

RELIGION

Religion. That word of eight letters carries great potency or rather it should carry great ~~potency~~ potency for if religion is anything at all, it is the most dynamic influence in the Universe. Perhaps the question most ~~uppermost~~ uppermost in your minds this evening is, "What is "Psychiana" and what is this man Robinson teaching?" I don't believe there is an individual in the State of Idaho, certainly not in the City of Moscow ~~that~~ ^{who} can answer that question.

If religion is backed by the Power of God, who is the great Creative Intelligence behind this Universe, then certainly religion is a dynamic thing. Perhaps your experience and mine and the experience of others leads us to believe that religion is some intangible philosophy, very beautiful to theorize upon and containing great promise of what it can accomplish in the life to come.

I have no use ~~for~~ ^{for} that kind of religion and do not believe that it is religion at all. True religion is Power. It is Influence and true Power and Influence carry a potency so terrible that kings reel off their thrones, armies stand aghast before its pitiless command, electrified into obedience. His~~o~~story has recorded many instances of men and women dominated by the terrific Power of Influence.

Scientists have looked into the human mind seeking perchance to find there, the origin of this subtle, intangible Power which effects man's relationship with man and with the Universe. The ancient Yogis and Aryan Hindoos, devoted centuries to unraveling the secrets of the control of the human mind, and to divulge those secrets meant more than the forfeiture of life itself. They realized that human intelligence is frail and finite, but life infinite; that to be forewarned is to be forearmed. They knew that every moment of one's life has to be accounted for; that they must lean on no one, yet not stand aloof; that rust destroys more than use. Their philosophy was and is one of deeds, not words; they understood that impossible is the adjective of fools; fear is the proof of a degenerate mind; speech is silvern, silence is golden; that one must be master of his own faculties and slave to none of his desires; that as a man thinketh in his heart, so will he become, and that every action is the result of a preconceived idea. They taught that a great character founded on the living rock of principle, is a fact, not a solitary phenomenon, to be at once perceived, limited, and described. It is a dispensation of Providence designed to have not merely an immediate but a continuous, progressive, and never-ending agency. Such a character survives the man who possesses it, and leaves its imprint not only upon the sands of time, but upon eternity.

The solution to the problems of life is most certainly contained in what we choose to call "the Mind", and to understand the Mind is to understand the Life Eternal. For to live in the physical body is to be imprisoned, but to be able at will to leave it and to travel into world hitherto unknown is a pure joy and all this knowledge of the spirit is much more easily acquired than most people imagine. They do not realize that it is first necessary to have faith. Are we not told in your Bible that to him that believeth, all things are possible? Is it not wise then to utter this prayer, "Lord I believe, help thou mine unbelief."

Did you notice how Jesus oftentimes, when performing his so-called miracles, said, "Look on me." Have you noticed how the paragrapher often quotes that Jesus "fastened his eyes upon him". Surely this great religious leader knew the value of the Power of the human mind. What a pity it is that present-day students of religious philosophies seek to explain the origin and source of their philosophy and seek to prove its existence entirely oblivious of the hidden source of Power at their command through personal contact with true religion. As you know, I own a beautiful car. People often gather around that car. They comment upon its beauty and construction. They discuss the Power of the 320 horse power motor and some excitement is caused, wherever that car is seen, and it is a wonderful car and it did cost plenty of money. But in admiring the car and discussing its power, those interested in it, unless they get in the car and travel with me, do not actually experience the Power that lies latent in that motor, ready to spring into action at the turn of the switch.

So, it might easily be in this much-discussed Realm of religion. We compare different religions and we analyze them. We comment upon and sometimes criticize the leaders of these differing religious philosophies, but I am afraid that all too often, we miss entirely the subtle, intangible power of those religions. It should not be a question of whether you and I agree that this or that religious philosophy is correct, but it should be a question of the Power these philosophies contain.

I say the great Power Realm of the race has its seat of action in the human mind. Yes I go one step further than that and I state that the human mind or what we call the human mind, is but a little tiny part, perhaps, of the great Realm of the Eternal God. In vain does the physiologist and psychologist attempt to explain the processes by which the human mind functions. In vain do they advance this hypothesis and that hypothesis and while undoubtedly there is a connection, between the physiological human structure and the human mind, yet to attempt to explain the workings of the human mind by either physics or psychology must fail through the weakness of the attempt.

We study the lives of the great Masters of the East and the great thinkers of the West. We theorize upon those who have left their religious mark in the hall of fame. We look at the foot prints on the sands of time of those master minds who have, through their thinking, left the world just a little bit more advanced than it was prior to their arrival on the scene.

We marvel at the Power of these minds and in some cases, some have tacked ~~divinity~~ the curse of "divinity" onto them. Every system of religion has had its master mind. It has also had its book, which its adherents have considered, and still do consider, more than human origin and authority. The Brahman has his Vidas, The Buddhist his tripitakā, the Parsee his avesta, the Moha~~man~~^{medan} his Koran, the Hebrew his scriptures and the Christian his Bible. All of these sacred books picture a master mind.

History is full of religious master minds. So great and so powerful have been their lives and so filled with subtle magnetic influence were their personalities that their ~~histories were-exaggerated-and-miracle-after-miracle-was-tacked-on-to-them.~~ names will ever remain on History's scroll.

These sacred books have made effort after effort to describe their so-called divine originators, and the followers of these sacred books have stood ~~against~~ aghast at the mighty miracles therein recorded. We read the story of the Nazarene Christ in Jesus as he bids the dead to rise. We recall his statement in the days of long ago when he said that if we had faith, we could not only do the things he did, but greater things. His own words were, "Greater things than these shall ye do for I go unto my father." It was by the careful adjustment of the Spiritual vibrations of that master mind to the vibrations emanating from the fig tree that he was able to command and be obeyed. When he commanded the fig tree to wither, immediately it withered away. But the great Nazarene had no time to spend in discussing this religious sect or that religious sect. You will recall that on reported one occasion they ~~brought-to-him~~ brought a man who was reputedly duplicating his miracles. You will note that the great Christ did not question and interrogate this man at all. He did not even send for him, but told his disciples to leave him alone, stating that no man could do those miracles unless the Power of the great Father God was in him.

By what Power was it that the one-armed Napoleon was enabled to lead his soldiers to victory against overwhelming odds? By what Power were Moody and Sankey enabled to change the mental attitude of tens of thousands of people under the impulse of religious emotion? By what power was the great Buddha enabled to exercise his sway over India's seething millions? By what power did one frail little woman, Mrs. Eddy, bring into existence one of the most fruitful of all religions and by what power have the teachings of Jesus Christ met with so much success?

We sit at the feet of ~~the~~ great orators of History and every word they utter has magic power for the time being and

holds undivided sway in our minds. Is not this what happened in the days of Jesus Christ, the greatest of all master minds on earth, whose words held untold power. Did not the hymn writers record faithfully, that "No word from thee can fruitless fall?" When we listen to the great orator and are entranced for the time being, forgetting that we are sitting in the edifice but are letting our thoughts be carried away by the ~~eee~~ orator: we are for the time being under the susceptible power of the words spoken by that orator, but from whence does he derive his Power? Shall we say that he has a great mind? Shall we say that he possesses a magnetic personality? That may be partly true, in fact, that is true, but from whence cometh this Power? How comes it that a Scotch preacher and a blind man, by the way, can write the words of the hymn which will last as long as time lasts:

"Oh, love that wilt not let me go,
I yield my flickering torch to thee.
I give thee back the life I owe,
That in thine ocean depths, its flow
May richer, fuller be."

By what power is a General Booth able to stand alone among the brickbats and cabbages of the slums of London and in a few years bring into existence a religious movement, whose tentacles encircle the globe?

I am not so much concerned now with these religious philosophies as I am with the Power behind their originating forces. I shall forego, at this time, any question as to the "divine inspiration" or "human inspiration" of the teaching. For what I am trying to discover is the secret of the impelling power of these differing religious philosophies. For if we find that Power, we may very safely admit that every religious philosophy having its inception in any man or woman, motivated by the same Power, must contain the Truth. Perhaps no religious philosophy advanced today contains any more than one angle of Truth, yet every different angle may be a true angle.

Now, where is all this leading us? We live in a changing era, History is being made over night. There are many whom old creeds and dogmas do not satisfy. There are large religious organizations who are not satisfied with the very doctrines they are teaching. The doctrines may be perfectly sound and logical and spiritual, but both individual ministers and entire organizations have lost confidence in their own philosophies. Is this the fault of the philosophy? Perhaps not. Rather would I say, it perhaps might be through a loss of recognition of the Power behind the philosophy.

We make a vital mistake if we look to creeds or dogma or teaching for the Source of Power. These creeds and dogmas and teachings are usually but the results of Power in the life of some master mind who has learned the worth-while lesson of discovering this vast storehouse of spiritual Power, which I am convinced exists today. The Baptist denomination, in fact the church as a whole, is torn in twain today as it argues with itself and fights with itself as to whether this teaching or that

teaching is right or wrong.

The Modernist fights with the Fundamentalist and vice versa. The Protestant fights with the Catholic and the Mormon fights with them both. The world has seen more bloodshed as a result of religious intolerance than it ever saw through any other cause. But, what are they fighting for? When Micheal Servitus was ordered brutally murdered, just a few hundred years ago by the founder of the present Pæsbyterian denomination, what was the cause of the murder? Well, I'll tell you. Dr. Servitus made the statement that the doctrine of the Trinity was not true and John Calvin, the great religious leader caused his brutal death. Simply a difference of opinion on a religious expression, which in so sense of the word ~~ever~~ was fundamental.

You will recall the beautiful hymn of Dr. Washington Gladden.

"Oh, Master let me walk with thee,
In lowly paths of service free.
Teach me thy patience, ~~te~~ ^{help} me bear
The strain of toil, the fret of care.

"Teach me thy patience; still with thee
In closer, dearer company.
In work that keeps faith, sweet and strong,
In trust that triumph over wrong.

No man could originate that sentiment unless he were first in definite, close and vital contact with the great Spirit of God behind this entire created scheme of things. Yet the ~~so~~ Congregational Church threw Dr. Gladden out of its fold because his ideas did not jibe with the ideas of the Congregational Church.

Harry Emerson Fosbick went through the same experience. They strain at a gnat and swallow a camel.

If you and I, my feiends, are to make our marks on the religious history of our time, we shall strain at no gnats and swallow no camels. We shall not be concerned with this or that religion, comparigg them with our own and, of course, considering our own to be the only true religion. Instead, we shall concentrate our efforts on first finding and possessing some definite, tangible, spiritual power upon which to build our life's structure.

Let those argue who have time to argue. Let those debate, who choose to debate. History is not made by argument. Lives are not transformed by debate, neither will the Power of the Spirit of God be made known in this world by those methods. If I were asked for a parting word of advice to all existing religious denominations, this would be my word:

"TARRY YE AT JERUSELEM UNTIL YE BE ENDOWED WITH
POWER FROM ON HIGH."

The churches of today are firing at cross purposes. They have no common objective and they possess very little, if any of that dynamic, hypnotic, subtle, invisible power, coming only from the Realm of God and until they lay down their weapons of warfare and become baptised and supercharged with the dynamic power of the Realm of God, they will utterly fail and their followers will seek elsewhere for Spiritual Truth.

The Power of God is the Power of God, no matter who demonstrates it and you will notice that I use the word demonstrate and not the word Preach. We have preachers by the thousand, but very few demonstrators, and until such time as the church becomes a demonstrating body, demonstrating by its own personal knowledge the results of its Spiritual Power, until that time, we might just as well have no church as far as its Spiritual Power is concerned.

RELIGION, of course, there is religion. There are not 1001 religions, however, there is but one. Jesus Christ had no monopoly on Spiritual Power, any more than Buddha or Krishna or any of the rest of the master minds of antiquity have. Nor is it necessary in order to find true religion to even mention the name of any of these presumably world saviours. True religion goes deeper than that. It is infinitely beyond that, no one man can absorb all the Truths of God and that at no time did the great God of this universe ever delegate all of his Powers to one, frail human body. That philosophy misses the gem of Truth of true religion.

Let me carry you back to a story from your own Bible. You will recall that the great Nazarene foreseeing the destruction of Jerusalem, stood upon the slopes of the nearby hills and perhaps, with the tears streaming down his face, he lifted up his arms and said, "Oh, Jerusalem, Jerusalem, how oft would I have gathered you, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, but ye would not."

Now, my final word to my readers is this, the same great ocean of Power, the same great ocean of Infinite Love, the same great God-head is grieving over the United States, our modern Jerusalem today. Let every man and woman considering ~~and~~ embarking in the ministry or in the priesthood, first of all go back to that city of Jerusalem, find the Power of the great master mind of the Christian religion and in and through that power, learn the secret of keeping quiet until the great Spirit of God speaks to you. Then when that happens, you need have no fear regarding either the success or the future of your work.