

# WESTERN WISDOM BIBLE STUDY

## Unclean Spirits



When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and findeth none.

Then he saith, I will return into my house from whence I came out; and when he is come, he findeth it empty, swept,

and garnished.

Then goeth he, and taketh with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first. Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation.

—Matthew 12:43-45.

This passage of scripture may be applied to a person's base desires and destructive mental habits as well as to actual obsessing entities.

One who has become convinced that a change of his habits of thinking and feeling is essential for a happier, more healthful life, even though he may not be particularly religious, can accomplish much by simply persisting in a change of thought processes and emotional reactions. Sufficient repetition of a new set of mental and emotional habits will establish them in the consciousness, so that one might say with considerable truth, "The unclean spirit is gone out."

However, if this is done predominantly from the intellectual standpoint, and no real inner change is wrought so that tolerance and compassion for others are still lacking, the time will come when a stultifying emptiness and dissatisfaction will be felt. The real incentive for joyous, fruitful living will be absent, and one is apt to be led into the path of black magic. Thus unless we not only rid ourselves of "unclean" patterns of thought and feeling, but also cultivate the Christ within, our

"house" will indeed be empty and we will be subject to a condition "worse than the first."

If a person who is actually obsessed by another entity is relieved of his affliction, it is of course a great blessing. However, unless he begins to cultivate a positiveness of nature and strength of character by the use of the will in serving and loving others, he will be just as susceptible to obsession as he was in the first place.

Occult philosophy teaches that in harmony with the Law of Cause and Effect we suffer from life to life that which we have caused others to suffer. Therefore, generally speaking, those who are susceptible to obsession have very likely been guilty in previous lives of interfering with the free will of others—probably by means of hypnotism.

Concerning susceptibility to obsession, it is well to keep in mind the following statements from *The Rosicrucian Cosmo-Conception*: "In the hot-headed, unrestrained youth, passion and temper very often drive the Ego out by over-heating the blood. We very appropriately call this an ebullition or boiling over of temper and describe the effect as causing the person to 'lose his head,' *ie.*, become incapable of thought. That is exactly what happens when passion, rage, or temper overheats the blood, thus drawing the Ego outside the bodies. The description is accurate when, of a person in such a state, we say, 'He has lost control of himself.' The Ego is outside of his vehicles and they are running amuck, bereft of the guiding influence of thought, part of the work of which is to act as a brake on impulse. The great and terrible danger of such outbursts is that before the owner re-enters his body some disembodied entity may take possession of it and keep him out. This is called 'obsession.'"