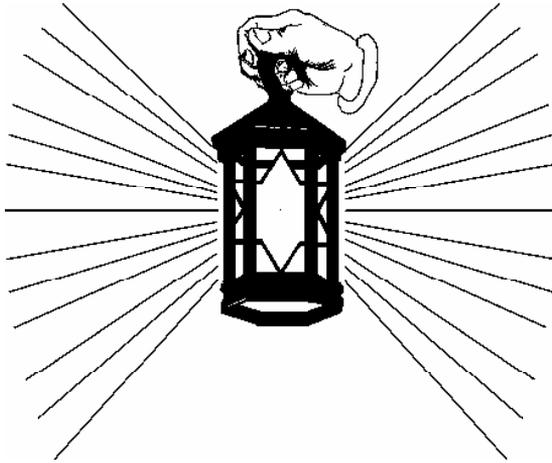


THE LANTERN

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

Psalms 119:105

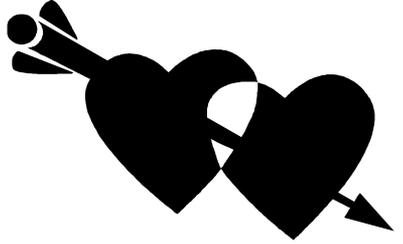
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Love and Be Loved

Ann Davies Sunday Service February 11, 1962

The title for this morning is “Love and Be Loved.” It happens to be my favorite subject. Many of us have heard sayings such as “love is to a man a thing apart and is a woman’s whole existence.”¹ I deny this. I hope you do too. Whoever said that was not thinking about love and there is where we usually run into our main problem: most people apparently do not really know what love is and is not. They get very confused and the result of their confusion is that love doesn’t have the climate it requires for growth and nourishment.



Let’s try to understand a little of the world’s point of view. The little thing we just quoted verifies what we know: men are basically focused on conquering the physical plane. Of course, this is part of the biological necessity. We all have the same genetic background and are consequently all related. Our survival depended on the male acting with all his strength in the outside world. It also depended upon women protecting the children and household. They each had their vital function. The fact that man naturally concentrates more readily on outer conditions is merely a part of psychological heredity, which is in a sense embedded in the biology of *Homo sapiens*. Our very vehicles determine what focus we are going to have in making a living.

We are here in order to attain the full perfection of our being and civilization itself is aimed at liberating us from some of the materialistic concentration which has been required in the primitive past. Not that we should ever walk away from conquering the physical plane. This is our job. But we have evolved to a point where we don’t need to spend as much time on it as we used to. Social and economic conditions are

¹“Man’s love is of man’s a life a thing apart, ‘Tis a woman’s whole existence.”
Lord Byron, *Don Juan*, chapter I, exciv

gradually giving us more and more time for other pursuits.

Separating the idea of loving into male and female categories is not just wrong, it is one of the most dangerous things we can hold in consciousness. The result is that society trains boys and girls in separate fashion. Boys are often told that expression of emotions is shameful, which represses the love nature of the male. Most of the training is on the subconscious level. From the time they are born, little girls are encouraged to express their emotional natures.

The love nature is tied up with what we call the emotional nature. What is it to feel emotions? It is to feel something. What is it to feel love? It is to feel something. Feelings, attractions, whatever their purpose, are certainly part of the beings of both men and women. They need to be expressed in order to understand what they really are, to encourage growth and maturity, because without expression of feelings we cannot find God. That really is the crux of the matter.

Let's examine society's ideas about love a little further. How often have you read in the newspaper an interview with someone who says: "I killed him or her because I loved them." This is love? They thought it was. How many of us have read such a thing and shook our heads saying: "What a damn fool for letting themselves love someone that much!" That is actually accepting that somebody killed somebody else because they loved them. If love is togetherness, if love is attraction or gravitation, destroying a thing does not express love. People often think it does, but jealousy is really at the heart of this kind of experience.

But what is jealousy and possessiveness? We often get confused and don't understand these terms at all. All of these emotions are tied up in the love that relates to friends, parents, and children as well as between males and females. We often hear of a mother who loves her child so much that she won't let him or her do anything and becomes upset if the child shows signs of pulling away from dependency. It is also true of some fathers. Some members of a family might define this smothering as great love. It is not. Actually, it is great self love. We can also get the idea that it is wrong to love ourselves. This is incorrect, too.



It seems we are talking in circles at the moment, but what we are doing is meditating on love and some of the ideas society holds about it. When a mother is said to love her child, we write poems about it and yet don't the ants take tender care of their young? The bees? Almost every creature, every beast in the field does the same. The love of parent for child cannot be separated from the rest of life. We cannot go worshiping at the shrine of mother love or father love. If we separate one type of love from another, we separate it from life. If parental love is so different, then can't we say that parents have within them by nature aspects of God that are different than other types of love? Of course it is a beautiful facet of love, but it is not specific to mankind. It isn't special at all. Creatures have an intense drive to grow their babies to the point where they can fend for themselves. They take care of their young until they can go out into the world on their own.

Some human parents want to be sure that their darling little ones, even at age 40, remain firmly tied by the apron strings so the parents can still exercise their authority. When my daughter was 15, I used to call her "baby-mine." She got very upset with me, saying "Don't call me that. I am not a baby." I said "Look my dear, when I am 120 years old and you near the 100 mark, I will still call you baby, and what are you going to do about it? You're my baby. Can you change the facts? At 100 you will still be a youngster to me." She didn't like this at all until she became an adult. Now she adores it when I call her "baby-mine." It makes her feel young.

Although a parent always feels that way about a child no matter the age, there is still a problem in human consciousness of hanging on because of a need for security. First of all, the baby starts loving the parent because the parent makes it comfortable, loves it, washes it, and gives it food. The baby develops an attachment for that which gives it comfort and affection. This is fine, but we are supposed to grow up and be adults, not babies. Yet many still look for someone to wash them, feed them, love them. When we have this requirement to an excess degree, it is not love at all.

A child goes through the complete review of its psychological evolution. As an embryo the psychological evolution happens fast, from the one-celled creature to the miracle of a human baby. When the baby is born another type of review takes place, from the most primitive psychological consciousness up to the level achieved in previous incarnations. People who have a case of arrested emotional development often say they were damaged because their mother or father did thus and so and damaged a particular emotional ability or capacity. Nonsense. If you look more deeply you will find that it isn't true. **Environment does not make or break a love nature.** It may bring out what is already there. Otherwise, how could some saints come out of the most miserable conditions and mistreatment. And how could some vicious, inhuman criminals come from the most loving families? That would not be true if environmental conditions determined our ability to love or be loved. We are not saying that environment has nothing to do with it. All we are saying is that environment is what brings out the picture and tests the strength of the evolutionary level of each particular soul, both mentally and emotionally.

So never make the mistake of excusing your own lack of lovingness or ability to be loved on the conditioning you had as a child. Those were the conditions your soul brought in with it, whatever Mama did or didn't do. If you had the capacity to love, you'd have gone out and loved something dearly, no matter what was done to you. Tests and trials make some learn how to love even more profoundly because they have a compulsion to love, rather than a compulsion to be loved.

Most human beings hunger, long and yearn for love. They want to be loved. This is a good thing to yearn for, but it will never bring love. When you hunger and yearn in that manner what you are really doing is announcing to subconsciousness that you are not a loving person. Can you see that? At least you are not a loving person in those circumstances. We have cycles. Even though we may be loving at one time, there are other periods when somehow we are not able to love.

Actually, the capacity to love is really the crux of the matter. Therefore, we have to know what love is and what it is not. Most of us feel unlovable, which is a sort of self-hatred. We may feel that way because

of guilt, experience or rejection. Yet these are not the things which keep us from being able to love. When we have the capacity to love, experiences which stir the feeling of being unlovable are not as profound and indeed at times they cannot touch us at all.

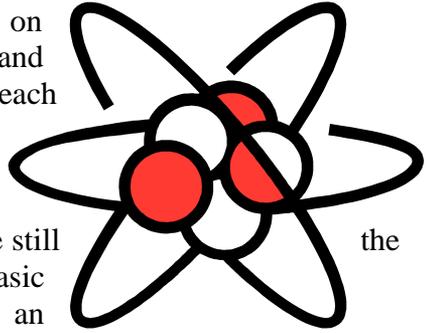
When we feel unlovable, this is what happens: we psychically push away whomever we meet, even when part of us is trying to pull people closer. We're in a double bind and this is what makes so many unhappy experiences. When we feel unlovable we are on a psychological telepathic level which forces people to reject us. **We must stop it!** We have a responsibility to God and ourselves to help bring more love into the world. We have no right to consider ourselves unlovable! We are sitting in judgment and condemning a living, eternal soul that is part of God.

If you think you can love someone else without loving yourself, you are wrong. You may develop an attachment. You might grow dependent on another person or cause them to be dependent on you. All this goes under the guise of love which includes these elements but much more. Many things may look like love because they exhibit aspects and expressions that accompany love.

What about people who are always showing off? These are people who have too much emotion, showing an illness in the heart. They try desperately to show how clever they are, saying, "Now won't you love me?" When we do that we are being infants. The funny thing is that it is alright to be an infant if we are aware of what we are doing and can chuckle at ourselves and with ourselves from a higher point of view. One of our problems is that we don't realize we are children. Consequently, we expect all kinds of things from ourselves and others which aren't fair to expect. Would you expect a three year old to write a treatise on calculus? That's an unreal expectation, and we make them often. This shows we haven't come to understand what love is.



Let's consider what love might look like on the atomic level. When one type of atom and another type of atom get in proximity to each other, they rush together. Scientists say they get married. Out of the marriage a new element is formed. Neither atom is what it was to begin with, yet the parts are still the same. You might say this is basic individuality. This is what happens on an atomic level. We have it on all levels. The same with chemistry. Two harmonious chemicals can fall in love together, rushing together, and a new compound is formed. Two inharmonious chemicals can also get together and the result is an explosion. That's what a bomb is. These principles exist on many levels. Then there is gravitation. No one really knows what gravitation is. We know it is a force that attracts and the quantity of attraction can be calculated by measuring mass. Gravitation is the attraction of one body to another, one element to another. It pulls.



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Isn't this what could be called love on the physical level? When you first learned the earth was round, didn't you wonder why people on the other side didn't fall off? I did. We could say gravitation holds us to the earth, but that doesn't sound poetic enough. So let's say love keeps people from falling off the other side of the globe! There is a force in the universe which holds certain things together. Things are drawn together on both the organic and inorganic levels and this drawing together can certainly be called love. What else could it be called? As we go from level to level we find deeper and more complex expressions of the principle of love.

You've heard the expression, "God is love."² Maybe you've said it to yourself a thousand times. But, wasn't it merely on the intellectual level? Did you really feel what it meant? Feeling what this means is the whole secret in knowing how to love and be loved. You have to recognize that if God is love (and He is) the universe is created in love, through love, of love. The offspring of all creatures are the result of all types of attraction and love. All results are from this cosmic principle and abide within it.

²1John 4:8 "He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love."

As human beings, we have reached a point where we are supposed to learn how to love as God loves. And how does God love? You've heard the saying: "The sun shines on the just and unjust alike."³ Loving as God loves is THE big job that humanity has to learn. We have to learn what love is and is not.

I had an experience along this line with my little dog. She is now in heaven, but we never lose anything we have ever loved – never at all. Tzaddi was stubborn, jealous, possessive, destructive etc., etc. but I loved her. I found every one of her dreadful characteristics charming! I thought I had a very beautiful love nature and couldn't see that it needed any improvement at all! I felt sorry for other people because they didn't have such a nice love nature. Something happened and I discovered I wasn't reacting with such a beautiful love nature at all. This upset me very much and I went into an emotional trauma. I was really falling to pieces emotionally, when my little dog Tzaddi came up to me and started to comfort me. I looked at her and suddenly had the most tremendous perception. Through her eyes I lost all contact with the physical world. I was in a spiritual awareness and realized what practically all of us do all of the time. It was really terrible to learn that we keep selling each other a certain amount of love and affection. You do this for me and I'll do this for you. I'll love you if you love me. You make me feel secure and I will make you feel secure. We are all at the bargain counter.



I saw that this is what occurs because people need to protect themselves from pain. This is something we understand. So in order to do this, people put a wall around their emotions. This is what I saw in the spiritual state prompted by Tzaddi's desire to comfort me. People measure out the amount of love they are going to give. Do you know

³Matthew 5:45 "That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust."

what happens? They are not really giving from the depth of their heart. They lose the capacity they had. “He who would not risk his heart will have to step away from love, he will laugh, but not all of his laughter. He will weep but not all of his tears.”⁴

This is the fundamental problem with people. Most of us are not too highly evolved. Human beings are basically quite selfish, like infants, trying to grasp security for themselves, forgetting that it is more rewarding to be more concerned about another person’s security. For fear of hurt or rejection, people lock away their emotions. They lock away the very factor that is going to bring them to union with God.

We all work for liberation. We all want to experience Divine Love. We want to have unity with the Divine Life. That means love. How are we going to have it if we have been carefully locking away our love, measuring it out, making deals with people, then becoming upset when they don’t keep what we consider to be their part of the bargain?

When you have the capacity for true love, you will love eternally, but you will not be able to get anybody else to promise to love you eternally. If a person has developed the capacity to love, he will know from his own spiritual center that he is going to love you eternally because he will have reached the perception that real love is eternally in his own heart. He will also know that promises mean nothing.

what I mean about trying to get others to promise something that isn’t under their control at all? What do you think it is to love? It means the grace of God is pouring through you towards another. That’s what it is to be loved. What do you think it is to be loved? It is the grace of God pouring to you from the other direction. In order to have the grace of God, we have to stop being so protective of our little personality and start learning how to give emotions over to the Higher Self. We have to learn how to start pouring from within out instead of searching to pull

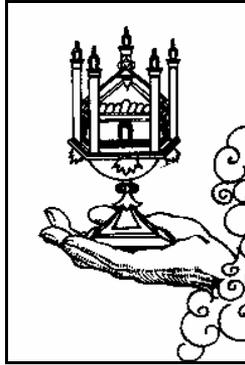
⁴Kahil Gibran, *The Prophet*, “On Love”:

“But if in your fear you would seek only love’s peace and love’s pleasure,
“Then it is better for you that you cover your nakedness and pass out of
love’s threshing-floor,
“Into the seasonless world where you shall laugh, but not all of your
laughter, and weep, but not all of your tears.”

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from the outside in. This is what we have to do. How are we going to do it?

*The continuation of this talk, entitled "The Art of Forgiveness," will be featured in the next issue of **The Lantern**.*



*I have found that if you love life,
life will love you back.*

~ Arthur Rubinstein



KEY 0—THE FOOL

by Paul Foster Case

The symbolism of the Fool is best explained by first considering the meaning of the Hebrew letter Aleph attributed this Key. *Aleph* means *Ox*. Oxen symbolize the motive power in agriculture, because they were used to pull plows, etc. Agriculture is the basic form of civilization. Thus the letter Aleph symbolizes Cultural Power, Creative Energy, Life-Power, the vital principle of plants, animals, and Men which comes to us in physical form as the energy of the Sun. This principle is also called Life-Breath. It is the Greek *Pneuma*, the Sanskrit *Prana*, the Hebrew *Ruach*, the Latin *Spiritus*. Literally these words mean “breath.” Secondly, they refer to the Spirit, or all-pervading Life-energy.



This meaning is substantiated by the title, for Fool is derived from the Latin *folis* meaning a “bag of wind.” Thus the Fool symbolizes that which contains air, or Breath. The number 0 carries this idea a step farther. It is a symbol of the limitless, unconditioned Life-Power. The 0 is shaped like an egg, hence it symbolizes that which contains all of the potencies of growth and development. Occultists will understand that we refer to the Cosmic Egg, and to the Ring-Pass-Not.

In the picture the Sun refers to the ONE FORCE. It is white to indicate that it is the Universal Radiant Energy which is concentrated by and radiated from all of the suns in the universe.

The mountains represent the abstract mathematical conceptions which are behind all knowledge of Nature. As such, they are cold and uninteresting to many. But the melting of the snow upon the peaks feeds the streams that make fertile the valleys below. So will the principles of Ageless Wisdom feed your consciousness and make fertile your mental

imagery, thus transforming your life.

The Fool is Eternal Youth. He shows that the ONE FORCE never ages, is always at the height of its power. His attitude expresses confidence and joyful aspiration.

The wreath around the Fool's head symbolizes the vegetable kingdom; also Victory. The wand is Will, the wallet Memory. The white rose represents purified desire. The Fool's garments consist of a white undergarment and a black outer one which is lined with red. White is purity, truth and wisdom. It is covered with the black of ignorance and delusion, which is lined with passion, action and desire. It is held with a girdle having twelve ornaments, seven of which are showing. This girdle represents time, and astrologers will find the contemplation of this symbology of much interest. The wheels which ornament the outer garment are eight-spoked. They symbolize the whirling motion by which the ONE FORCE manifests itself. The little dog symbolizes the intellect, the merely reasoning mind. He is a faithful companion, but must have a master.



THE LIMITATION OF FORM

by Harriet B. Case

“There is no ‘two’ unless you are a worshipper of form: Before Him who is without form, all becomes One.” - Sham-Tabriz

“To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the Heaven.” - Ecclesiastes.

Every incarnate Soul is climbing the “Mountain of Attainment.” Some, who have a greater intensity than others, more one-pointed desire and drive, go straight up the shorter, but more difficult, way. Others climb steadily, but more slowly, on a spiral path. All will eventually reach the top - the goal of conscious realization of unity with the ONE, and so with all life.

This journey towards the mountain top is fraught with many hardships, dangers, and painful experiences; but these strengthen our spiritual muscles and give us strength of character and compassion for our fellow men and all creatures. This is the Saturn influence that compresses, restricts, and limits us in various ways.

The original Biblical reference to the Sabbath was Saturday (Saturn’s day), and this by interpretation was the day of rest, of meditation, and quiet contemplation of the words of God. It is said that no soul can pass through the ring of Saturn to enter the Temple of Heaven until it has passed the fine tests which Saturn sets. This is why Saturn is called the “Ring-pass-not.” Nevertheless, Saturn can be considered as man’s greatest friend.



It is the influence of Saturn that is the form maker. Remember that Binah, the Cosmic Mother on the Qabalistic Tree of Life, is the *sphere* of Saturn whose influences condition all manifestation. This is because all forms are in themselves a limitation. But it is because of this limitation and discipline

experienced through various restricting forms that the spirit becomes individualized, Self-conscious, and aware of who and what it is and its purpose in the Divine Plan.

The cause of what is called sin, is ignorance, the turning away of the human Soul from the vision of its true Self and the identifying of itself with the garments (the forms) it wears; thus making a false self, separate and apart from God, the origin and source of its being.

In order to return to the state of sinlessness, typical of the Garden of Eden, man must destroy the false Ego he built up during his time of ignorance and separateness. One by one he must drop the veils or covers in which the Soul is wrapped until it stands face to face with God in the state of original purity "naked and unashamed." Then it will have that precious quality of Self-consciousness, and the understanding that the secret of man's power lies in identification with his true Self, or the God within.



One never falls but on the side toward which one leans.---Guizot



BE AN ANGEL . . .



- Print or type your complete name and address on all correspondence.
- Please include the course name on all examination papers.
- Clearly label all checks or money orders by writing "Dues" or "Donation" on the memo line.
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Thank you, Your Loyal Office Staff

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THE PENTAD

“It is a frequent assertion of ours that the whole universe is manifestly completed and enclosed by the Decad, and seeded by the Monad, and it gains movement thanks to the Dyad and life thanks to the Pentad.”

– Attributed to Iamblichus (c. 250-c.330, Greek Neoplatonic philosopher influenced by Pythagoras)

According to the Pythagoreans, the pentad – the number 5 – is the union of an odd and an even number (3 and 2). This number is called equilibrium, because it divides the number 10 into two equal parts.

The pentad is symbolic of Nature, of regeneration, because when it is multiplied by itself, it returns into itself. For example, consider how grains of wheat, which start in the form of seed, pass through Nature’s processes and reproduce the seed of the wheat as the ultimate form in its growth process.



The pentad is seen in many other expressions of nature, from your hand to the pattern of the core of an apple or a pear cut in half at its equator to the sand dollar. Pentagonal structures are in nature everywhere – leaves have the same symmetry as your hands, for example.

According to the Pythagoreans, the pentad is sometimes referred to the hierophant, or the priest of the Mysteries, because of its connection to the spiritual nature, by means of which mystical development is attained.

Numbers multiplied by themselves produce other numbers, but only the numbers 5 and 6, when multiplied by themselves represent and retain their original number as the last digit in their products:

$$5 \times 5 = 25$$

$$6 \times 6 = 36$$

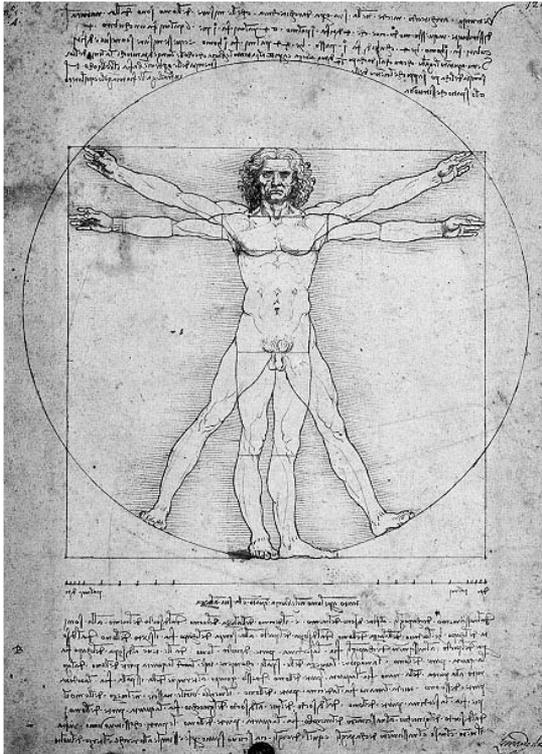
The tetrad (the four elements) plus the monad equals the pentad. In this connection, the Pythagoreans taught that the elements of fire, earth, air and water were permeated by a substance called ether, the basis of vitality and life. Therefore, they chose the 5-pointed star or pentagram as

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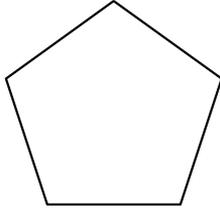
the sacred symbol of light, vitality and health.



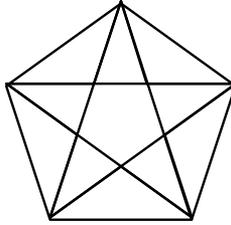
The pentagram is also a representation of man with arms and legs outstretched and head erect.



A most curious wonder of the pentagram is that it is the first geometrical symbol that is considered to be regenerative, or of continuous perpetuation. Starting with a pentagon, a five-sided geometrical polygon, connect the points from vertice to vertice.



This results in another pentagram!



Then connect the vertices within the resulting pentagon in the center, and you have another pentagram, and then connect the points again within the resulting pentagon and this results in another pentagram, and then, and then, and then,...! As you can see, this multiplies endlessly! This also applies to the reverse – by extending the lines of the pentagon, the formation of an infinite number of pentagons and pentagrams are generated! Truly, the pentad holds the principles of regeneration geometrically, as seen and experienced in all of Nature.

As for other symbolic meanings, it was customary for the philosophers to conceal the element of earth under the symbol of a dragon. Many of the heroes of antiquity were told to “go forth and slay the dragon.” Hence, they drove their sword (the monad) into the body of the dragon (the tetrad). This resulted in the formation of the pentad, a symbol of the victory of the spiritual nature over the material nature.

In Christian mysticism, the number five stands for the Christ, or the spirit resurrected from the tomb of matter. The number four is the cross upon which the one is crucified. Only as the lower nature is subjugated or crucified does the personal ego begin to rise toward freedom through recognition of its innate divinity.

Undoubtedly, Pythagoras was influenced when he traveled and studied in

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Egypt, where the five-pointed star was well known. The five-pointed star was known earlier in even more ancient civilizations. The Egyptian underworld, known as the *duat*, is represented by the hieroglyph of a circle surrounded by a five-pointed star within a circle. It is the symbol of the place at night where the stars go when they sink below the horizon at dusk. The *duat* is therefore symbolic of our own spiritual sleep from which we can awaken. The Egyptian hieroglyph without the circle surrounding it signified a nighttime star, a door, or a teaching. An important point to consider in this glyph is that the sun's inevitable rising into dawn and daylight, which symbolizes our own spiritual arising, is resisted in the *duat* by hideous adversaries, or the illusions within us.

The Pentad clearly illustrates in a most wondrous way the "five-ness" of the pentagram as no other geometrical figure, and as clearly seen in Nature to the one who observes.

In the next issue, the symbolism of the number "six," known to the Pythagoreans as the Hexad, will be explored. The Hexad is regarded as the symbol of marriage, because it is formed by the union of two triangles, one masculine and the other feminine.



Frater A's Corner

GIVING THANKS

It often seems like there is much in our lives that we are NOT thankful for. We may have bad health, a job we don't like, troubled personal relationships. In fact, when we come to the Thanksgiving time of year and the darkness of the winter is beginning to set in, we may feel, "What have I got to be thankful for?" At those times, hearing about "giving thanks" may seem like the most inappropriate thing in the world.

However, Giving Thanks is a magical power – an act of acquiescence in the benevolent Will of God that enables us to partake, ever more abundantly, in the riches of heaven here on earth.

In the New Testament, the word "Thankful" is EUCHARISTOS (ευχαριστος).⁵ In the Hebrew method of Gematria, phrases with equivalent value to EUKARISTOS are: "Out of the Heavens" (Ἐκ τοῦ οὐρανοῦ), "And the Books were opened" (καὶ βιβλοηνεωχθησαν). Another phrase with the same value is: "The Lord is With Thee (Luke 1:28) (Ὁ κύριος μετὰ σοῦ), the words with which the Angel greeted Mary when he told her she would bear the Child of God. From all these we get a sense of an outpouring from "below" in response to an outpouring of blessing from Above, like the flow between two poles of a magnet.

The actual expression "GIVING THANKS" is EUKARISTISESAS (Ευχαριστησας),⁶ and it is used in all four gospels. It occurs only in a few passages, and there are parallels between all of them. In Mathew, Mark, and John, it is used in the description of one of the miracles of the loaves and fishes. In Mathew (15:35-38), we read:

⁵ The value of Eukaristos is 1886.

⁶ Gematria value 2025.



“And he commanded the multitude to sit down on the ground. And he took the seven loaves and fishes, and GAVE THANKS, and brake them and gave to his disciples, and the disciples to the multitude. And they did all eat, and were filled: and they took up of the broken

meat that was left seven baskets full. And they that did eat were four thousand men, beside women and children.”

In all three gospels Jesus GAVE THANKS, and *then* broke the bread. Christ’s gratitude for the abundance they were about to receive was responded to with a miracle of beneficence that fed over 4,000 people.

In Luke, the term is used to describe a miracle in which a leper was cleansed, and this passage is very telling (Luke 17:11-19):

“And it came to pass, as he went to Jerusalem, that he passed through the midst of Samaria and Galilee. And as he entered into a certain village, there met him ten men that were lepers, which stood afar off.

And they lifted up their voices and said, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us.”

And when he saw them, he said unto them. “Go shew yourselves unto the priests.” And it came to pass, that, as they went, they were cleansed.

And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God.

And fell down on his face at his feet, GIVING HIM THANKS; and he was a Samaritan.

And Jesus, answering, said: “Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine?”

“There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger.”

And he said unto him. “Arise, go thy way: thy faith hath made thee whole.”

In this passage, we see that the glorification of God by **GIVING THANKS** is a kind of “profession of faith” – it expresses a realization and gratitude for the abundance of God.

Jesus says, “Your faith has made you whole.” We don’t hear what happened to the other nine lepers – whether they were temporarily cleansed or made truly whole. But what we **DO** hear seems to indicate that it is the **FAITH** of the Samaritan that has brought about true healing.

The term “**GIVING THANKS**” is also used in Mathew, Mark and Luke in the description of the first Sacrament of the **EUCCHARIST**, the most holy rite of orthodox Christianity.

In Mark, the oldest of the four gospels, we read:

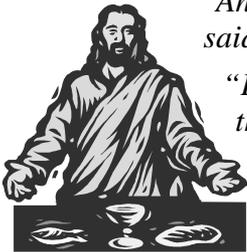
“And as they did eat, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and brake it, and gave to them, and said, “Take, eat: this is my body.”

*“And he took the cup, and when he had **GIVEN THANKS**, he gave it to them: and they all drank of it.*

*“And he said unto them, “This is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for the many.”
(Mark 14:22-24).*



In Mathew, the words are almost the same. Luke’s version (22: 17-19) is a little different:



*“And he took the cup, and **GAVE THANKS**, and said, “Take this, and divide it among yourselves:*

“For I say unto you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine, until the kingdom of God shall come.

*“And he took bread, and **GAVE THANKS**, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, “This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me.”*

So in the gospels, **GIVING THANKS** correlates with the transubstantiation of wine to the mystical **BLOOD** of Christ, and with

the mystical transformation of bread into the BODY of Christ.

In Greek, the language in which the New Testament was written, the word for BLOOD is AIMA (αἷμα), with a value of 52, the same value of the Hebrew BEN (בֵּן), Son. By GIVING THANKS is the WORD the wine becomes transformed into the blood of the Son of God – it becomes filled with the life of BEN. This is, indeed, a profound mystery.

What is this mysterious power by which GIVING THANKS makes things holy, or makes things filled with the life-blood of the SON?

Let us delve into the Old Testament, where the word “GIVE THANKS is Yah-DAH (יָדָה), which means, more literally, “to stretch out the hand.” Its meanings include: To revere, to worship; to throw (as a stone); to praise, to confess, to bemoan (by wringing the hands), to give thanks.

YOD means, literally, Hand. In Tarot it is symbolized by Key 9, the Hermit. Interestingly, 2025, the Gematria number of *Eukaristisesas*, “Giving Thanks,” reduces to 9, the number that indicates COMPLETION, illustrated in Key 9. This is another indication that giving thanks is a completion – a response by us to the Life-Power’s beneficence that, in fact, completes it.

Yod is said to be the basis of the entire Hebrew alphabet, and *-h* is an ending which makes the word feminine, or receptive. So, GIVING THANKS is, literally, reaching out one’s hands in response to the power of the One; becoming receptive to that power.



In Gematria, *Yah-dah* יָדָה adds to 19, the number of Tarot Key 19, the Sun, the number also of “Khavvah” (חַוָּה), Eve, which means: “Life-Giver.”

“Throwing stones,” and “bemoaning” are negative responses to the same outpouring of the Life-power. In “throwing stones” one reaches out one’s hand in an act of aggression, and isn’t this often how we respond to life’s experiences, when we don’t like them? Either that or we

bemoan our fate, wringing our hands, rather than reaching out to God in gratitude.

In all the passages in the Old Testament that begin “Give Thanks to the Lord,” *yah-dah* is spelled differently (1 Chron 16:8, Ps 105:1, 106:1, 107:1): **וַדַּהּ** which has the value 21, the number of **אֵהְיֶה** EHEYEH, the ONE; also of **יְהוּ** *Yeho*, the shortened form of Tetragrammaton, applied especially to the Formative World. It is also the value of the following words: **חֵזֶן** *khezev*, Vision, form, appearance; **הַגִּיג** *hawgeeg*, Meditation; and **זָכוּר** *zachav*, Purity. Reflection on these correspondences can be very fruitful.

Thus, the power that we are magnetically responding to, in such a manner as to complete a circuit, is the power of the Hand of God – the unswerving Beneficence that brings about all good. By giving thanks, we are actively participating in the work of God – we are putting ourselves in the position that brings about all good, that makes all our experience Holy.

That IS something to give thanks about!



*Life is like an ever-shifting
kaleidoscope
– a slight change, and all patterns
alter.*

~ Sharon Salzberg

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

The B.O.T.A. lessons are mailed once a month, four lessons to each packet. Mailings are either on the first or third Wednesday of the month.

Your membership number is the 4- or 5- digit number above your name on the mailing label, followed by the *Renewal date*.

Membership expires at the END of the month indicated. Please send membership dues to arrive at the office at least one week prior to the last day of the month shown, so your lessons arrive on time and are not interrupted.

Thank you for always clearly including your full name, address and membership number on all correspondence to the B.O.T.A. office.



*A moment's insight is sometimes worth
a life's experience.*

~ Oliver Wendell Holmes



Visit the B.O.T.A. Home Page at <http://www.bota.org>

- ★ Latest updates of regional activities and special events
- ★ Selected articles from the archives of *Adytum News Notes* and *Zenith News Notes*
- ★ *Open Door* requests
- ★ New member application
- ★ Online catalog of books, tapes, diagrams
- ★ Dues payments online

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.



THE LANTERN

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>

I am the goad of action,
which impelleth and directeth
the great ox of the breath of life.

I am the power of equilibration
which holdeth ruach in balance
between formation and destruction,
as a driver with his goad
keepeth his ox from straying off the highway.
yet is this directive power inherent in ruach itself,
for I myself am that great breath of life.

the book of tokens
the meditation on lamed

