

THE LANTERN

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“Thy Word
is a lamp unto my feet,
and a light unto my path.”

Psalms 119:105

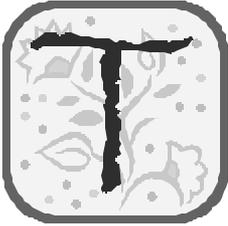
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THE ART OF FORGIVENESS

by Ann Davies

Sunday Service February 18, 1962



This morning we are going to talk about the art of forgiving. Last Sunday¹ the topic was love and be loved, and the talk this morning is a continuation of the previous one because the ideas of love and forgiveness cannot be separated. However, they have meanings that are perhaps a little different than we may have thought.

Let's consider some of our problems with the idea of forgiving. Often we think we have reason to feel inwardly offended for one reason or another. People may not notice how truly wonderful we are so we become offended. Sometimes we say we are not offended, just "hurt." I'm not saying you shouldn't feel hurt if someone offends you. To some degree, certain reactions are inevitable as long as we live and struggle on this plane of existence. Yet what we are trying to do is to become aware of just what makes our emotions act and react in the ways they do in relation to other human beings. The goal is to transmute the more or less normal reactions into something closer to the idea of being sons and daughters of God; closer to the idea of liberation, cosmic illumination, etc.

Even though it teaches the principle that consciousness creates, metaphysics fails primarily because it does not take into account the concept of maturity. When a five year old picks up a pencil, the child is not going to produce the same quality of drawing as a trained artist. Yet in elementary metaphysics, we are given some of the most astonishing promises. I am aghast at some of the things I read: all you have to do is hold a consistent picture of something and WHAM! there it is! Money, a new Cadillac, a new house. The trouble is, this idea is not incorrect. It is true enough that consciousness creates, but unfortunately elementary metaphysics has the cart before the horse.

¹. "Love and Be Loved," published in *The Lantern*, Fall, 2005.

We are unable to hold whatever image it is that we think we are supposed to hold until we have done what needs to be done with the patterns in subconsciousness. This includes Karma, because it is part of what the patterns are. Keep in mind that when we work with Tarot techniques we are essentially burning the seeds of Karma, as they say in the East. What this means is transmuting old patterns into different reactions, thus reducing the need for certain failures.

What does this have to do with forgiving? Very much. The problem in the human heart is insecurity. Even if someone has millions of dollars, they are still vulnerable to emotional insecurity. They will wonder if they are loved for themselves or for their money. They are still going to be insecure in all sorts of ways. We all still have patterns of insecurity, of fear in our subconsciousness. Even the most so-called courageous people really walk in fear. Many human beings race cars, jump from airplanes, go down mountains on skis, do all sorts of things to prove how courageous they are. These are the people who are the least emotionally courageous and that is why they have a drive to prove themselves on the outside. As far as I am concerned, I have no objection to being seen as a very devout coward. I see no reason in risking life and limb. Driving my car is risk enough!

Insecurity in our hearts makes us subconsciously look for slights from other people. It also makes us yearn for extra proof of acceptance and love. A part of us is almost always listening for slights, even with old friends. Sometimes we find them in words, other times we find them by what *isn't* said or done, still other times we search for them because people don't find us important enough. As we watch for all these indications that we are completely accepted, loved, admired and appreciated, we build subconscious resentments. We hide it from ourselves in various ways. Yet if we happen to hear someone making an adverse remark about us, we are very apt to blow our top with indignation and rage. This is the infant in us searching for security.

We've gone through many lives with feelings of rejection. With some people this is a very serious problem that manifests in relationships with other human beings. These people are the most miserable, but fear of

rejection is in almost every person. It is usually the basis of hostility, even when we cover it up. A man came for counseling and said his wife rejected him all the time. He confided a 15 year old experience that he said began the rejection. From his point of view, his wife had



never forgiven him and he wept because he so dearly loved his wife. Every other sentence was something about how he didn't want to be disloyal to his wife. With tears streaming down his face, he then said he didn't know whether he should tell me this or not and then told me of a character that was about as despicable and unlovable, if it were

true, as you can imagine.

In his conscious mind he thought he was determined to win back her love and respect. He told me that at one point he asked his wife if she realized he loved her. She replied, "Yes I know you do, to your capacity." As he told me this his lip curled into a snarl. He was convinced he had a tremendous capacity to love and there was a real rage in his heart which he did not recognize. This couple stayed together because they both needed a sparring partner. They fulfilled each other very completely. The point is, she did not have it in her heart to forgive him of any slip he may or may not have made. He did not have it in his heart to forgive her either. They both shared tremendous emotional insecurity in their relationship. As we should know by now, the facts of a relationship don't tell the story at all.

We should realize that we carry resentments in our hearts, even if they appear to be mild, and so often they are far deeper and more powerful than we know. All of us have been hurt. Most of us have been betrayed. All of us carry wounds in our souls, in our psyches. If we are in the right mood we can feel real hurts and wounds that go back twenty or more years. We may have thought we got over them, but under the right stimulus we can feel an uprush of hurt feelings. We walk around with wounds that are really dreadful. Of course we've been hurt but we have also caused pain in others.



Now we come to the idea of forgiveness and just what it implies. We all know how to spout words. We can talk about how many times we must forgive. We can parrot the idea about forgiving our enemies. Yet most of us don't know what is meant by forgiveness. Most of us think that forgiveness is a response to someone injuring us – someone hurts us and we say, "I forgive you." Usually what is really meant is "I think you are a no-good such and such and I am so much better than you are, so vastly more spiritual, that I can forgive you." In a way, forgiveness may be a tragic word and idea.

He who aspires to the highest is going to forget all about forgiveness. Does this surprise you? Then be surprised! When you have to forgive, you continue to carry the hurt and there will always be a part of you that has not forgiven at all. We often say, "I'll forgive, but I will never forget!" That shows that we would still like to see the offender go to you-know-where. Most of the time we fool ourselves about ourselves, even more so when we are attempting to think or act with forgiveness. Forgiveness often really has to do with a superiority complex, which most people on the Path of Return do not recognize.

We blame ourselves for things we've done or not done, so we need to forgive ourselves, too. Then what should we do? As I said, we need to think of forgiveness in another way. What made you aspire? What made you search for an answer to the riddle of life? What made you start studying? What made you yearn for the conscious experience of God? If you answer truthfully you will know the answer is one thing: Pain. Hurt. Betrayal. Therefore, is it really necessary to forgive? The wounds, betrayal, pain, and hurt have been deepening your entire awareness. So are they evil that has been done to you or are they really blessings?



Some of you can take music as an example. Early in life when you listened to music you had a tremendous depth of response. As you got older and accumulated a few painful experiences in life, your response to the beauty of music was reduced. This is also true of our response to nature, to the animal kingdom, to the gorgeous scenery of the physical world. What we don't realize is that all growth

is the result of interplay between the pairs of opposites that we might call joy and sorrow. To the degree that you have capacity for sorrow, you will have capacity for joy. Can you see that? If the cup is shallow, it can only hold so much water. A deeper cup holds more. Your soul, your consciousness is like that. It is deepened by the interplay of the opposites.

Pain always prepares us for the next intensification of pleasure. Every mystic who has experienced conscious union with God speaks of the most extraordinary ecstasy, of a joy that is practically unbearable. This is true everywhere and all the time. Anyone who has had the experience and attempts to share it talks about the intensity, which actually means depth of awareness. Pain is preparation for cosmic consciousness. This does not mean joy is not. To the degree that we have experienced pain, we can experience joy.

The process does not go on forever. Don't think that you must search out painful experiences. Certainly not! At this point, we are tired of the pain and want to start learning how to live with the higher faculties. I should think by this time that the cup has become deep enough. It is your *attitude* toward that which has made you what you are today which needs to be examined.

So what must be done? We must look at those wounds, hurts, and betrayals of the past and say, "Thank you Lord of the Universe." Only those who have known sorrow have compassion. Only they are able to put themselves in the other person's place. Only those who have felt sadness because of their own defects are able to show charity toward the weaknesses and defects of others. The repercussions of our immaturity bring us, finally, to the Path of Return, seeking liberation from the pain, the very pain that made the past worthwhile.

You may not think it possible at the moment, but I promise you this, if you work at this idea. Look up at the sky and remind yourself that every past experience has deepened your capacity to see the beauty of the vast heavens, has expanded your ability to see the miracle of a flower, has grown your capacity to see the grandeur of nature, the divinity of all mankind. All the interplay of opposites has created your

ability to be self conscious. You have earned it by being put through the fire of evolution, the experiences of joy and sorrow.



When you realize that the sorrowful experiences as well as the joyous ones have given you the capacity to pray, to reach for God, to find God, to understand people, to love music, to wonder at the miracle of beingness, then you will also realize that you do not have to forgive those who have injured you. What is there to forgive? Were they not the instruments from God who brought you good? This is the real art of forgiveness: to know, not just to think, but to *know* in the depth of your heart that every enemy of yesterday served your spiritual good and therefore deserves your love and compassion.

Those enemies were at the evolutionary level where they were compelled to be treacherous, to be cruel. Life will or already has bruised them. Those of us who have suffered pain in the depths of our soul do not wish it on another, no matter what they have done. We know it too directly and we want to throw the mantle of true forgiveness over their shoulders. What is that mantle? It is saying, “Thank you for being one of the teachers that God sent to me, teaching me discrimination, true vision and deepening my cup of life.”

This is the art of forgiveness. And what is it but love? The easiest way to train ourselves to feel this way about past injury is through loving. Love is the grace of God. People love where they will love. During the act of loving something or someone, we should reach back in our consciousness and let our hearts, minds and souls flow with a deep feeling of gratitude for every experience.

As you know, when I was 21 a very serious illness left me lame. Being human, I was bitter. I am grateful for that. Am I going to look back and say, “Oh, woe is me! How unevolved I was because of my bitterness!” Of course not. I say, “Thank you Life, for having let me know the meaning of bitterness so that when I meet it in my fellow man,

I can understand it.” If I hadn’t known it, how could I understand it and help someone else? Furthermore, had I not become lame I would have gone into another profession which would have kept me very physically active. What would have happened to the riches that I developed as a result of lameness? Lameness kept me bedridden for many years. What else could I do but study, read and meditate? I developed a depth of consciousness and spiritual experience that are fantastically more glorious and beautiful than what I apparently lost. It was a great nightmare of life, something like being in a concentration camp, yet I can look back. Finally, I did look back.

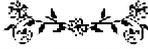


Twenty years ago I had an experience of Cosmic Love. It lasted for several months. From that level I looked back and was able to say, “Thank you God.” My heart poured out an enriching gratitude that is beyond description. I was able to say, “Everything I went through was worth it because now I have this capacity to love.” There is the secret of forgiveness.



I thought I had forgiven a number of people who certainly required forgiveness, but I hadn’t. My heart can now love them for having been instruments for God’s greater good. See your past and the hurts and injuries done to you, the unhappiness you suffered as worth the price of the magic of consciousness, the price of aspiration to become a conscious center for the One Life. Meditate on that and you will find that loving is something so superior to forgiving that you won’t need a superiority complex that says with a smug smile, “I forgive you dear, you poor unevolved, unenlightened little soul.”

Let’s walk in this true way. Let’s develop the real art of forgiveness. Let’s see our enemies as God’s greatest gift to us yesterday, today and forever.



THE HEXAD

“There being, then, three figures which of themselves can fill up space around a point, viz...the triangle, square and the hexagon, the bees have wisely selected for their structure that which contains the most angles, suspecting indeed that it could hold more honey than the other two.”

– Attributed to Pappus (c. 300 A.D., Greek mathematician in Alexandria, Egypt)



According to the Pythagorean system, even numbers are said to be female, while odd numbers are considered male. Even numbers can be divided by both even and odd numbers, while odd numbers can be divided by odd numbers only. This is especially symbolic because the hexad, the number six, contains the odd or masculine number, three, and the first even or feminine number, two, their product being six.

The number six, called by the Pythagoreans “the perfection of parts,” is the first perfect number. A perfect number means that it is equal to both the product and the sum of its factors.

To illustrate: $1 + 2 + 3 = 6$ (the sum of its factors)
 $1 \times 2 \times 3 = 6$ (the product of its factors)

This cannot be done with any of the numbers preceding six. Looking at the number four, for example, the sum does not equal the product of its factors.

To illustrate: $1 + 2 + 2 = 5$ (the sum of its factors)
 $1 \times 2 \times 2 = 4$ (the product of its factors)

Because it is the first perfect number, it is thought that the most appropriate number for creation is six. Taking the Bible literally, the Creator took six days. Not because creation took place in a specified period of time; rather, bringing it into existence necessitated order, and

order requires number.

It is interesting to note that the factors of the number six are the first three integers in the number series. Furthermore, these three integers (1, 2 and 3) are the only set of integers in which each number divides the sum of the other two.

To illustrate: 3 divides (1 + 2)
 2 divides (1 + 3)
 1 divides (2 + 3)

Among some of its other unique number properties, the number six is the first of only two terms within the decad (the number ten), that is composed by the multiplication of two different factors that are not multiples of another number, other than the number one. This attribute is true of only one other number in the decad, namely, the number ten.

To illustrate: 1 = 1 x 1
 2 = 1 x 2
 3 = 1 x 3
 4 = 2 x 2
 5 = 1 x 5
 6 = 2 x 3
 7 = 1 x 7
 8 = 2 x 2 x 2
 9 = 3 x 3
 10 = 2 x 5

Numbers multiplied by themselves produce other numbers, but only the numbers five and six, when multiplied by themselves retain their original number as the last digit in their products:

5 x 5 = **25**
6 x 6 = **36**

5 x 5 x 5 = **125**
6 x 6 x 6 = **216**

$$5 \times 5 \times 5 \times 5 = 625$$

$$6 \times 6 \times 6 \times 6 = 1296$$

and so on...!!

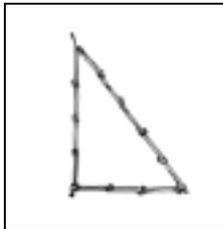
No other numbers aside from unity (the number one) generate self-replication models of themselves as the numbers five and six as illustrated above.



The hexad may be symbolized by a well-known triangle of ancient fame, the “3-4-5 right triangle,” which is commonly known as the Pythagorean triangle. Known well before the time of Pythagoras, the Egyptians viewed the 3-4-5 triangle to be vitally important.

Their fields had to be surveyed yearly because of inundations by the Nile, and this triangle served as their surveying tool. Also termed the Druid’s cord, a woven rope was divided by knotting it so that there are identical increments between the knots. It generally consists of 12 knots. Besides having a zodiacal significance, 12 is the minimum measured length which can be triangulated into a 3-4-5 pattern to result in a perfect 90 degree angle.

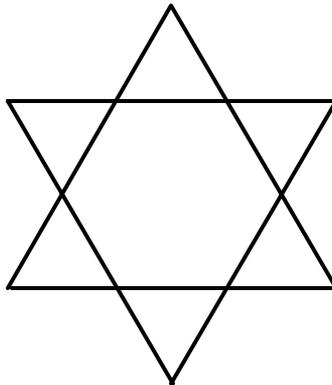
It is curious to note that this symbol displays the sequence from one to six: one right angle, two unequal angles, and sides of three, four and five, which enclose an area of six square units. Recalling the formula for the area of a triangle, $A = \frac{1}{2} (b \times h)$, $\frac{1}{2} (3 \times 4) = 6$.



It is interesting to note that the pronunciation of the name of the number six is similar in several languages, possibly suggesting the archetypal nature of this perfect number. The following examples are the pronunciation, and not necessarily the spelling:

Egyptian:	<i>sas</i>
Assyrian:	<i>sissa</i>
Sanskrit:	<i>sas</i>
Hebrew:	<i>sesh</i>
Arabic:	<i>sitta</i>
Celtic Irish:	<i>se</i>
Latin:	<i>sex</i>
Italian:	<i>sei</i>
French:	<i>sees</i>
Spanish:	<i>seis</i>
Danish:	<i>seks</i>
German:	<i>sechs</i>
Russian:	<i>sestj</i>
English:	<i>six</i>

The number six is the symbol of marriage, because it is formed by the union of two triangles, one masculine and the other feminine, known as the hexagram, the geometric symbol of two interlaced triangles. The triangle with apex pointing upward represents fire (masculine) and the triangle with apex pointing downward represents water (feminine).



These are just a few of the wondrous attributes of the number six. All of the above examples illustrate the inherent “beauty” of this number, which resonates deeply within the Qabalist, for the sixth Sephirah on the Tree of Life is called BEAUTY.

In the next issue, the symbolism of the number “seven,” known to the Pythagoreans as the Heptad, will be explored. The Heptad was called “worthy of veneration” by the Pythagoreans.



KEY 1—THE MAGICIAN

by Paul Foster Case



The title refers to Man as the director of the force by which he transforms his consciousness and reaches the stage known to occultists as *Initiation*. The number 1, which is geometrically symbolized as a point, means *concentration, attention*, a limiting of the field of activity. This refers to the practice which is *absolutely indispensable* to all aspirants for Truth. Until you have learned how to concentrate you cannot perform the Great Work. Study this Key carefully and it will help you to learn to concentrate, for its symbolism was created to that end.

The roses of the arbor symbolize *desire*, and it has been wisely said that “desire is the motivation of evolution.”

The central figure, by his posture, clearly indicates that he draws power from above. This is a central point of occult doctrine, because you cannot even begin to use the subtler forces of nature until you realize that you do nothing of yourself, but simply act as a channel through which the Life-Force expresses itself. His uplifted wand is a symbol of his ability to direct the natural forces with which he works; also of the Hermetic axiom, “That which is above is as that which is below.” The horizontal 8 represents dominion, strength and control, and is also the mathematical sign of infinity. The Magician’s left hand points to the ground in the gesture of *concentration*.

The black hair bound with a white band symbolizes the limitation of ignorance by knowledge. The red rose is action and desire. The white undergarment, symbolizing wisdom, is encircled with the serpent of eternity. The table is the field of attention, which is the workbench of the Magician. The implements are the Wand, Cup, Sword and Pentacle. They represent Fire, Water, Air and Earth; also Will, Imagination, Action and Physical



Embodiment.

The garden is the subconscious mind which is cultivated by the acts of attention of the self-conscious mind. From this garden spring all of the powers of subconsciousness.

Lilies, because they are white and six-petalled, represent the abstract perception of Truth, as well as the cosmic laws and principles by which the universe is sustained.



The result of limitation is an expansion
of consciousness.
This is the principle of evolution.

~ *Ann Davies*

THIS WONDROUS WORLD



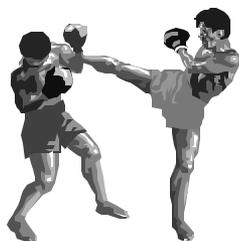
As we learn to look, we find the principles we learn in our lessons illustrated in nature. By the continued practice of looking “into” the world, rather than at surface appearances, we become more and more aware of the glorious Order of the Divine Reality.

Occultists have long affirmed the psychological effects of color, and over the years the scientific community has studied the effects of color on our minds and bodies.



Studies done in the 1940s by Russian scientists showed that red stimulates the sympathetic nervous system, raising blood pressure and heart rate, increasing anxiety and causing general arousal, while blue stimulates the parasympathetic nervous symptom, lowering

blood pressure and inducing feelings of calm, well-being and tranquility. And recently a group of British anthropologists surveying four sports at the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens found that competitors in boxing, Tai Kwon Do, and wrestling were more likely to win their contests if they wore red uniforms or body armor.

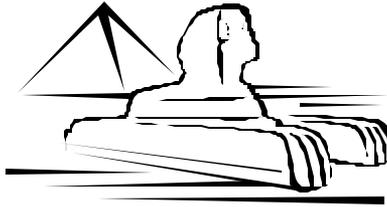


Of course, what one does with this knowledge is of prime importance. Some people attempt to use color’s psychological effects to manipulate people into buying products or “buying” ideas, or to dominate or control others. Such attempts are really a form of black magic. In B.O.T.A.’s work with color, we use our knowledge to aid general healing and wholeness for ourselves and (at their request) for others.

As we become more aware of the effects of color on our minds and emotions, we can be more conscious of our own internal reactions and bring more mental and emotional control to the situations and

circumstances of our everyday lives. We develop more discrimination and see more deeply into events, allowing us to experience all life more fully.

*If you have an interesting article about our natural world to share, send it to **The Lantern**, c/o B.O.T.A., 5101 North Figueroa Street, Los Angeles, CA 90042. Editorial discretion will be used in printing articles.*



Love, beauty, service - understood
aright -
sum up the whole mystery of the
Great Secret.
- Paul Foster Case



Frater A's Corner



uring the past year, a number of natural disasters have claimed the attention of Americans and the world. The Tsunami in Asia last December, Hurricanes Katrina, Wilma and others this fall, and the recent earthquake in Pakistan have all been prominent in the news. We have heard stories and often seen vivid images of those suffering in the aftermath of these events, and our hearts go out to them in their pain. Many members are moved to offer help to those in need, and it has recently been suggested that groups in B.O.T.A. collect clothing, food, and money to be given to disaster victims. This, however, is not the work of B.O.T.A.

Builders of the Adytum is a mystery school, designed to teach and practice the doctrine of the oneness of God, the brotherhood of man, and the kinship of all life, and patterned after the ageless wisdom mystery schools of spiritual training as particularly exemplified by the Holy Qabalah. We have as our major objective the promotion of the welfare of humanity. Unlike many other groups, however, our work is specifically dedicated to aiding the transmutation of each individual so that we may become centers of healing light for the world, participating in the work of alleviating suffering and bringing about the “reign of harmony here on earth.” Our work is interior in nature, and effected through our lessons and other work. Our function is different, but our work is as important as the work done by groups that provide physical aid and comfort to those in distress.

There are many excellent organizations that DO provide physical aid to those in need, and members who are moved to provide direct services to those who suffer are encouraged to contact one or more of these organizations. Many of them have been providing help for many decades and have the structure, knowledge, and expertise to do so efficiently, competently, and compassionately.

B.O.T.A. does not participate on the outer levels of life like the above mentioned organizations. The involvement of B.O.T.A. in alleviating human suffering takes place through each of its members who receive and study the principles of Ageless Wisdom. We are instructed to apply these principles to every aspect of our lives; to live them and to express them through our thoughts, words, and feelings. By being faithful in this practice we change patterns in mass consciousness and help to bring about the true Brotherhood of Man.

The opportunity for brotherhood
presents itself every time
you meet a human being.

~ Jane Wyman



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B.O.T.A. has only one authorized portal on the Internet, www.bota.org with links to www.botaineurope.org (European center) and www.bota.org.nz (New Zealand branch). B.O.T.A. does not have or endorse any on-line study groups or any other websites.

The daily lesson work and practical application of the principles therein in our everyday lives are the life-breath of the spiritual training and work of B.O.T.A., and that which will promote the greatest personal growth. Active participation in groups can also aid in spiritual growth, when group activities are equilibrated within the central focus of self-transmutation—the essential study and practice of the lesson material, B.O.T.A.'s priceless heritage given from the hearts of our beloved Paul Foster Case and Ann Davies. For members interested in the group work aspect of the Order, many areas of the country have officially recognized on-going study groups and Pronaoii, as well as scheduled special events. For information about special events or participation in Pronaos or study group, visit the B.O.T.A. website at <http://www.bota.org> or contact the Regional Coordinator for your area.

You are invited ...

Fratres and Sorores who live in or are visiting Los Angeles are cordially invited to attend the Qabalistic Healing Sunday Service presented every Sunday morning at 11:00 a.m. at the B.O.T.A. Temple in Los Angeles, 5101 N. Figueroa Street. This always special event is open to all.



Contact the Regional Coordinators for your area for information about Pronaos, study groups or special events.

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<p>Questions about Pronaos and Study Groups in your area should be directed to the Regional Coordinator, not to the B.O.T.A. office.</p>



*Creation hath its origin in life unlimited,
Yet for the sake of manifestation
Doth that life descend into the appearance
Of Time and Place,
And that which hath neither end nor beginning
Appeareth to be born,
And to be brought at last to death.*

*Meditation on Daleth
from The Book of Tokens*