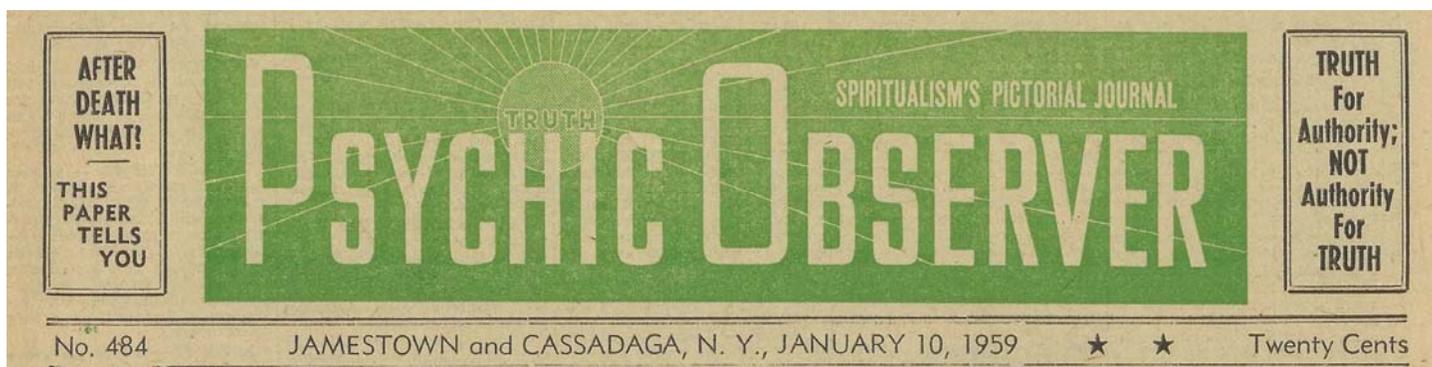


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Teaching Of Brotherhood

(With quotations from [the USB's foremost spirit leader], Alcoon and High Mountain.)

By **MICHAEL FLAGG**

[No longer], San Francisco 18, Calif.

The columns of **Psychic Observer** reveal a growing concern over the evils that have corrupted much of mediumship today.

But it cannot possibly match the concern of Illumined Ones in spirit, who have long realized that what **should** be, and what was **meant** to be, an instrument of the greatest good for mankind, is far too often an instrument for evil.

The gift of mediumship is unquestionably one of the greatest gifts that man can possess. But unless it is accompanied by spirituality, it is a doubtful blessing.

What is harmful is not the use, but the misuse, of any force; and psychic power — like fire, electricity, and atomic energy — can be used either for good or for evil. The choice is ours.

Apart from fraud, which has unfortunately become comparatively common, mediums too often restrict their psychic force to the trivialities and banalities of a kindergarten level of communication.

Proof of survival is of course vital and important. It is a first step, and a most important step, to truth. But it is only a first step; it is by no means the entire journey—a journey of almost unimaginable beauty.

An Illumined One says that **some mediums** “do not fully recognize the tremendous force and power which they themselves possess, and... in consequence **have debased the gift of the spirit with which they have been endowed, and have endeavored to strangle truth;** and also, by the powers that they have, have endeavored to hold down those around and about them who have endeavored to find truth.”

Another says: “We must remember that **the limitations are set not by us, but by the instruments we use.** And if the instruments that we use are open in their heart and mind, free in their heart and mind and spirit, if they can put themselves in the background... **if they can be humble and know they are in the world to serve God and humanity, then indeed it is possible for us to do great things!**”

If mediums would eschew jealousy, and bitterness, and intolerance, and pettiness; if they would not, consciously or unconsciously, by their own wishes and the force of their own minds, restrict great souls from full and free communication; if they would permit those who manifest as Red Indians to speak freely, instead of limiting them to such phrases as “Me bring heap big power!”; if they would use their psychic force for spiritual and not material ends; if they would avoid committing the crimes of attributing to spirit what does not come from spirit—then indeed would mediums fill the high role designed for them.

Another sums it up succinctly.

“We realize that mediumship properly used in the right way can be a tremendous blessing and boon to mankind. But... it can also **enslave** man; and he can use it in a material sense, and in so using it can drag him down lower than the dust!”

Gentleness, Compassion

Despite their recognition of the evils that many mediums do, however, Illumined Ones do not condemn them.

Again and again they say: “**We do not condemn any soul!**”

In their gentleness and compassion, their main feeling is sorrow for those who fail to use their psychic force for good only.

“The instruments that we have used or endeavored to use, in many respects, though we are in great regard for them, nevertheless have failed us, and in consequence have failed themselves, which... is even **more** to be concerned with. For we are saddened to see those who have the power of the spirit upon them neglect their duties in regard to the things that they have to do.”

Like its inspirers, The Brotherhood condemns no one. We wish to destroy error, not those who err. We condemn the sin, not the sinner.

In any case, it is not for us to judge. In God's scheme of things, there is perfect justice, and its scales weigh every single grain.

Understanding and Humbleness

The spirit inspirers of The Brotherhood not only counsel understanding and humbleness, but reveal those qualities in all they say and do.

They know that it is difficult for us who live in a material world to always act spiritually. They know that we must occasionally err, however we may try not to. But it is **motive** that counts, they tell us, and motive weighs heaviest in the scales.

“**We do not expect perfection from you,**” says an Illumined One, “**because we are not perfect... We who worship at the feet of The Most High are most humbled, because we are conscious of that which we lack.**”

Humbleness is essential to all who would truly serve.

“**They who would serve God,** they who would serve the mighty forces of spirit, **must first learn humbleness of spirit!** For it is only through the humble that we are able to bring forth great things. **He who would be high in spiritual things must**

first indeed be most lowly!”

“All the great saints, all the great teachers, all the great prophets, all the great seers through the ages, have **always** been most humble. These things you know. But **there are those who profess to know these truths who are blinded through ignorance and self-seeking!”**

There is no self-seeking in The Brotherhood. We will have spiritual leadership; but even though there must be organization, there will be **no leaders in a material sense.**

“We who come from Spirit are all, as you well know, **one**, in complete love and in complete harmony. And so it is that it must be so in your world among those who are called to serve. Though there may be in a sense leaders, or leadership, yet **all must remember and realize at all times that no one is more important than the other.**”

We in The Brotherhood are one; and whatever any contribute, they contribute for all.

So we rejoice when others serve as well, or better. We rejoice when others hold the torch as high, or higher. We rejoice when others, in as great a measure or greater, help to fulfill the purposes of The Brotherhood.

Freedom and Free Will

These purposes are dear to our hearts, but we do not compel anyone to accept them in their entirety.

We have the shining example of Illumined Ones—who, though they come to elevate and inform, and gladly give us advice and counsel if desired, make no attempt whatever to interfere with our free will.

Nor would they if they could, for they know that freedom and free will are the law.

“We who come to you realize that you are **individuals**, that you are separate entities, though yet belonging to the One Cause. But we have no right to take from you that which is your inheritance.

“**Man must be free to choose between that which is good and that which is bad.**”

Our inspirers know of many who will eventually link up with The Brotherhood, but they make no attempt to persuade them.

“The power of the spirit, and the wisdom of the spirit, is great; and that power and wisdom will be used to make possible the path that you, and others linked with you, shall tread. We know what we have in our minds; but at the same time we must always remember that **those on earth have free will.**

“They have choice in themselves to make their **own** path. We may guide them. We may inspire them. We may point the way. But it is not in our power to drive them, or force them, or to **make** them do something which is against their material desire or will.”

One of the most important teachings of The Brotherhood is that all men must be free, to live and to worship and to die in their own way and fashion, in their own beliefs or lack of them.

“Though we desire in many ways to break down the barriers of creeds, we are conscious of the needs of man. And if one man finds joy or happiness and help in some direction of their religious convictions, we do not necessarily desire that they shall lose it.

“For we recognize one Father, one God. And we realize there are many paths; and all these paths eventually lead back to Him. But we know of **the** path, which is the **true** path; therefore naturally we are desirous that all shall tread that path, and find peace and tranquility of spirit and harmony one with another in consequence.

“We also realize that one of the greatest barriers that man has created in his ignorance and foolishness is the barrier born through differences of opinion regarding creeds and dogmas.

“When one considers the hundreds and thousands of different religious sects and bodies—yet all worshipping the same Father—we realize that man has been foolish and ignorant!”

“But nevertheless, **such is our love and compassion, that we would not have any man change his thought if it is not his deep wish and desire to do so.** For we must give man above all things his personal freedom!”

Those who have **love** for their fellow man insist on his right to be free.

Love — The Greatest Power

And of course love is the greatest power of all.

Love is a word that is hard to define. It is a word too often profaned.

Love is far above the possessiveness many think it is. It is far above our affection for children and family.

Love is many things. It is charity in thought, word, and deed. It is understanding and tenderness and compassion. It is service to others without thought of reward. It is sacrifice. It is the Kingdom of God.

Illumined Ones come to **teach** love, and to show

man what can be achieved by love.

“Love overcomes all things. Love is beyond the barriers of time and space. Love is a stronghold which cannot be pierced by the weapons of earth, the weapons of malice and envy and jealousy—these weapons that people use in your world to destroy others, and in so destroying others destroy themselves!

“Love is stronger than all things... Love is the Great Cause—and it is the Effect... And where Love is, all things are possible! For Love is God and God Is Love.”

Love is interested not in getting, but in **giving**. It lets others choose their own paths, for it knows that each must live his own life.

Love realizes that we must not deprive others of experience and the lessons experience teaches.

Uses of Adversity

Love knows that all things, particularly adversity, have their uses.

For “the earthly plane, the earthly life, is a testing ground of the soul,” and adversity is one of the greatest tests we meet on earth.

It is a test of our character, of our principles, of our spirituality. If we can be truly spiritual in a material world, then and then only do we prove our spirituality, and our readiness to advance to higher spheres.

For contrary to what is often taught, we do not automatically gravitate to a “summerland” when we leave this earth. We do not automatically advance to a higher plane than earth itself, unless we have earned it.

So we should welcome the tests that give us the opportunity to prove our worth, realizing always that what is important is **not** the tests in themselves, but the way we **respond** to them.

If we only realized that all that we encounter on earth has a purpose, and will, well met, contribute to our spiritual development, how much happier we would be! How much more we would **welcome** all that comes our way, so-called good and so-called bad!

“One at the time cannot always see the purpose in God’s will, but... it is only through pain and suffering that the human soul advances—becomes, as it were, glorified!”

“We are tested often. But each test brings forth new knowledge, new experience, and befits us for a greater and more glorious work.”

All those who would do the Father's work, however humble may be our share of it, must be tested, must be tried, must be weighed in the balance and found not wanting.

"All the instruments we choose for this great cause and work"—(the cause and work of The Brotherhood)—"have been tested, have been tried. They have suffered, as indeed **all** who would serve the Divine Force **must** suffer.

"For it is only through pain, through disappointment, through disillusionment, through suffering, that the true man may rise above earthly things and bring himself into the condition which we know must exist before we know we can manifest."

Those who would serve must be able to throw from themselves "much of the material condition of life, and live purely mentally in spiritual thoughts."

And if we have high spiritual aspirations and desires, Illumined Ones are able to come closer and closer to us, to use us as instruments of God.

Psychic and Spiritual Power

We can be used as instruments in many ways—not only in the generally accepted senses of mediumship such as clairvoyance and clairaudience.

These depend upon psychic power, which is vastly different from spiritual power. **Psychic power may be used for good or evil — but spiritual power is only good.**

As Illumined Ones teach us, there is a great deal of difference between psychic and spiritual development.

"These things that one so often refers to as development—remember there are many forms! There are many who are psychically developed, and excellently so; but there are few... who are **spiritually** developed. And it is **this** that matters to us. And **it is this alone** that makes possible the contact between us..."

Remember... that it is **this** that matters. Not the psychic force so much, important though it must and will be in our work. It is the **spiritual** force."

The Brotherhood stresses that **the highest form of mediumship is the mental attunement with great souls** that comes to those who by their **lives** show their worthiness of that attunement. They may be **unaware** of that attunement, but it is real nevertheless, if what they do and say and think is Godly, if they are humble and sincere and serve selflessly in the way or ways that are at hand.

If they do that, they are helping to build the reservoir of spiritual power that will be used for great things in the years to come, things that will make **all** men and women everywhere realize the path of truth.

Truth Full and Complete

And if there is one thing that Illumined Ones have made abundantly clear, it is that "in all things we do, there is no cause greater than truth."

"There are many who will sacrifice truth. There are many who will jeopardize it. There are many who will prostitute it to their own ends.

"But truth remains free, and truth in itself makes a man strong, makes him ever conscious of the things that are eternal and real and are of God. For truth is truth, and can never be altered by man's foolishness and by the weakness within himself!"

Those who prize truth above all else must break the chains that bind them to mediums who try to enslave them, who directly or indirectly discourage them from going to other mediums, often by talking disparagingly of "shopping around."

The seeker after truth **must** "shop around." He must be **free**, as free as the air he breathes. **He must allow no one to chain him or bind him in any way.**

Some persons, overly grateful to a medium who proves survival to them, sacrifice their reason and blindly accept everything that that medium tells them. **They can make no greater mistake.** They can do nothing that can so arrest their spiritual development.

We must, and should, for example, be grateful to one who saves us from drowning. But if that meant surrendering our reason and accepting everything our rescuer said, we would be far better off drowned!

Indeed is there nothing greater than truth.

Thinking Universally

And one of the great truths is that the Fatherhood of God means the Brotherhood of Man.

That is why The Brotherhood welcomes one and all into its ranks, no matter what the color of their skin, the faith they were born in, the country they live in, or the views they believe in.

The Brotherhood encourages everyone to **think universally** — the great need of this time and age.

It will bring the day closer that our Inspirers prophesy will come.

“The will of God shall be demonstrated among **His** children, and His peoples shall be brought together in love and harmony. They shall forget their differences in race, and in color, and in creed, and they shall become one with Him! **And there shall be reborn upon earth a new heaven, where men dwell in harmony and in love!**”

What more glorious prospect could we visualize for mankind?

Work To Be Done

The Inspirers of The Brotherhood have given us glimpses of things that will be done, in time, to spread the truth and enlightenment to the four corners of the globe.

They include a journal of our own; teachings given not only by the printed word, but on TV and over the radio; works in Braille, so that even the blind may read; and **spiritual** conventions in the metropolises of the world.

But all this will take time, and much, much work, and **there is labor enough for all with willing hearts and hands who are prepared to sink themselves in service.**

We welcome everyone, everywhere. Especially do we welcome those to whom the most important thing on earth is the universal spiritual brotherhood of all peoples.
