

# WESTERN WISDOM BIBLE STUDY



## "With Authority Commandeth He"



And they were all amazed insomuch that they questioned among themselves, saying, What thing is this? what new doctrine is this? for with authority commandeth he even the unclean spirits, and they do obey him.

Mark 1:27.

Every human being is essentially and potentially a god, carrying within himself the power to speak with spiritual authority. The purpose of our travail through matter is that we may become conscious of this indwelling POWER and learn to rightly use it, as Christ demonstrated and charged us to do. Through the voluntary purification of our earthbound minds, desires, and physical habits which we have fixed about our godhood we can, by degrees, express through these vehicles the divinity that commands and is obeyed.

To sublimate these instruments of the spirit intelligently and permanently the occult student is admonished to cope with life in the arena of human relations rather than in the shelter of solitary retirement. What like the friction of human contacts can call forth the dormant evils in our natures, the sleeping giants that have not yet been roused? Are we freed from the binding process of personal prejudice, resentment, jealousy, passion? How do we KNOW we are until in the marts of men we have been tested by the aggravating personality, the persistent provocation, the repeated temptation, and studied impartially our reaction to each? Are we self-reliant, clear-thinking, self-possessed under stress? How do we KNOW we are until the confusion and exigencies of the changing world beat

against us and give us the opportunity to prove ourselves?

The determined aspirant wants to be sure he is not deceiving himself, wants honestly to *know himself*, his strength and his weaknesses, so he can begin methodically to work upon his faults daily and transmute them into spiritual power. In doing this he must remember that man is complex in personality and that each of his vehicles must be worked upon individually, as each presents its own peculiar contribution to the spirit, producing its particular phase of spiritual consciousness. It is not enough, therefore, to work upon the vital body alone, content with being generous and forgiving and helpful, but exerting no will power toward control of the indulgences or tempests of the desire body, or making no effort to expand and purify the mind. If we neglect regeneration of any one vehicle some aspect of the spirit would be undeveloped. Transmutation of the *whole personality* is necessary for complete consciousness of the spirit.

Such complete self-conquest requires vigilance—the pitfalls are so subtly disguised that our very virtues might be traitors. If it is our *nature*, for instance, to be complacent or patient, or even habitually cheerful, it is because that quality was developed in a past existence. But unless *feeling* beats at the heart of that virtue, beware! That which parades as patience or easy cheerfulness might upon honest analysis, prove to be but a lazy indifference to life's problems and the lessons we must learn from them.

To develop and diffuse such spiritual power in this stricken world is the greatest service man can render to man.