom of Religion

That to obtain these in proper measure, people must have the freedom to become familiar with:

Facts of Astrology
Facts of Induced Emotion
Facts of Extrasensory Perception
Facts of Directed Thinking

And, that instead of working to take all that he can for himself, each must learn to find pleasure in

Contributing His or Her Utmost to Universal Welfare

The Brotherhood of Light teachings are presented in 21 courses covering 21 Branches of Occult Science. The courses have study questions in the back of each book for every lesson. If you request them, you will receive a final exam for each course. Upon passing the final exam, the Award Manuscript will be sent to you. These give information on the safest method of developing higher states of consciousness and other information of value to the neophyte.

Appendix

Home Study Program

About The Home Study Program...

The Brotherhood of Light lessons offer the safest and most reliable information concerning occult studies found anywhere! Many are interested in investigating the occult sciences but cannot find a suitable teacher or are unable to find a practical approach to such matters. To meet this challenge the Home Study Program was designed.

Much information about the outerplane environment can be had in public schools and universities. Of equal importance is knowledge of the innerplane. Since this information is not yet available in our public institutions, The Brotherhood of Light lessons are published.

With the dawning Aquarian Age, our planet is undergoing a new dispensation of knowledge. Manifestations of this knowledge are evident in the scientific and technological growth experienced since 1881. So that development may be along the most constructive channels, it is important that we work to align personal and community intention to the Will of Deity. It is the role of religion to facilitate this alignment.

The Religion of the Stars teaches that the most reliable evidence of God's intention is obtained by observing Nature. To do this requires not only effort, but the process of trial and error. Sometimes standing on the shoulders of those who precede us can be helpful. May we suggest that you will find The Brotherhood of Light lessons to be a reliable guide, as well as some of the most uplifting material you will ever encounter.

Who can enroll in the Home Study Program...

Anyone can study the 21 Courses by reading the material contained therein, and may submit examinations for correction. Upon receiving a passing grade, members will receive the "NotSold Manuscripts." They contain information which we believe to be safest and most reliable methods for psychic unfoldment.

While the reason for each person's study is highly personal, there can also be an organization goal. That is, to become a Hermetician. A Hermetician is a person who has passed final exams on all 21 Courses and thereby demonstrated physical knowledge of all branches of the Hermetic Sciences (Astrology, Alchemy and Magic). As a Hermetician one is eligible to participate more fully in the religious and educational aspects of the organization.

How does the program work...

Recognizing that each person begins his/her course of study with a particular area of interest we have structured the program so you may pass courses in any order you wish. We strongly encourage you to undertake the passing of examinations in sequence from Course 1 to 21.

You can request that we send you an a Course 1 (Laws of Occultism) examination.

After receiving a passing score (exams are open book) we will send you the "Not Sold Manuscript." This process is repeated until you reach the Hermetician level by passing exams for all 21 courses.

Appendix

Other Brotherhood of Light Courses

Other Brotherhood of Light Courses in the Magic Branch

Course 1, Laws of Occultism

The word "occult" means hidden or unseen. The Laws of Occultism is the study of unseen energies and the subjugation of these energies to human control insofar as we are able. There are in existence undeviating natural laws that are yet unexplained by physical science. In this course various types of psychic phenomena are examined and explained. The nature of the inner plane and how it affects human life and activities is revealed.

Course 4, Ancient Masonry

In this course the rituals and symbols Ancient Masonry are revealed. For the modern Freemason this is an unprecedented work enabling him to perceive the esoteric and spiritual significance of the symbols and rituals of the lodge room. The astrological significance of the symbolism and their relationship to soul development are thoroughly discussed.

Course 5, Esoteric Psychology

Of all the energies that influence man none have a more powerful effect than his own thoughts. Directing one's thinking is the most potent of all forces to control one's life and destiny. Commonly, our efforts to exercise control are hindered due to faulty conceptions or repressions that result from environmental conditioning. Whether this conditioning expresses in a subtle way or one that is more obvious, the consequence is an obstacle to progress.

Course 6, The Sacred Tarot

With this book the student may readily determine the astrological correspondence of any number, name, color, gem or other object. In this course the "Religion of the Stars" system of numerology is set forth, and divination by means of numbers is explained. It is also considered to be one of the most complete, detailed syntheses of the Tarot archetypes as they manifest in different areas of occult science and spiritual truths. Each of the 78 cards is elucidated and 11 tarot card spreads are illustrated.

Course 11, Divination & Character Reading

Divination is a means to assist extension of consciousness on the inner plane

to acquire the information desired. It is then brought up into the region of objective consciousness. Clairvoyance, precognition, telepathy, the divining rod, teacup and coffee cup methods, among others are discussed in detail. The last four lessons are devoted to learning to read character based on physical characteristics.

Course 18, Imponderable Forces

Course 18 explains how much reliance should be placed on transits, minor progressed aspects, major progressed aspects and other astrological conditions, and the proper attitude toward such astrological weather. It indicates how sympathies and antipathies work, and how much importance to attribute to birthstones, numbers, names and environmental vibrations. Since the greatest enemy of fear and superstition is understanding, this course explains in detail ceremonial magic, sorcery and witchcraft, and how to protect oneself against black magic of any kind. It shows how we are influenced by suggestion and inversive propaganda and how to avoid thus being influenced. Imponderable Forces gives a comprehensive survey of the wholesome pathway, and how to follow it.

The 21 volume Brotherhood of Light series on the occult sciences by C.C. Zain includes: 3 Branches of Study

| Title | Serial Number |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| Astrology | |
| Cs. 2 Astrological Signatures | 1-5, 20, 21, 46 & 47 |
| Cs. 7 Spiritual Astrology | 71-83 |
| Cs. 8 Horary Astrology | 36, 86-92 |
| Cs. 10 Natal Astrology | 19, 103-117 |
| Cs. 13 Mundane Astrology | 141-150 |
| Cs. 15 Weather Predicting | 190-196 |
| Cs. 16 Stellar Healing | 197-208 |
| Alchemy | |
| Cs. 3 Spiritual Alchemy | 49-54 |
| Cs. 9 Mental Alchemy | 95-101 |
| Cs. 12 Natural Alchemy | 125-140 |
| Cs. 14 Occultism Applied | 151-162 |
| Cs. 17 Cosmic Alchemy | 164-172 |
| Cs. 19 Organic Alchemy | 209-215 |
| Cs. 21 Personal Alchemy | 216-225 |

Magic

| | | |
|--------|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| Cs. 1 | Laws of Occultism | 39-45 |
| Cs. 4 | Ancient Masonry | 6-18 |
| Cs. 5 | Esoteric Psychology | 56-67 |
| Cs. 6 | The Sacred Tarot | 22-33, & 48 |
| Cs. 11 | Divination & Character Reading | 118-124 |
| Cs. 18 | Imponderable Forces | 183-189 |
| Cs. 20 | The Next Life | 173-182 |

Award Manuscripts

| | Title | Serial Number |
|----|---|----------------------|
| 1 | The Safest and Most Effective Method of Psychic Development | 226 |
| 2 | How to Become Conscious on the Inner Plane | 227 |
| 3 | How to Contact Desired Information on the Inner Plane | 228 |
| 4 | How to Hold the Consciousness on the Selected Level of the Inner Plane | 229 |
| 5 | Breathing to Acquire Proper Electrification | 54 |
| 6 | How to Become Objectively Aware of Information Acquired from the Inner Plane | 230 |
| 7 | How to Use the Transition Technique of ESP | 231 |
| 8 | How to Control Inner Plane Activities | 232 |
| 9 | How to Develop Soul Activity | 34 |
| 10 | How to Direct Soul Activity | 35 |
| 11 | How to Travel in the Astral | 94 |
| 12 | Soul Mates | 69 |
| 13 | How to Use Personal Cycles For Soul Unfoldment | 93 |
| 14 | How to Use Talismans For Special Purposes | 84 |
| 15 | Customs and Habits of Elementals | 68 |
| 16 | Value of Totems | 85 |
| 17 | Contacting the Masters | 163 |
| 18 | Great Pyramid Interpreted | 55 |
| 19 | Symbol Reading Made Easy | 70 |
| 20 | Initiation | 38 |
| 21 | Practice of White Magic | 37 |

