

THE PHILOSOPHICAL RESEARCH SOCIETY

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CONTRIBUTORS' BULLETIN

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SOME CAUSE FOR CONCERN

DEAR FRIENDS:



n the last few years interest in esoteric matters has increased until it might properly be referred to as a metaphysical renaissance. At first appearance it may seem to be the fulfillment of the dedicated labors of kindly and thoughtful persons seeking to transcend the prevailing materialism. I have noticed, however, traces of ulterior motives which should cause devout persons to pause and consider. Advertisements seem to promise that those who practice various types of psychism are lured into curious practices in hope of substantial physical results. People come to me who are meditating for better health, financial improvement, happy marriages, and a variety of skills which could lead to economic advancement. In other words, religious dedications are passed over lightly.

Another peculiarity is a new materialism based firmly upon economic considerations. It becomes obviously more difficult to find lucrative employment and, at the same time, keep the spirit of the Ten Commandments and a full measure of Christian idealism. For a long time we have had a scientific materialism and now there is an increasing tendency to assume that religion is detrimental to peace, power, and plenty. While members of free societies are seeking to avoid the higher morality, the Russians and the Poles are fighting desperately to keep their churches open and many thousands have already died rather than to accept the blessings of materialism.

One man has taken up Zen to improve his memory for the primary purpose of advancing his computer skills which in turn should add to his salary which could in the end provide additional funds which are not going to be used for altruistic purposes. Someone else is taking development exercises with the hope that it will result in a prosperous marriage. A little psychological counseling may help to release internal potential, and this should contribute to a career in high-pressure salesmanship. There was an outbreak of this some years ago, but now it is accepted as a means of succeeding in highly competitive society.

In order to live comfortably by a code of doing exactly what we please--no more and no less--it becomes obvious that the Ten Com-

mandments become inconvenient. We cannot believe a divine power at the source of life is real and necessary and, at the same time, cater to our own appetites without qualms of conscience. There are ways of temporarily obliterating the small still voice. One can always take tranquilizers or resort to alcohol, or join the drug subculture. The hope is that natural law is a figment of the imagination. There is no doubt that the first line of defense against mediocrity is common sense. As Lord Bacon pointed out, you can always see natural laws by just looking around. Those who compromise their principles end in ethical and moral delinquency.

Read the newspaper, talk with your friends, and if necessary consult your physician and you will learn the high cost of willfulness. If there is no belief in life after death, no reward for virtue, and no penalty for vice, existence is a complete failure. Society will fall apart, crimes and violence will continue to hazard the survival of the human race. This is difficult enough at best, but I think that those who believe themselves to be born to do exactly what they please should pause and consider. This was in a sense the slogan of witchcraft and black magic, and we should remember that while we are trying to work spells on somebody, another person may be busy working spells on us. Those who do not perish from black magic will become hopelessly ill from fear alone.

Those who would increase their internal potential should have a clear program of proper use. The more we know, the more responsible we are for our words, thoughts, and deeds. While in India many years ago I saw a holy man sitting by the roadside. His only clothing was a loincloth and the cord of his caste. Everything he owned in the world was in a small brass bowl and his most treasured possession was a very tiny drawing of Sri Krishna. He had been a successful business man but, becoming aware that his material success was bringing nothing but misery, he left it all behind and went forth into selflessness. In the brass bowl he begged his food, but could not accept money nor food for more than one day. He practiced meditation, but demanded nothing for himself except the God-given right to serve God. We are not recommending mendicancy, but our motives should not be gratification of personal desires alone.

One should grow in order to be more valuable to the divine plan without which all else is meaningless. We see young people today destroying themselves by a frenzied determination to break all the rules of human society. The truth seems to be that we should never break a rule unless we can put a better one in its place. There is no progress in deterioration. We must outgrow our limitations and not accept them as a proof of emancipation. The situation is reaching a critical state, and by degrees it is eroding away the spiritual values upon which humanity has depended from the dawn of time. We cannot substitute personal will for divine will. In today's world every enlightened effort to solve problems is bitterly opposed even when it is obvious that a vice

is dangerous for millions of persons. It will be supported and defended above and beyond all efforts to strengthen integrities. The consequences of willfulness may be unfortunate, but any effort to correct the situation interferes with the right to do as one pleases.

We hope that all students of mysticism and comparative religion will develop a standard of integrity that will protect themselves and the society in which they live. There is no crime in aspiration, to know more, become better, and release internal potential. Actually that is what we are here for, but growth must be under the discipline of worthy motives. We should not use the divine powers with which we have been endowed simply to make our Father's house a place of merchandise. Even if we become a little more skillful, this is not wrong if we also become a little more honorable. The idea that an honest civilization cannot survive is a fallacy. In sober truth we have never yet produced a world order that has been worthy to survive.

It is rather cheering to notice that the facts of life are now being given a little more consideration. There is a growing suspicion that the selfish person is his own worst enemy and a detriment to his associates. We want to keep religion as clean as possible. It would be a tragedy indeed if it becomes simply an instrument of power and political domination. Even though various groups may not be able to withstand the pressures, each person has the inalienable right to live an honorable life. Human law is fallible, but it is the dim shadow of a universal pattern without which there can be only chaos.

When you read books and watch television or attend public activities, do not be coaxed into lowering the level of your religious convictions in the effort to gain physical advantage. We are only here a little while, but here or not, here we abide in a universe which rewards good intentions and penalizes selfishness.

Most sincerely yours,

Mandy P. Hall

RECOMMENDED READING:

Alic, Margaret	Hypatia's Heritage - A History of Women in Science from Antiquity through the Nineteenth Century	9.95p
Bach, Marcus	Because of Christmas - A Personal Portfolio of Yuletide Remembrances	6.95p
Brown, Joseph Epes	Spiritual Legacy of the American Indian	9.95p
Campbell, Joseph	Inner Reaches of Outer Space - Metaphor as Myth and as Religion	16.95h
Clift, Jean & Wallace	Symbols of Transformation in Dreams	9.95p
Danielou, Alain	Gods of India - Hindu Polytheism	18.95p
Donden, Dr Yeshi	Health Through Balance - An Introduction to Tibetan Medicine	10.95p
Ericson, Edward	Emerson on Transcendentalism	5.95p
Gawain, Shakti	Living in the Light - A Guide to Personal and Planetary Transformation	8.95p
Marks, Tracy	Art of Chart Interpretation	6.95p
Millman, Dan	Way of the Peaceful Warrior	9.95p
Needleman, Jacob (editor)	Sword of Gnosis - Metaphysics, Cosmology, Tradition, Symbolism	11.95p
Richardson, Jenny & Wally, and Lenora Huett	Path to Illumination	8.95P
Soho, Takuan	Unfettered Mind - Writings of the Zen Master to the Sword Master	12.95h
Stone, Dr Randolph	Polarity Therapy - Volume One	25.00p
Tanner, Ira J	Healing the Pain of Everyday Loss	4.95p

All of the above books are available at the Arts of the World Gift Shop at PRS or order by mail by adding 6% of the total cost of the order (\$.75 minimum) for shipping and handling for 4th class book rate. Orders may be shipped by UPS, the fastest way, by adding 10% of the total cost of the order (\$1.50 minimum). California residents, please add appropriate sales tax. All prices subject to change without notice. Checks or money orders should be made payable to:

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