

LESSON ELEVEN



LEMURIAN PHILOSOPHY

LESSON 11

THE LEMURIAN ORDER

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LEMURIAN  FELLOWSHIP
Balance. Purpose. Enlightenment.

LESSON ELEVEN

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THE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD

Previous lessons have presented an overall picture of what is to be accomplished through the study and training released by the *Lemurian Brotherhood*. Through the information supplied concerning the formation and operation of the ancient Mukulian Empire, you have been shown the general pattern of what is to be recapitulated in the New Order. This lesson will explain the practical steps being taken toward laying the foundation for the New Order, as well as what you can do to share in its precipitation.

Gradual Changes

Observing world conditions today, and having studied the chapter of Lesson Eight dealing with the Departments of the Mukulian Empire, you can appreciate why the reestablishment of a governmental and economic system such as Melchizedek inaugurated must necessarily be a gradual process. Since the forthcoming system will be based on the Teachings of Christ, it is clear that until large segments of the population can accept these precepts as both desirable and workable, we must do the best we can under present conditions.

On the other hand, conditions that were more or less static for generations are now changing dramatically. Much of this is the result of influence brought to bear by the Elder Brothers from behind the scenes. In subtle ways, they impress and guide those who are amenable to their mental suggestions so that more and more cosmically correct ideals and principles can nourish the roots of the forthcoming civilization.

In today's shrinking world, we see much evidence of the work of the Great Ones. A few years ago, for example, the average person knew comparatively little about the people and culture of other countries. Today, the shortening of distances through highly developed travel and communication facilities has helped us learn much about the manners and customs of peoples far and near. More importantly, modern technology has made it possible for us to enhance our understanding of one another as individuals, moving us closer to the time when all men and women will think clearly in terms of egoic kinship.

Help from Higher Sources

Of course, one might argue that it was people themselves who brought about those changes simply by their evolutionary unfoldment, and not because of any "higher" influence. Yet, why didn't these changes begin

to manifest hundreds of years ago? Our awareness of our purpose on earth had grown dim; we were losing ground in the struggle for unfoldment, and to help us get back on the path, the Plan of the *Lemurian Brotherhood* had been developed far in advance of need. Today, those who know of this Great Work are being offered an opportunity to experience the way of life taught by Christ. Despite appearances to the contrary, world and national events today are leading toward improved relationships among the world's people, evidence of the help the Elder Brothers are extending to move humankind toward the realization of this all-important goal.

To the student of the Lemurian Philosophy, the increasing enlightenment that comes from learning about the resources of Nature, and the almost unbelievable advances that have been and are being made in scientific, industrial, and technical progress, also indicate the fine hand of the Elder Brothers working behind the scenes in preparation for the coming New Order. And today, perhaps more than ever, we observe the public's interest in parapsychology, extrasensory perception, the recollection of previous lifetimes, spiritual growth, and contacts with higher beings.

Today's frank and open discussions of these subjects represent a reaching out for better understanding of the powers of the mind. There is every reason to believe that current investigations in these fields were also instituted by the Great Ones in preparation for what is to come. They open the way for countless numbers who, having become saturated with material progress, wish to turn their attention to the inherent possibilities of the mind and the challenge presented by the need to advance toward the ultimate goal of this human life wave.

The Need for Direction

Today, though, much of humanity seems to have no sense of direction or real purpose in life. Even with the benefit of modern labor-saving technology designed to make life easier and more efficient, more people fall prey to fear, depression and other complexities, which outweigh much of the satisfaction that should otherwise come from today's high standard of living.

Regardless of the increasing material abundance, people's ability to overcome the prevailing restlessness, discontent, frustration, and confusion, is lacking. Instead of diminishing, we find that negative influences such as corruption, immorality, substance abuse, violence, and greed are virtually out of control in many places. People have placed their faith and trust in material wealth and image instead of turning to God, Christ, and the Masters.

Whether we realize it or not, the old system of life is gradually disintegrating and a new one is beginning to rise amid the destruction, and we are experiencing the friction between these conflicting forces. Both processes occur simultaneously during this "transitional period." Upsetting conditions are unavoidable. Those with the advantage of the Lemurian Philosophy are better equipped to understand what is taking place and make the necessary adjustments that will enable them to cope and maintain a measure of calm understanding through it all.

Having learned something of the operation of cosmic law, each of us should understand that we create our own lifestyle and environment, and even as we have contributed to the material age we live in now, we can do our part to precipitate a world based on balanced living and brotherhood. As was true in Atlantis, the majority of people in the world place greater emphasis on material things that contribute to physical comfort and pleasure, not realizing or caring that by being so set on acquiring them, our thinking and our lives are growing ever more out of balance.

Yet, unlike the Atlanteans, we have been given access to the means — through organized and concentrated effort directed toward the specific goal of the New Order — to extricate ourselves from existing conditions and not only work toward more balanced personal lives, but build a permanent civilization based on sound and balanced principles. Material prosperity will have its place in the New Order, for such comforts and pleasures are a natural outgrowth of balanced living. It is just that "things" do not seem so important to the balanced individual.

Positive Thinking — A Must

The New Order will manifest only when great numbers of positive, industrious people earnestly desire it, and then do all they can to help create it. Millions seek understanding and peace of mind through their churches, which have gradually dropped many of the rituals and doctrines of former days to concentrate on realities more personally helpful to their congregations. In channeling their thoughts away from the depressing, seemingly hopeless aspects of life, churches are trying to help people become more optimistic and happy.

So, while their thinking may not be directed specifically toward the long-awaited brotherhood of all mankind, the thoughts of those attending church are gradually becoming more constructive and good. Even though we recognize the cosmic repercussions of working indiscriminately in the lives and environments of others, we can't overlook the well-intentioned thinking of the many individuals and organiza-

tions dedicated to helping the less fortunate. Neither can we ignore the tremendous amount of scientific research that has helped relieve so much of humanity's suffering, nor fail to give credit for the selfless efforts of those who are doing so much to work toward helping people in areas where progress is less apparent. All such thinking is basically constructive and, as long as it does not interfere with another's freedom of choice, it does earn cosmic credits for those whose lives are largely devoted to serving others.

Among the Egos coming into incarnation in recent years, there are many inspiring examples of those who are sincerely interested in finding ways to help humanity, as seen in the number of children who voluntarily undertake projects for the good of others. In such changes, we can see the growing trend toward more exemplary thinking; the sort of thinking that Christ stressed — selfless, kindly, tolerant, loving, helpful, constructive. As people make the necessary changes to express greater selflessness, the vision of the New Order and all it implies will gradually become more of a reality.

The Purpose of This Time

In considering all this, one realizes that people are being led to take the forward steps essential to their egoic advancement regardless of whether or not they are aware this is happening. The upsetting world conditions surrounding us and the personal problems we must learn to solve are all essential to our growth as Egos and as nations. Through the process of solving them, we are taking steps to acquire the moral strength and courage, the fortitude and initiative, the faith, trust, and other characteristics so essential to the balance needed for the great task that lies ahead.

Aside from all the conditions that indicate the world is passing through a transitional period, we recognize the need for such a period in training people who are to lay the foundation for the coming civilization. For those consciously attempting to prepare themselves for Initiation and citizenship in the New Order, this transitional bridge is vitally important.

It provides the time necessary to prepare ourselves for the coming New Age culture and society. It is a period of growth and development, of discarding the unwanted, destructive traits that have stifled our progress for so long. Under the guidance and direction of the Great Ones, we should be able to add something of value to the building of a society truly representative of those hoping to find their place in the Kingdom of Heaven.

And since the New Order will be a practical composite of the elements of the ideal society, this interval will provide opportunities to conduct transitional enterprises built on principles of the Lemurian Philosophy. What better basis could there be for taking the beginning steps to establish the cosmically correct economic system through which the efficacy of Christ's Teachings may be demonstrated?

Realization of the New Order Will Take Time

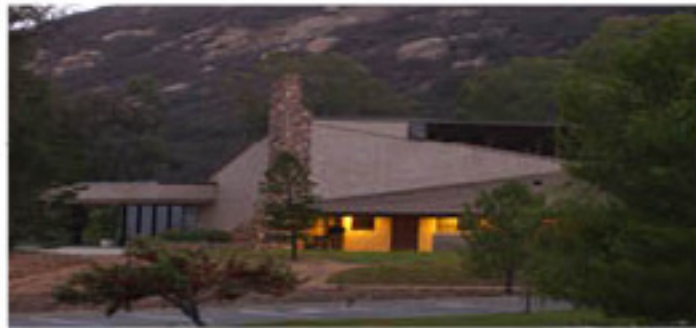
As students realize how long it has taken to come to this point in their study of the Lemurian Philosophy, they begin to glimpse the considerable time required to make the New Order a reality. It has taken students many months just to become aware of the principles which must be applied, only to find that still further adjustments must be made in order to adhere to cosmic law and give due attention to the virtues essential to balanced living.

If you are sincere and conscientious, you recognize that you've just begun to comprehend what is meant by the balance that must be acquired before the Elder Brothers will consider you eligible for Lemurian Initiation and citizenship in the New Order. Then, as you try to realize the number of people who will be needed to integrate a new civilization, and think of the preparation each person must make, not to mention the devotion each must exercise to become an integral part in its development, it's logical to conclude that the actual New Order could not possibly become a fact for many years. The need for a transitional period becomes apparent.

Comparatively few thinkers understand the necessity for a New Order based on cosmic principles — the Teachings of Christ. And few recognize the merit of intensive study, self-analysis and the consistent application of cosmic principles to life's problems which will bring it about. To these individuals, it is obvious that the materialization of the New Order will require hundreds of years. But this does not mean that those sincerely striving are not to experience some measure of what it will be like, for this is an essential part of its step-by-step integration.



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LEMURIAN ORDER HEADQUARTERS

Early in 1941, the Fellowship purchased a 168-acre property on the outskirts of the village of Ramona which today serves as headquarters for the Lemurian Order. Since then, 30 more acres have been added. Since it is here that the formative steps of the New Order are being taken, it is appropriately called the Gateway — the “gateway” to the New Order! By car, this property is about three miles from the center of Ramona and eight miles from Fellowship headquarters.

The Fellowship used the Gateway as its own headquarters until mid-1944 when, at the suggestion of the *Lemurian Brotherhood*, the 60 acres it now occupies were purchased. The proximity of the two locations permits access and communication, yet the separation between them affords the Gateway personnel opportunities to use their initiative and become more self-reliant than might be true if they shared the same location. The arrangement also gives the Order greater freedom in accomplishing its purpose as the forerunner of the New Order.

It will be noted that this separation of the school at Fellowship headquarters, from the Lemurian Order at Gateway, is reminiscent of early Mukulian history when the Elders chose to locate the original school in the Mu Valley, while the nucleus of the civilization started on the Rhu Hut Plains.

The Gateway is a naturally beautiful site with its rolling hills, park-like landscapes and background of low-lying mountains on the east, north, and west. Although the property was in a neglected and run-down condition when acquired, it did have limited electric power, a basic irrigation system including a 50-foot deep hand-dug well, and a standby well for emergency use.

A number of old farm buildings were on the property, making occupancy immediately possible. The main residence was a six-room structure with reasonably modern facilities which provided office space for the Fellowship as well as living quarters for some of the staff. An adjacent one-story building called the Lodge provided sleeping quarters and basic, though adequate, accommodations for others of the staff. All meals were served in the kitchen of the Residence. Both buildings have been renovated and appear quite different from what they did at that time.

In addition to these buildings was an old barn covering 2,500 square feet which was adapted for the storage of plumbing supplies and paint, lumber and Lemurian Crafts supplies, a farm tractor, cars, and hand tools. Adjacent to the barn was a 16-foot x 100-foot wooden structure with a cement floor, originally a chicken house, which became known as the Long Shop and served for many years as a Crafts and maintenance shop.



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Late in 1943, a 30-foot x 50-foot chapel was built on one of the hill-sides of the Gateway. This is a frame structure capable of seating approximately 150 persons. For several years, the Fellowship conducted weekly services in this building to which the public was invited. The plan did not prove worthwhile, though, and was discontinued. Since that time, the Gateway chapel has been used for Order services and various other purposes.

In 1958, the need for expanding the Crafts facilities became urgent and an additional 24-foot x 50-foot workshop was built. This building has a large central workroom which will comfortably accommodate 10 or 12 workers, three smaller rooms for finishing, storage, and displays, plus two restrooms. Large windows all around, as well as skylights, provide ideal daylight conditions for working.

The landscaping and general beautifying of the grounds has been the work of the Gateway staff. For many years, a fine organic vegetable garden has furnished fresh produce year-round for both the Gateway and Fellowship. Citrus and nut trees as well as ornamentals are carefully tended. Not only do the garden and orchard reduce the overall

food expense, they provide fresh, nutritious fruits and vegetables to help keep the staff and Order members in good health.

Developing a Dependable Source of Water

Beautiful and well-suited as it is to serve the purpose of establishing the Lemurian Order, the Gateway has one problem we must contend with in fully developing the property. The climate of the Santa Maria Valley, where Ramona is located, is semiarid. The annual rainfall is approximately 18 inches, which limits the amount of water that can be derived from surface wells. Water from the Ramona Municipal Water District is not available to the Gateway since the property is outside of the district. Even if it were available, the problem of running a water line nearly a mile to Gateway, plus the cost of the water itself, seems inadvisable. The only other answer was to locate an underground supply of water on the property, then drill and improve this source.

Underground water has been obtained from various locations at Gateway, but the original well was the most consistent source of supply throughout the years. Several other sources were developed but gradually diminished in yield to the point where it became impractical to use them further. Even though the original well has continued to supply sufficient water for the needs at Gateway, its construction makes the water susceptible to surface contamination. So a source was needed that could supply safe and abundant water.

The first step toward improving the water system was the erection of a 120,000-gallon capacity steel water tank on one of the higher elevations of the property. This assured us of ample water storage in case of pump failure or other emergency needs, such as a fire, giving us an abundant supply of water which could be delivered from hydrants and hoses. Needless to say, the improvement was also a boon to our regular water uses.

The tank was connected to the distribution system and the two wells by 2,000 feet of six-inch diameter asbestos/cement pipe (Transite). In 1976, the system was further improved with an additional 800 feet of four-inch Transite pipe including three more fire hydrants.

In 1978, an additional well was drilled to a depth of 685 feet and produced a more than adequate flow of about 200 gallons per minute. This well was deepened to nearly 1,000 feet in 1991 and now supplies all of Gateway's domestic water. In 1993, the development of a separate water system for irrigation, supplied by the original 50-foot well, was also facilitated by the addition of a new 10,000-gallon water tank and supporting water mains.

A Twenty-Year Gateway Development Program

After basic needs were supplied, a program of building improvement and construction became pressing. Suitable accommodations for visiting students and Order members, as well as for the growing staff, were needed. Aside from the living quarters of the staff, housing facilities at Gateway were insufficient to provide for more than one or two Order members for short stays at Order headquarters. So in 1978, a plan for future improvement got underway, based on a 20-year projection.

The development program included enlarging and remodeling the chapel at Gateway. This was completed in 1981 and dedicated as "Dargh's Chapel" in 1984. In 1983, a storage building was added near the chapel, and is now used to store extra equipment and supplies, including household storage for the Gateway staff.

With a growing Order membership, a multi-purpose building to accommodate cooking, storage, meals, laundry, and other Order activities, including the holding of seasonal services, was proposed. Construction was begun in 1982 and the building was approved for occupancy in 1986. It was named the "House of Ling Quong" in honor of the Great One who, as head of the Council of Seven and the *Lemurian Brotherhood*, has been so instrumental in forwarding the Lemurian Work.



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Since its completion, the House of Ling Quong has served as the center of Order activities at Gateway and is a prominent feature of the community.

Construction of five new apartments at Gateway began in 1989, and was completed in 1992. They provide comfortable and convenient accommodations for staff members and visiting students.



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In the late 1990s planning began for the construction of a large new shop on the site of the former barn, which was demolished in 2000. This multi-purpose structure replaced the barn and Long Shop, providing enhanced working conditions not only for the Lemurian Crafts, but for automotive and general maintenance as well as a generous office and storage space.



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At present, the printing of Lemurian lessons, literature, and other needs is done primarily at Fellowship headquarters. Persons from both staffs are trained to share in this undertaking, with the Order assuming more responsibility for the printing phase of the Work as more are trained in the necessary skills.

The Need for a Cosmically Sound Basis

According to the Plan, the Gateway is to serve as the proving ground for Lemurian enterprises and activities, affording participants opportunities to work together, and in doing so, solve problems which are always a part of sound and stable growth. It will also enable those who participate ample opportunity for making necessary personal adjustments so that they may live and work together harmoniously and in the best interest of the Great Work.

The Order must conduct its affairs on a financially sound basis so that it can eventually become self-sustaining. Because the New Order is to be a practical reality which includes industrial, professional, and other self-sustaining activities such as we have today, the present Lemurian Order faces the challenges of establishing a cosmically sound foundation based on principles which are essential to its success. And since the Lemurian Order is to typify the new civilization, we must work toward setting the example and creating the pattern for what is to come.

We know the Mart System formed the basis of the economy of the Mukulian Empire, and while a recapitulation of this ideal is a goal to be achieved in the future, it will doubtless be some time before this occurs. Present-day conditions are quite different from what they were at the time when, following the suggestions of the Elders, the inhabitants of the Rhu Hut Plains began bringing the products of their labor to the trading centers. Today's society depends upon an almost infinite variety of goods and services. What was once simple is now complex.

As we start building toward the New Order, it is clear that central repositories for such a vast array of goods as are currently being produced and consumed would be a radical departure from the present system. Yet, we can see changes leading toward an eventual recapitulation of the Mart System of Mukulian times and know that the underlying principles on which it was based will be a part of the New Order Mart System of the future.

That there are no Lemurian shops carrying Lemurian products exclusively today should come as no surprise. Such a shop would have to be stocked with a diversity of Lemurian products to enable it to serve properly. And at this stage of the Great Work, with the limited number of students who have thus far attained Order membership, such a diversity is impractical. Another factor to consider would be that in the Mukulian Empire the Mart System was under the jurisdiction of the government, so that the marts were supported by the commerce tithe of all the industries of the Empire.

Not only are these conditions nonexistent today, but in contrast to the economic structure obtaining in the motherland, our procedures and policies must blend with those of a system already established. During this transitional period, we must deal with circumstances as they exist and try to find ways and means of overcoming the obstacles they present so that we may eventually arrive at the ideal system.

In this transitional time between the old order and the new, the sale of Crafts products is a secondary rather than a primary goal. The Crafts serves first and foremost as a field for the expression of Lemurian ideals and principles. By working together toward the success of the Crafts, members are offered countless opportunities to demonstrate the efficacy of the Lemurian Teaching. This they accomplish while living and working together cooperatively for the purpose of building a model foundation upon which the New Order will be based.

Yet, if the Order is to become self-supporting and financially able to make expansion possible, we must start with the industrial phase of its development, for only as the Order inaugurates and expands its operations in the field of industry can it become economically sound. And only as it produces what society needs and wants will it fill its proper place in the New Order economy.

To become economically sound is something the Order must accomplish on its own with, of course, the guidance and counsel of the Fellowship. Some have wondered why the Great Ones do not simply supply the funds that would enable it to function on a large scale. To do so would be contrary to the Order's needs. When we realize that the obstacles we meet and overcome are the very basis of success and continuing progress, the position of the Great Ones is more readily understood.

If we were given unlimited means at this time, what would we actually do? Would we be able to resist the temptation to expand so rapidly that we would succeed only in recapitulating the fundamental errors that led to the downfall of the Mukulian Empire? The tendency would be to force the growth of the new society, and the inevitable outcome would be to find ourselves with an untrained, uncomprehending proletariat far outnumbering the trained citizenry. History has proven that once this custom is established it becomes virtually impossible to break.

No, we must earn and prove our eligibility for what we are to have and enjoy. Even as it is, we have greater crafts facilities today than we have properly trained and qualified Order members to operate.

The Lemurian Crafts



In 1944, at the suggestion of the Elder Brothers, the first efforts at starting a small industry were made. After making the suggestion, the Great Ones left the implementation to the ingenuity and resourcefulness of those who were to pursue it, enabling these new Crafts workers to gain everything possible from the undertaking.

During those World War II years, many desirable materials were difficult to obtain without government priority. Wood, however, was obtainable, and those who were to work in the Crafts decided to use it as a medium for creating the first products. This decision was made despite the fact that they had little experience in working with wood. Yet, realizing that their small endeavor would mark the beginning of the economic development so necessary to the building of the New Order, they staunchly set about creating products they hoped would be acceptable to the public. In doing so, they acquired the necessary knowledge and skills which were to serve them and eventually extend the Crafts operations into various other media.

Crafts Products Evolve

The first product was a wooden duck — a brightly colored waddling pull toy called "Flipper." Extreme care was taken in fashioning, enameling, and decorating Flipper. The final product was a beautiful piece of workmanship, although the time involved in making this toy resulted in too high a selling price for it to find a ready market. The several hundred pieces produced were eventually sold, and in the meantime, the Crafts workers turned their attention to different products made from some of Nature's more beautiful woods. A wood lathe had been acquired, and turned pieces such as vases, candle holders, lamp bases and the like were made. These appealed principally to people who loved the beauty of rare and unusual woods, but again the market proved to be quite limited.



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In 1948, the Crafts workers decided to produce a line of wooden novelties. These met with reasonable success, but the novelty field is highly competitive, and the manufacture of such items did not bring the inner satisfaction that goes with creating truly beautiful work.

Two years later, Crafts workers noticed a need for decorative accessories for new homes. A basic design was worked out for a line of wooden boxes to hold jewelry, cigarettes, sewing items, or to serve simply as decorative pieces. Several thousand were made and sold, using many of the world's most beautiful woods — East Indian rosewood, African rosewood, lignum vitae, Australian lacewood, prima vera, mahogany, teak, Mediterranean walnut and, of course, American black walnut. The boxes were shown to designers in furniture, jewelry, and custom homes. From these contacts came requests for additional items that led to fresh ideas as the Crafts kept searching for something unique.

Another line of accessories included salad bowls and servers, plates, trays, beakers, planting boxes, wooden mobiles, and small furniture items. All were designed to bring out the full beauty of the woods



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used and emphasize the details of fine craftsmanship. Lemurian Crafts products were featured in newspaper and magazine layouts. Lemurian wood turnings even toured the world in two exhibits, one sponsored by the U.S. State Department. The Museum of Modern Art in New York City purchased a black walnut beaker for its collection.

Yet, there were problems in the semiarid climate of Ramona. Turnings and other pieces could be ruined during production when sudden winds from the desert caused the relative humidity to drop to as low as five percent in a matter of hours, causing the wood to warp and often crack. The loss of wood and time caused production costs to exceed the fair market value for these items. Gradually the search began for a product line that would be unaffected by humidity.



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Some of the most beautiful items produced by the Crafts have been one-of-a-kind creations requested by those who saw the innate beauty of Crafts products and workmanship. There were items of jewelry produced with loving care, modern designs in wood ordered by decorators to furnish new homes. Special boxes were made, their lids inlaid with rare coins and antique metal buttons; black lacquered boxes with colorful abstract designs, or with silver and gold inlays. The Crafts responded to requests for unusual wall hangings and plaques, some of these ordered with few specifications other than motifs, such as "a road runner," or a basic color desired by the homeowner or architect. These people trusted the Lemurian Crafts to create something beautiful and unique.

In 1959 and no doubt with the help of the Elder Brothers, a request came to the Crafts to design drawer and cabinet pulls for a well-known furniture manufacturer in the Midwestern U.S. When this project began the idea was fairly new. Modern architecture, daring in many respects, needed accessories for the modern homes and buildings. After months of experimentation and development, an entirely new concept in hardware design was completed, and these products were sold in significant quantities to leading architects and decorators.

Among the hardware items was a variety of cabinet, drawer, and door pulls, and doorknob escutcheons for the home, as well as larger push plates and door pulls for commercial buildings. These were made from solid cast bronze, brass, and aluminum, each one inlaid with colorful mosaic or terrazzo stonework in a specially prepared and contrasting matrix. The stonework included marble, onyx, or semiprecious stones such as petrified wood, howlite, jasper, chrysocolla, buddstone, and others. Some handsome custom door pulls were created for the entrances to country clubs, resorts, banks and insurance companies, using company logo designs.



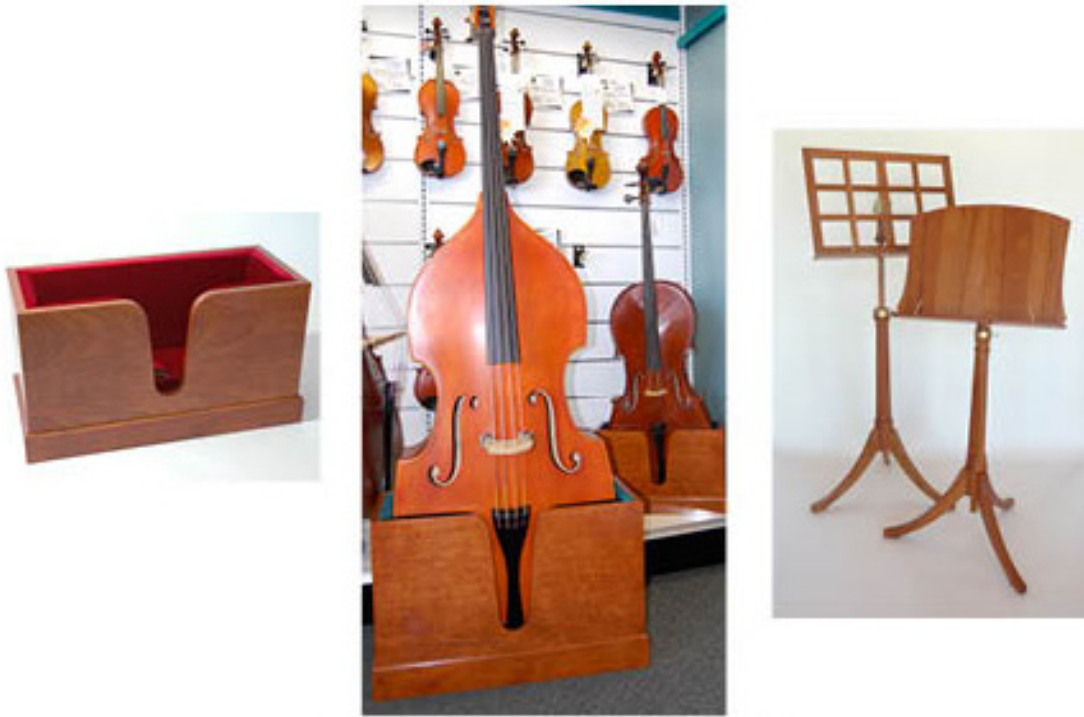
Sales of these items were brisk from the outset and for nearly fifteen years. In two of those years, with only ten individuals, some working part-time, the Crafts actually paid the entire overhead at Gateway and earned a profit. But the staffs did little else beyond the Crafts in those years. Hardware sales tapered off in the mid 1970s due to changing styles and inflation, and this project was phased out.

As the hardware business tapered off, the Crafts workers shifted back to wood with the construction of fine violins, under the supervision and training of an accomplished local Order member who had many years of experience. Though a number of instruments were made and sold, again there were problems for a limited staff as the Fellowship inaugurated an extensive building program at Gateway. Also, the high level of woodworking skill and extensive knowledge of this complex musical instrument required for even the simplest violin making tasks, left little that visiting Order members could contribute when at Gateway. Still, the woodworking skills learned from the violin project were important to sustaining Crafts activities and developing new skills and projects.



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In 1985, the Crafts received a request from the owners of two separate violin shops to build wooden music stands. This led to marketing through music and furniture stores, mostly in California. Later requests for a bookstand and cello stands added to creating a specialized line of products well suited to the skill level of the available work force. Still in place are the high standards of workmanship sought by the Lemurian Crafts, and only the limited number of dedicated Crafts workers prevents the Crafts from once again paying its own way.



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From its inception, members of both the Fellowship and Gateway staffs have maintained and furthered the Crafts. Beginning in 2001, the Lemurian Order assumed the major responsibility for Crafts design, development, and direction. This is a step in the right direction, and we look forward to ever more beautiful products with wider appeal in the years ahead.

Working Harmoniously Within Today's Society

During this transitional period, we must adhere to many procedures that are neither New Order nor old order practices, but which *lead* from the old into the new. Even these may have to be modified as we progress because our growth must be orderly and conform to the laws of the land. Surrounded as we are with conditions we can do little about, we face many problems that will not exist when the New Order becomes a reality.

For example, today, instead of the tithe being the foundation of the economy as it was in Mukulian times, we have multiple taxes, both direct and hidden, all of which must be figured into every operation and transaction. Yet we know that in time the changes foreseen by the

Great Ones will cause outmoded practices to give way to those which were long ago proven to be superior.

Although Lemurian Crafts workers have produced some of the world's most beautiful products over the past 60 years or so, their undertakings have always been small. Limited time and personnel have prevented this otherwise successful endeavor from blossoming into the kind of industry that will characterize the New Order. Eventually this will occur, but it will require a larger student body, a larger Order membership, and a greater number of those who have the vision and the dedication to build into the Crafts and other enterprises the fundamental precepts of the New Age culture and society.

Lemurian industries will come about and grow appreciably only as the number of participating Order members is increased, and only as they progress to the point of being able to *submerge self* in this phase of the Great Work. Their assimilation of Lemurian ideals and principles must be such that they will voluntarily put the Great Work first and foremost in their lives and affairs. This means they must not only extend themselves in making the Order's mundane undertakings successful, but they should also strive constantly to make their associations with others both happy and harmonious.

With regard to the Lemurian Fellowship, Order, and Crafts, the Great Ones stand ever ready to help us fulfill our commitments and responsibilities. Evidence of this help has been seen time and again since the Work began. But as we have been told before, the help they provide will not be forthcoming unless we *earn* this by doing all we possibly can — first!

Taking care of the many things that need to be done at Gateway calls for all who can assist, even on a limited basis. Among the routine but essential activities are helping with the preparation of meals, maintaining the grounds and buildings, servicing equipment, assisting with the laundry, working in the garden, answering inquiry mail, shopping for groceries and needed supplies, and, of course, participating in Crafts undertakings whenever the need can be filled by nonstaff Order members, as is occurring today.

In time, with the increase in staff personnel, it will become necessary to expand our facilities again by building additional living quarters, shops, offices, and community buildings. Naturally, as expansion occurs, there will be a growing number of Order members available to handle these matters.

Participation from a Distance

The fact that you may live at a distance from Ramona does not prevent you from becoming an Order member striving for the honor of Lemurian Initiation. Nor can it be assumed that only those Order members who live and work at Gateway will have the opportunity to participate. To the member who does not live near Order headquarters, or for one reason or another can't join the others there in common projects, the Order program holds several other means of participation and sharing in this aspect of Order work.

Over the years Order members have designed and built all or parts of Crafts projects from home. Some have started their own personal small business ventures, tithing on or donating a portion of the proceeds to the Crafts effort. Others have helped in the periodic rewriting of the Youth Training lessons, contributing from their own experience as parents or through artistic and design work. A few have been able to contribute from professional skills, ranging from carpentry and construction to medical service, to engineering (civil, mechanical, or software) to legal assistance, which have been extremely valuable to the Fellowship.

For other Order members and students, there is always the need for student enrollments, which could easily be maintained if every student were alert to the interests of others who might welcome knowing about the Philosophy. Anyone who expresses interest in life's underlying purpose, or the desire to become a better person, and those who express the hope that the world might be a better, safer, kinder place, could be open to knowing of a program to help people be more truly representative of the ideals and principles that Christ taught.

For the New Order to Come About

Clothing the etheric pattern of the New Order with reality is the challenge that faces the members of the Lemurian Order today. Through their efforts to achieve personal economic stability; through their dawning comprehension of what will be the New Order economy; through their understanding practice of the virtues in their daily lives, they will experience and realize the degree of balanced thinking needed to fill their niche in a well organized and smoothly operating structure.

At first students are prone to read and study the Lemurian Philosophy with little thought as to how the information released may actually apply in their own daily lives and affairs. Thought given the Philosophy is often confined to brief study periods and the time necessary to answer-

ing the questionnaires. For those aspiring to Initiation and citizenship in the New Order, this is not enough. To reach such a milestone along the path of unfoldment, the Philosophy must be given primary consideration and attention each and every day. All else should be of lesser importance to the aspirant, for only in this way can it become a part of one's being.

When it does become so, the individual gradually discovers that the lessons contain far deeper meaning than previously realized. As a bud in the early spring slowly opens in the warmth and light of the sun, so do students begin to unfold the beauty of their inherent potentialities in the light of understanding. Only those who are experiencing the joy and satisfaction of this inner unfoldment and growth can appreciate what it may mean. Yet, many yearn to achieve this intangible something which, as Egos, they know is possible for all, but which they mistakenly believe may be attained through some secret occult means.

Nothing truly worthwhile is achieved unless we put forth the effort necessary to bring it about. Having progressed this far in your unfoldment indicates that you have taken the first steps toward true advancement, and that by converting information into knowledge, you are trying to make the Philosophy a veritable part of your being. As increasing numbers of individuals are accomplishing this, the Lemurian Order is becoming a functioning reality. And with the evidence of what can be done by sincere and thinking persons for all to see, the possibility of a New Order firmly rooted in cosmic principles will no longer be classed as a nebulous dream of an impossible Utopia.



THE LEMURIAN ORDER

Given unlimited time, it is conceivable that the greater portion of the human life wave could ultimately fulfill its purpose on this plane of existence. But we do not have unlimited time to accomplish this. The progression of the various life waves — those below the human as well as those above — will occur more or less simultaneously in accordance with cosmic timing which is beyond our present understanding. Undoubtedly, the Great Beings who make up the life waves beyond our own are as wishful of advancing to higher planes of achievement as are the Elder Brothers of this life wave, who must remain at their present level of unfoldment until the time comes for all life to move forward.

By developing their mental powers and contributing to the well-being of others, many fine, unselfish people have made significant advancement. Yet, despite the fact that all human Egos have had equal opportunity to progress, vast numbers associated with this life wave have done little toward fulfilling this objective. All too many are still unaware of life's great purpose and only vaguely sense the true meaning of spiritual advancement.

So that as many as possible may become a part of the next Angelic Life Wave, the Elder Brothers have worked out a Master Plan whereby this may be accomplished. It is revealed through the Lemurian Philosophy.

While we have often stressed the importance of bringing about the New Order, even this magnificent objective is not the ultimate goal of the human life wave. The attainment of Mastership is the true goal for all human Egos, for unless we achieve the status of a Master (an Elder Brother), it will be impossible to transcend the Physical Plane when the time comes for the life wave to progress. Through what is done to lay the foundation for the New Order — the foundation being the Lemurian Order — an Order member has a special opportunity to achieve a significant step in this advancement by earning the First Degree of Lemurian Initiation.

So, through organized effort directed toward a specific goal within the ability of all to envision, the advancement necessary to our life wave may be achieved. Such is the Plan of the *Lemurian Brotherhood*.

In your basic study of the Lemurian Philosophy, you have learned about humanity's ultimate goal and what each person can do to bring it about. You have made a start, practicing the virtues and applying cosmic laws

and principles in your personal life and affairs. But beyond gathering information concerning the truths of life, only the beginning of what is being learned has been converted into knowledge — advancement along the path of unfoldment has been minimal.

Order Membership — a Vital Stepping-stone

To overcome this deficiency, the Advanced Training or preparation for Lemurian Order membership is offered to those who have indicated sufficient interest in the Philosophy to strive for improvement of self and environment. This training is designed to increase the student's use of what has been learned. This enables him or her to acquire a deeper and more comprehensive understanding of the Lemurian Teaching. To the extent one strives to put Lemurian principles to work, benefits will be earned; greater knowledge will be gained and the spiritual advancement God intended will grow more evident.

Satisfactory completion of the Advanced Training brings a student the honor of Lemurian Order membership. Until this training is completed, students function as individuals, cultivating the understanding and use of cosmic principles in a personal manner. But Lemurian Order members are extended the opportunity of working with those whose understanding of the Philosophy is at least comparable to their own — people who are consciously striving to function harmoniously as a coordinated whole.

Since all members will be working to build the Lemurian Order as well as enhance their own egoic progress, cooperation must be the keynote in all endeavors. Effective cooperation can be achieved only as each aspirant learns to harmonize his or her ideas and actions with the thoughts and actions of others. As each strives to blend with others, the time will come when all will function as a unit without conflict — our lives and affairs will gradually become representative of the New Order.

Until we can actually demonstrate the superiority of this new and better way of life, we can hardly expect others to be impressed. And how much more true this is of the Lemurian Order, an organization designed to exemplify the teachings of Christ in a practical and balanced manner!

To understand and abide by universal principles is the great lesson we are on earth to learn. When we have done this, we will be able to conduct ourselves and our affairs in ways that reap the fullest and richest benefits. What holds true for us as individuals, also applies to the group — to the Lemurian Order which is our point of focus.

To improve cooperation and efficiency, the Order membership must *act as a unit*. And to do this to best advantage, the Order must be composed of individuals with common ideals and common objectives. Each Order member bears a responsibility toward every other member; together they must learn to harmonize their different ideas and personalities. Sincere, conscientious people aspiring to become members of the Lemurian Order must recognize they have a responsibility toward each other and toward the Plan of the *Lemurian Brotherhood*.

In releasing the Lemurian Philosophy and in planning for the building of the New Order, the *Lemurian Brotherhood* was fully cognizant of the need for outstanding harmony and cooperation — a requirement that must be apparent to all who have thoughtfully studied the lessons so far.

The Role of Order Membership

Once Lemurian Order membership is achieved, the next step is enhancing our knowledge and understanding of the things that must be done to build the foundation of the New Order. Each member must be fully aware that the goal is now the First Degree of Lemurian Initiation, and that to attain it, every thought, word, and action must be in accord with God's universal laws and principles. Since all will have faithfully studied the Lemurian Philosophy, this should provide a reasonably common understanding of what will be required to make the Lemurian Order a success. By closely adhering to God's laws, and by cooperating with one another in all group endeavors, the success of the individual's progress and the Order program is assured.

Since the days of the Mukulian civilization, and the more recent teachings of Christ and the Elder Brothers, we have all wavered and given way to countless habits and ideas not conducive to our advancement. While some may be able to write and speak with conviction concerning what they have learned in the Philosophy, all too often we continue in our old ways, violating many of the principles it teaches.

Try to realize that Lemurian Order membership is a *step* in our ongoing — a step arranged by the Elder Brothers to help us understand life's full purpose as we strive to attain the balance essential to the First Degree of Lemurian Initiation. It is also a training period in which the wholehearted cooperation of each individual is stressed. Dependent upon this will be the Order member's personal growth and unfoldment. To the Lemurian Order — the forerunner and foundation of the New Order — this training is most important, for the Order can be no better or no stronger than the weakest of its members.

The Role of the Fellowship in Order Affairs

Seventy-eight thousand years ago, when the inaugural steps in building the Mukulian Empire were being taken, the people had complete confidence in the guidance of the Elders. They were eager to learn and to profit from the experience of these respected Egos, accepting as wise and helpful the counsel and advice they gave. A mutually beneficial cooperation existed between them, enabling the civilization they were building to grow with astonishing speed.

Today, in place of the Elders, there is the Fellowship, the mundane channel of the *Lemurian Brotherhood*. Today, the Elder Brothers work through the Fellowship in much the same manner as the Lords of Venus and Mercury did with the Elders during the early formative period of the Empire. Throughout the growth of the Empire, the *Thirteenth School* was the guiding influence in all that transpired. It was the final authority, the supreme court of the land. Until the Empire's final years, its decisions and advice were always accepted as given.

As you have learned, this general idea was being carried out long *before* the first citizenship school was established in the Mu Valley. In fact, the last of the ten laws given to the people of the Rhu Hut Plains states: "In all matters affecting the common good, and when no violation of natural law is implied or involved, the opinion of the majority shall rule, subject only to the consent of the Elders whose decision shall be final."

It has been explained that, as the *Lemurian Brotherhood's* physical channel, the Lemurian Fellowship is charged with the responsibility for teaching and training aspirants who seek citizenship in the New Order. With this in mind, it is easier to understand why the governing board of the Lemurian Fellowship should have final jurisdiction over all Order activities.

The Board of Governors is well qualified to direct the Lemurian Order in its inaugural stages. Not only does the Board work under the guidance of the *Lemurian Brotherhood*, but its members have had many years of training and have gained essential experience which has prepared them to guide the Lemurian Order during its formative years. Training for this responsibility is difficult, demanding work, requiring constant discipline of self.

It must not be assumed that the Elder Brothers simply lay out specific instructions so that all we need to do is follow them. They never do for us what we can do for ourselves, for this is how we learn. Instead,

they encourage us to cultivate our own initiative. So, as the mundane channel, we are given every opportunity to gain the experience needed to properly discharge our obligations to the Great Work.

Those who achieve Lemurian Order membership — and staff membership — continue to be students of the Lemurian Philosophy for as long as there is a desire to progress and the teachings are constructively used toward advancement. Throughout the Basic Instruction, Advanced Training, and years of Order membership, the teachers constantly assist students who seek egoic unfoldment by extending them every opportunity to develop their full initiative and to assume as much responsibility as they are capable of handling effectively.

Under strict California law, the Fellowship bears the full legal responsibility for the proper conduct and management of all subsidiary organizations now or later to be affiliated with the Great Work. Fortunately, this regulation is not contrary to either the ideals or the basic Plan of the *Lemurian Brotherhood*. In fact, it further cements the relationship between the Lemurian Order and the Fellowship, which must follow as closely as possible the association that existed between the original *Thirteenth School* and the Empire.

Today, the Board of Governors of the Lemurian Fellowship has the same jurisdictional authority and standing in Lemurian affairs as did the Elders of the original *Thirteenth School* at the time of the forming Empire. Not only is the Fellowship legally accountable for the management of the school and the Lemurian Order, but it bears the overall responsibility for building the foundation of the New Order, which it takes most seriously.

When the same kind of cooperation exists within the Lemurian Program as prevailed between the Mu Yans and the Elders in early times, we will be assured of success in building a nucleus for the New Order. Without that cooperation, though, progress for the Great Work could be delayed, and possibly many Egos who might otherwise succeed, may fail to evolve with this human life wave.

The Lemurian Order Council

The Lemurian Order operates under the jurisdiction of the Lemurian Order Council, at present composed of members of the Board of Governors of the Lemurian Fellowship. As the Order grows and as members prove their ability to handle Order affairs in accordance with the Plan and wishes of the Elder Brothers, they will be chosen to serve on this council. Before any candidate for this position is elected by the Order

membership, the nomination must be approved by the Board of Governors. Each must have a thorough understanding of what is essential to forwarding the Lemurian Program and be sufficiently experienced in working for the common good to help guide Order affairs toward the full precipitation of the New Order.

LEMURIAN ORDER PROJECTS

The Need for a Growing Student Body

Finding likely new students is a service all aspirants can render the Elder Brothers during this transitional period. A steady influx of new enrollments is essential to the growth and ultimate success of the Great Work.

We all know those who are kindly and considerate, who are fair and just, who unknowingly apply cosmic law in their daily affairs and in this way are bringing a degree of peace, harmony, and success into their lives. Many of these people will be interested in knowing that a movement is under way which is destined to bring about the long-sought brotherhood of man. And to them, the Lemurian Fellowship can be a channel for their help in facilitating its growth.

Virtually everyone is interested in security and peace of mind, though not many know how to bring these into their lives. People need a guiding philosophy to aid them in handling their affairs, and whether they realize it or not, each person is happier when he or she has a definite goal and a plan for achieving it. Studying and sincerely working with the Lemurian Philosophy is certain to produce beneficial results. Demonstrate in your own life the efficacy of Lemurian principles and you will have no difficulty interesting others who are just as sincere and earnest as you are in their desire for a better way of life.

Each student who actively works toward citizenship in the coming New Age is a physical channel who can reach others. That these channels need to be improved and increased is evident to all who are aware of the tremendous task that lies ahead. Growth is important, for without widespread commitment on the part of those who have vision, the New Order could never become a reality. This great undertaking cannot possibly manifest until large numbers of people devote their concerted thought and effort to its precipitation. So whatever you can do to make those you believe are good potential citizens aware of the Lemurian Program will be rendering a valuable service to the Elder Brothers and humanity.

The Importance of Your Lemurian Example

Before you can do much to influence others, you must first be able to demonstrate the effectiveness of the Lemurian Teachings in your own life and affairs. Among other things, your problems should be under the best control you can exercise. Your relationships with others should reflect a greater degree of human understanding than was true when you began this study. Displaying a sincere interest in others and their problems is vital.

And it's important to be so familiar with the Philosophy that when questions are asked you are able to give a clear and concise explanation. You must know when it is best to respond, or not, to a question even though you may think you have an answer. Discrimination comes into play when you talk with others, for many matters concerning the Philosophy can be properly understood only when one has studied and applied the lesson material relating to them. This precaution should be explained to the questioner and no attempt made to enter into detail. Instead, suggest that the interested person read *Into the Sun*, *Lemurian Viewpoint*, or *The Sun Rises*. Reading these can ease an inquirer into an understanding gradually. To get into long discussions to persuade someone to undertake the study is likely to result only in confusion and skepticism.

Familiarity with the information released through the lessons is possible only when students thoroughly understand the Philosophy and use the principles in daily living as you have done. And bear in mind, it takes a lot of time and effort to absorb such information and to transmute it into knowledge through personal experience. Try to improve your ability to recognize who may be receptive to the Lemurian Teaching. To do this well reflects your understanding of the forthcoming New Order.

Teaching Our Children

It is evident that although present Order members — as well as those to become Order members in the near future — may do much toward laying its foundation, it will be some time before the New Order will be recognized as the pattern around which future society will be molded. It will likely be our children — and our children's children — who will witness the significant changes modeling society in the image of the New Order. Among them will be Egos who will greatly influence the laws of the future. Properly imbued, they can be a tremendous asset in furthering the Great Plan of the *Lemurian Brotherhood* and, in doing so, can attain significant advancement for themselves.

That they be taught the principles of right thinking and constructive action is vitally important if they are to handle troublesome situations courageously and effectively in this changing world. By acquiring these abilities, children may avoid many of the human relationship disturbances encountered by those who have not yet developed such abilities. They will enjoy greater success and satisfaction in life as a result of their instruction and training in the Lemurian Philosophy.

Parental guidance can be invaluable in building children's characters and in helping them become confident, well-adjusted adults, fully capable of meeting and solving the problems of life. As was true in the Mukulian Empire, parental guidance is best begun during the preschool period — from birth until the child is five or six. It is then that a child's character is most easily shaped by parental influence. It must be remembered, too, that molding a child's character is a priceless privilege and responsibility, for each is a spiritual being desirous of growth and advancement.



The Lemurian Youth Training

Toward the conclusion of Lesson Six, the Lemurian Youth Training was discussed and made available to the children of those satisfactorily completing the study of that lesson. These lessons have been prepared by the Fellowship as a start toward meeting the child's need for

such instruction. But this is just a beginning, and currently, the youth lessons are being upgraded to meet today's needs.

Valuable Ideas Needed

In helping their children and teens with the study of the youth lessons, parents especially may have valuable ideas to contribute gained from their own experience. If you have ideas relative to the Philosophy designed for children, you are encouraged to share this interest with the Fellowship. Most parents have gained experience in teaching their families how to apply God's laws and principles, both in connection with the Youth Training lessons and their natural parental desire to see their offspring become representative of the Lemurian Teaching. Even Order members who are not parents are encouraged to contribute to this important undertaking, for the help and suggestions of all are needed.

This is a significant project for Lemurian Order members, for it is *they* who must expand Order activities to the point where their influence becomes a significant factor in the success of the Great Work. And no matter what aspect of the Work they become interested in, they must not become discouraged if some ideas prove untimely or impractical.

In due course, there will be some among the members of the Order who have a special aptitude for preparing lessons and other material for the Youth Training, and meanwhile the Fellowship will watch for signs of such ability. Right now, we are interested in ideas to add to the lessons for young people between the ages of eight and fourteen,



as well as teenagers and preschool children. Order members should not overlook the opportunity to render a valuable service to the Work by contributing something of value to the Youth Training Program. Most of all, drawing on your own experience as a Lemurian student is your best source — how you work with your own children or experiences with other children.

All contributions may be sent to the Fellowship marked "Youth Training Program."

A Vision for Gateway's Future

As enough Order members locate in and near Ramona, and the number of Lemurian families increases, Sunday school classes for children will no doubt be held at Gateway. Children's services will also be inaugurated when the time is right. Eventually there will be the need for an elementary school at Gateway where simple Lemurian concepts can be taught in addition to the academic subjects required of all accredited schools. Here the younger children of Order members in the area will gain a good understanding of cosmic principles; character development; the purpose of life; spiritual, moral, and economic values; respect for others and their property; and all such things to help Lemurian children grow to become examples in society and of the Teaching they embrace.

In time, this school will be enlarged to carry its pupils through the middle grades and high school so that by the time of graduation, these Egos will not only have a good general understanding of cosmic principles as taught in the Lemurian Philosophy, but they will have developed characteristics basic to the attainment of Lemurian Initiation. Then, when undertaking the adult study, their egoic progress will be rapid and sure.

Naturally, competent teachers who hold valid teaching credentials will be needed. They must have a good working knowledge of the Philosophy and in themselves be well-balanced. They must understand and love children and have the ability to communicate with them so the methods used in teaching Lemurian principles will be simple, natural, and well within the range of ready comprehension.

We can develop a proper citizenry for the New Order only as we recognize our cosmic responsibility in seeing that our children are raised in a home and family atmosphere where cosmic laws are understood and practiced daily. Children of the Mukulian Empire were brought up in an understanding of universal principles such as are taught in the

Lemurian Philosophy today. To the people of that great civilization, the truths contained in these lessons were as much a part of their lives as eating and sleeping.

Today, all too many young people grow up paying little attention to anything beyond their own physical needs and wants. Building character and learning to use their minds are often sadly neglected, and they face life virtually unprepared to cope with the problems that will inevitably face them in later years.

In referring to the children of the Mukulian Empire, we speak of those of the citizenry and aristocracy, for as you now know, the proletariat did not take a deep interest in matters of importance to egoic growth. While children of the proletariat were educated in the elementary and high schools attended by children of the citizenry and aristocracy, parental attitudes and environments of the proletarian element did not inspire or encourage the practice of what they were taught about universal laws and principles.

The Lemurian home of today must come to reflect more and more the Teaching of the Great Ones so the children are helped to develop the characteristics necessary to their personal advancement and the forwarding of the Great Work.

If we are to teach our children so that when they become adults they are capable of handling troublesome situations; if we are to teach them to become self-reliant and resourceful, to be friendly, kindly, cooperative, considerate, and willing to work conscientiously and effectively; if we are to teach them to think, to observe, to make reasonable decisions, exercise self-discipline, be honest in all things, be true to their divine potentialities, then *we ourselves* must recognize how valuable these qualities are to a well-integrated and happy life and, as adults, do our best to cultivate them. First we must achieve some measure of the balance we hope to see our children portray, and in this way help them assume the serious and sacred responsibilities the coming years will bring.

Lemurian Services

Services for Order members and the Fellowship staff are now conducted by the Fellowship and those Order members prepared to earn an increasing comprehension of the Plan and its timely progress through personal participation. Gradually more Order members may qualify to assist in bringing the message of the Great Work to all sincerely interested in helping to build the Kingdom of God here on earth.

Looking to the Future — The Lemurian Advanced Training

The Basic Instruction you are soon to complete will have served to acquaint you with the twofold purpose of life, the Plan of the *Lemurian Brotherhood*, and how the goals they embody can be attained. So far, though, you have only a beginning understanding of the Lemurian Philosophy and the Great Work, even though its benefits have already begun to show in your own life and environment.

When your answers to the twelfth lesson questionnaire reach the Fellowship, you will receive an evaluation based on your record as a student and stating the Fellowship's recommendation regarding your training, including the Lemurian Advanced Training. In the meantime, we urge you to do everything possible to increase your desire to share in the future success of the Plan of the *Lemurian Brotherhood* by working toward greater understanding of the requirements for the First Degree of Lemurian Initiation.

Just as the New Order will be formed by Initiate-citizens, the Lemurian Order becomes increasingly effective as students of the Lemurian Philosophy demonstrate their grasp of the teaching sufficiently to expand its membership. The offer of membership in the Lemurian Order occurs upon satisfactorily completing the Advanced Training, and is an earned privilege in the Lemurian Program.

As each member blends with others who share mutual aspirations and work toward greater understanding of the requirements for the First Degree of Lemurian Initiation, the Lemurian Order is gradually becoming a successfully functioning, ever-growing organization. At the same time, through associations enjoyed by the individual and the help he or she gives mentally and physically toward building the Lemurian Order, personal egoic growth is greatly facilitated.

We can't sit by and expect the Elder Brothers to bring in the New Order, for this expectation would not be in keeping with God's Plan for human progression. We all must do what is necessary ourselves, remembering that the New Order is to be a balanced civilization, built and shared by ones whose eyes are on the horizon and whose feet are firmly planted on the ground — who practice common sense and who strive constantly to use their minds for the good of all humankind.

The Lemurian Order today is in its early stages of development, the same being true of the New Order for which it is the foundation. Aspiring individuals must build themselves into it. The first steps

have been taken, and a growing group of Order members is earnestly working together in closely integrated thought and action.

Accomplishments up to the present time are discussed in the following chapters. Through this information, students may gain an understanding of what has been done so far by a small number of Egos working cooperatively. It also suggests what is possible to accomplish when additional efforts and talents are added to a growing Order membership consisting of sincere individuals who are thoroughly in tune with Lemurian ideals and principles.



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THE ROLE OF GATEWAY

When laying their plans for the tremendous undertaking which is to culminate in the New Order, the Elder Brothers knew it would be necessary for those who were to build it to become thoroughly familiar with the balanced Lemurian Philosophy that would form the basis of the new civilization. Through its study, aspirants for citizenship would learn much about the great cosmic truths that govern all life and action. They would be supplied with information which, when properly used, would not only make their lives happier and more satisfying, but would enable them to build qualities essential to becoming citizens of the New Order. Finally, they would be given an understanding of the economic structure of the New Order, including the steps that must be taken to bring it about.

Fully realizing that the individuals involved would gain little more than a superficial comprehension of the Philosophy during their basic instruction study of the course, the Great Ones indicated the advisability of offering a more advanced course of study to qualified students. While the Advanced Training makes use of the same lesson material, it emphasizes the application of the universal laws and principles that govern all life. This application of cosmic principles focuses a student's attention in a way not possible during the basic instruction and helps to develop that greater degree of balance essential to the First Degree of Lemurian Initiation. It also enables students to become increasingly familiar with an economic structure that is cosmically stable.

As explained earlier in the lesson, this additional training is designed to prepare students for membership in the Lemurian Order where they may cooperate with other Order members in laying the foundation for the coming New Order. At the present early stage of the Lemurian Program, many of the Order members are quite widely scattered, and this, plus the fact that most are also necessarily occupied with personal affairs, limits the contributions they are able to make in furthering the Great Work.

The Elder Brothers were aware that this would be true, and many years before the Lemurian Order came into being, they recommended that the Fellowship purchase the property now designated as the Gateway. It was their wish that this location should serve as the proving ground for the demonstration of Lemurian principles in action, affording participants there opportunities to expedite their growth through solving the problems inherent in the establishment and expansion of the Order.

The Evolving Role of Staff Membership

Initially, a few Order members who were relatively free of personal obligations were given the opportunity to live at Gateway where they might devote the greater part of their time, thought and energies to forwarding the Plan of the *Lemurian Brotherhood*. When these few had demonstrated the use of Lemurian principles by creating a harmonious environment, a few others were given the same privilege. And as other phases of the Work opened up, increasing numbers of Order members — eventually those with children — were invited to live there.

Clearly, this location is destined to fulfill a very important and noble purpose in that it has been designated by the Great Ones as the site where the nucleus of the New Order is to be established.

Until this purpose of Gateway is well on the way toward fulfillment, it should not be assumed that life there approaches anything like what will be enjoyed in the New Order. Actually, it can be no better than what those living and working there build into it, and although these are Order members, all have personal challenges that tend to create disharmony. It takes time to break down old destructive habits of thinking and to build new ones based on cosmic principle. While those who live and work at Gateway have overcome difficult situations during their Advanced Training and Order membership, they continue to work toward the balance required for the First Degree of Lemurian Initiation.

This is true of all Order members. Although their understanding of the principles of the Philosophy has grown considerably since first under-



taking the study, and though they have become increasingly aware of what is essential to egoic development, acceptance of these principles continues to provide increased learning opportunities if they are recognized and worked with. Many have not yet made all the Lemurian laws and virtues an integral part of their lives. To be sure, they are not easily incorporated into our being, and perfection is not expected, but one of the great promises of the Lemurian Philosophy is the possibility of the gradual, positive change we know is essential in building a New Order.

With this in mind, the following is included to give you some beginning ideas concerning residence at Gateway, but also as an opportunity to see how the challenges met there provide ideas you can apply to your life today, no matter where you may live.

Students viewing the unpleasant conditions in the world today are often attracted to the thought of contributing something worthwhile to building a practical model of Christ's Teachings. But when it is discovered that a noble character is the most desirable and essential contribution they can make, many find it difficult to summon and sustain the enthusiasm that would enable them to accomplish this. Yet, if the world is to know the peace that God meant for us to enjoy, sooner or later all must strive earnestly to eliminate personal faults and failings, while increasing their consideration of others.

Order members whose circumstances make it possible for them to live and work at Gateway are indeed privileged. Not only are they accorded every opportunity to develop the character and abilities that will forward their progress, but they are also in a position to promote the success of any current undertakings or projects at this location. Here they are not only free from many of the disturbing elements of the outside world that students and other Order members must contend with from day to day, but they are in close daily association with individuals who have undergone the training and who are as desirous of attaining Initiation as they are. On the other hand, working day in, day out among individuals with differing temperaments and backgrounds, which must necessarily exist at Gateway, does bring to light problems that most people do not voluntarily choose to work with.

It's true that while families are generally composed of individuals of varying temperaments, often living in close association, the problems of human relationships often do not seem particularly troublesome. Theirs is the product of a number of years during which each has been instrumental in molding the others. There is also familial love and understanding to consider, and since their lives together usually begin at an early age, the thinking of all, especially that of the children, is flexible.

Order members are adults who are more or less set in their ways. Their thinking is less flexible than members of a family growing up together; and they come to spend the remainder of their lives in an environment that is often very different from anything they have been accustomed to. So, at an age when most people have settled into rather routine living, those coming to Gateway encounter the need to adjust and extend themselves to meet new relationships, new responsibilities, and a new environment as well.

Nor are the relationships between those at Gateway similar to any formed when earning one's living in the everyday world. Other than the occasional social outing, people usually do not work closely and continuously with fellow employees, and the need for adjusting to them is not as pressing or challenging.

At Gateway, not only do staff members work day in and day out with the same small group of individuals, they also eat together, talk together, and play together. Except when they go to their own homes in the evening, they are almost constantly working or communicating with other staff members, so it is not surprising that they would find it difficult to remain calm and undisturbed at all times. Yet, close association with the Lemurian Fellowship and the influence of the Elder Brothers at this location provide staff members unusual opportunities to witness and experience Lemurian principles in action.

This arrangement is essential to the eventual establishment of the nucleus being formed at Gateway. It is an important part of the plan whereby those who later assemble there may assimilate more quickly and find increasing harmony as they, too, strive to aid in carrying forward the Lemurian Program.

The Learning a Part of Staff Membership

Our progress is predicated on an increasing ability to harmonize with our physical environment. The Elder Brothers tell us, and the student should have begun to confirm, that the most difficult step in this direction is that of the individual in adjusting to others, and association with others is as essential to the individual in the advancement to be made as life itself. From day to day, though, most people do not encounter the kinds of situations that provide opportunities to test their grasp of the virtues and make steady progress. Or, if encountered, few seem to recognize the value of these tests in learning to act in accordance with Christ's Teachings.

Actually, most people are inclined to simply avoid whenever possible those they do not readily agree with, or whose personalities tend to

rub them the wrong way. We tend in this direction because it's easier than trying to accept or adjust to another's thinking, but, of course, ducking the issue adds nothing to the advancement we hope to make. To fail to accept and learn from the challenges others present is to evade opportunities that could facilitate our egoic progress.



Gateway a Proving Ground

In their wisdom and understanding of human nature, the Elder Brothers realize that to bring about the needed improvement in human relationships, concentrated effort requiring intense adherence to cosmic principles is essential. A specific location — Gateway — was provided where personal problems of a number of Order members would be brought together as a way to demonstrate the practical use of Lemurian principles. It was to serve as the proving ground where individuals with a basic understanding of the Lemurian Philosophy could encounter these challenges and apply themselves in the ways that will be necessary to live and work together harmoniously and build the kind of mutual caring for all that Christ taught.

Yet, the Elder Brothers also knew that for many individuals to attempt to participate in the original endeavor would multiply the problems to be met beyond their ability to successfully solve them. So at that early stage of the Lemurian Program, they saw to it that only a few were extended the opportunity of becoming residents and full-time

workers at Gateway. As these few learned to adjust themselves to one another so that full and happy cooperation existed among them, more Order members were and are being given the opportunity to become part of the group.

Numbers to Gradually Increase

As sufficient numbers are adequately trained in group responsibilities and have gained the understanding necessary to cope successfully with problems several newcomers could present, the numbers coming in are gradually being increased. As the growth of the Lemurian Order makes it possible, Order member families will also be invited to take up residence and participate in the activities there. In this way, step-by-step, Gateway will become a thriving, well-populated community, all its members practicing cosmic principles and expressing to the best of their ability the harmonious relationships associated with the brotherhood of man.

With over fifty years of Order experience to draw on in addition to their own years of working with the Philosophy, the present Gateway staff are able for the most part to blend and work out their problems with each other in Lemurian ways. They feel that they have been accorded a priceless privilege, not only being permitted to serve the Elder Brothers, but also in being given this unusual opportunity to greatly increase their own spiritual growth. Beyond the staff, there are a number of Order members who commute from homes nearby several days a week. Those who live farther away make periodic visits as they can.

Recognizing Cause and Effect

All aspirants for Initiation will eventually recognize that undesirable environmental circumstances are our challenges, our tests, conditions that we as individuals have created and must learn to change. Regardless of appearances, these conditions are the result of undesirable characteristics within us. Acknowledging this truth makes it clear that we must begin making the changes within ourselves necessary to properly meet and overcome them. In this way, we will gradually develop the qualities and strengths of an Initiate. Studying the lessons and answering the questionnaires alone will not enable us to build the character vital to achieving this goal.

Christ's words confirm this idea: ". . . be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves." "Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead . . ." "What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works?" "Not every one that saith unto

me, LORD, LORD, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven." (James 1:22, 2:17, 2:14, and Matthew 7:21)

Diligence is the Key

The need at the Gateway for doing — sincerely and conscientiously endeavoring at all times to apply Lemurian principles (Christ's Teachings) is imperative! Students and Order members living elsewhere may or may not be diligent in observing their thoughts, words, and actions in seeking their own failings and working to control or eliminate them. But there can be no question about those living at Gateway, for here, determined effort to do so *must be made*. It is vital for all to accept the idea that these grounds are consecrated to the Work of the Elder Brothers, and that all Order members who remain here for any length of time *must come to reflect the balance and harmony within themselves and with their associates that are representative of the Work sponsored by the Elder Brothers*.



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Lesson Ten explains that God created individual Egos so that all might develop and progress through associations with other Egos, and that without other people and the situations that arise in connection with them, there can be little or no egoic progress. Giving thought to Christ's Teaching, it is evident how well He understood this, for the greater part of what He taught was directed toward the improvement of human relationships.

The Golden Rule

He made it clear that our most difficult problems lie in properly adjusting to our human associations; and for this reason He gave us the Golden Rule, *Do unto others as you would have them do unto you*, and told us to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. These were the admonitions He knew to be essential to harmonizing our environments. In enunciating the Beatitudes, He displayed His infinite understanding of human nature by pointing out the frailties we must overcome in order to blend with others, and He explained how to work with them.

Since the guidelines we've been discussing are rather general, let's change gears at this point and illustrate some instances showing how these ideas can be applied to real situations. These thoughts can be of value in any association — marriage, business partnerships, friendships, and family relationships — and are not directed only to Order members who live or work at Gateway.

Tolerance

Intolerance of others is probably the greatest of all stumbling blocks in our efforts to bring about the New Order, for this very insidious and negative quality, so difficult to crush, is characteristic of many otherwise admirable and intelligent people . . . So little thought is given the matter of freely judging others that most people are not particularly aware this is a destructive tendency, bringing in its wake confusion and heartache for those who are targets of their unwarranted censure.

Clearly, this characteristic is not representative of what is to be the Kingdom of God and in itself would serve to prevent its coming into being . . .

Lesson Five

Since intolerance can prove so disastrous to the Great Work, let's look at how it could manifest among those at Gateway. In the first place, the closeness in which Order members must live and work can result in their giving considerably more attention to personal mannerisms and seeming imperfections than is warranted, so that regardless of their insignificance, they become greatly exaggerated in the eyes of some. If those who form such judgments are not alert, they may yield to the temptation to speak to another of these seeming faults. In this case,

they would not only be guilty of intolerance, but also of working in the environments of others.

Gossip is not deliberately harmful, but all should realize it often brings needless suffering in its wake, and by the action of the law, all such effects must return to the one who initiated the cause. Unfortunately, when the effects come back to us, seemingly out of the blue, we've usually long forgotten the cause. What is worse, not having taken the time to analyze our thinking and actions, we fail to consider that our own pain may be the effect of an earlier cause we set in motion. So when the effects become apparent we blame everyone but ourselves for the resulting unhappiness we experience.

Despite what the lessons teach concerning balance, many who come to Gateway will have a very idealistic concept of the Great Work and be inclined to expect too much of those living and working there. Whether or not the first-time visitors have worked to eradicate their own shortcomings, they may tend to think that Order members should have overcome all of theirs. This is a form of intolerance, since it is impossible to overcome all one's weaknesses in the comparatively short time it takes to become an Order member.

To Discredit Others Requires No Particular Intelligence

Anyone can indulge in negative thinking and negative conversation. Such people, by their thoughts and actions, bring on themselves the corresponding effects of their thinking. It is inevitable that those who expect too much of others will sooner or later experience the condition of feeling that others are expecting too much of them. It could not be otherwise. Cosmic laws are immutable and that which we do to or for another will eventually be done to or for us.

The person who is intelligent enough to have developed strength of character considers gossip and negative discussions demeaning and does not indulge in them. The truly advancing Ego realizes that we all have shortcomings, and has also learned that *what we see in others is only the reflection of our own inner consciousness*. If our standards of conduct are not very high, many seeming shortcomings of others can take on undue proportions while we overlook and often are unable to see the really worthwhile qualities of these individuals.

All at Gateway will have personal idiosyncrasies and ways of doing things that are different from those of others of the group, any of which could prove irritating to someone. But in view of the sincerity and devotion to the Work indicated by their willingness to come to the

Gateway, these differences are trivial and should be overlooked by those determined to see only the good in their fellow associates.

In endeavoring to bring about harmonious conditions between ourselves and others, the problem we first must work with is ourselves. While others may present aspects of human nature difficult to cope with, it is not for us to change *them*. The problem is theirs, not ours. Yet we can so change ourselves by transmuting how we think about them that the qualities we once deplored either seem to disappear, or no longer bother us.

Lesson Ten

How can we change our thinking regarding those who do things and express qualities that get under our skin? By the simple technique of dismissing thoughts of this kind from our mind the moment they threaten to disturb our composure, and replacing them with thoughts of things these same people do and qualities they possess that we know must be pleasing to the Great Ones. Always bear in mind that as aspirants for Lemurian Initiation, not only will we be required to learn to discipline our thoughts, but we must achieve the ability to create a harmonious environment regardless of conditions that exist.

Order members who come to Gateway are like all other Order members and students — they have many personal characteristics to refine and understand. On the other hand, they also possess many qualities that make them of potential value in furthering the Lemurian Program. But when their associates say or do things not to their liking, they can't always see or remember these good qualities. As aspirants for Initiation, all must develop the ability to control themselves so that their reactions may be rational, not emotional ones.

Looking for the Good in Others

To develop this ability when joining the group, each individual would do well to begin disciplining the mind by objectively observing all the admirable qualities portrayed by close associates. This is helpful for Order members away from Gateway, too, and the same observation could apply to co-workers, relatives or neighbors.

Keep a notebook divided into sections, one for each person who lives or works at Gateway, where you can write an account of the better actions and qualities you observe. Tolerant receptivity to these occasions will help the process considerably. If you find it difficult to note

any positive quality about an individual, you may know you are as yet far from what the Elder Brothers see.

When you become personally involved in disturbing situations, it is not always easy to think of the good points of the individual you believe is responsible, but if you have previously recorded several of these qualities and reviewed them, one or two may come more easily to mind and a measure of control can be maintained. Otherwise, the impulse may be to react in a way not in keeping with one's aspiration, for if we want to make egoic progress, we cannot always do what we may feel like doing. We must eventually discipline our impulses and give ourselves time to think — time to *transmute* negative emotional reactions.

Since it's not always possible or practical to turn to the notebook, it is recommended that before the end of each day, all Order members not only add to, but read over without mental reservations, all the good things they have written in their notebooks about their associates. In doing so the admirable qualities of these people become more a part of their thinking. Not only will this practice be helpful in dissipating future discord, but it will serve also to build within each a more constructive attitude.

This process is applicable to any association, and students are urged to follow the procedure especially when they may be inclined to react negatively.

To understand this procedure better, consider for a moment the fine and useful qualities you believe the Elder Brothers see in you. There are many of them, to your way of thinking. You're a likable person. So why shouldn't everyone like you? But, incredible as it may seem, there are some who don't seem to care so much for you. Why not? Wouldn't you like to know that when others grow upset with you, they would also remember your most worthwhile qualities, all the constructive thought and effort you've put into your work? If they did, do you believe you could more easily discuss your differences?

It doesn't matter whether it is your negative feelings about others, or the negative thoughts, words and actions of others regarding you. The problem is that we must yet develop the habit of looking for the good in each other. The way to progress is to begin looking for that good, and discovering how, at the same time, to appreciate and even learn something from those who may be difficult for you to work with. As you begin to accomplish this, you will be realizing *the role of Gateway* in your own personal life and affairs.



RELIGION

As a practical design for living, religion has never really been understood, being regarded by many as an unbalanced idealism to be given thought only at special times and then forgotten in the rush of going about one's daily affairs. Actually, the roots of religion are embedded in cosmic laws which, when applied to the mundane matters of life, enable people to find personal happiness and serenity. This means that consistent good thought be given to these laws in *all* one does every day of every week.

Lesson Eight

Background

As you know from Lesson Nine, the origin of religion dates back to the time when the human race was in a primitive state and worship revolved around the familiar forces of Nature. Early humans could conceive of nothing more powerful than some very strong personality, so the natural forces were endowed with human characteristics. When the wind and rain brought devastating storms and great floods, or the sun caused killing droughts, the people felt that some powerful gods were angry and used these phenomena as a means of punishment.

When the forces swept away all that made life good, fear and insecurity rose in the hearts of these simple people. The thought uppermost in their minds at such times was to appease the angry gods. To accomplish this, they did the only thing they could imagine, the same as they would to their chiefs and rulers: they demonstrated their recognition of the great powers of these strange forces as well as their humble subservience, at the same time pleading for mercy and help.

When nature was peaceful, sending fair weather, good crops and comfort, primitive humans felt the gods were pleased. Such times were cause for celebration and festivity, marked by elaborate singing and dancing to show their happiness. These were the first attempts to worship and propitiate something greater than the human.

As brought out in *The Sun Rises*, worship similar to this existed on the Continent of Mu at the start of the first civilization. During the early days of its formation, people worshipped N'Kul, or the Sun God, whom they believed to be the creator of all living things, for didn't he supply the heat and light so essential to the growth of plant and animal life?

Yet there were also the Elders, who had advanced beyond the worship of the sun and the elements and had a basic understanding of the truths revealed in the Lemurian Philosophy. Under the guidance of the Lords of Venus and Mercury, they developed a more realistic understanding of God and a working knowledge of cosmic laws. With the establishment of the first schools, the people were gradually educated and helped to a more practical comprehension of natural forces so that by the time the civilization was a thousand years old and Melchizedek arrived, the citizenry had a very good understanding and were a fertile field for the more advanced truths taught by this great Archangel.

Citizens and Aristocrats

Those who became the citizenry and aristocracy of the Mukulian Empire were educated in all the sciences and pursuits then known, and what had previously been accepted through faith in the Elders was confirmed through their studies and increasing abilities to reason and to comprehend. With the education and training they received in the Great Schools, their adherence to cosmic principles was deep-rooted. Their relationships with others were always thoughtfully regarded in light of what they had learned, and because they abided by these laws conscientiously, they were more nearly balanced spiritually than is true of most people today. Their religion was not a thing apart, but a *way of life* where they worshipped God by endeavoring to live by His universal laws, glorifying God's Creation in everything they did.

By intelligently applying these principles to themselves and their affairs, they avoided many problems that confront people today due to lack of proper understanding and consequent violations of these principles. With an intensive education in all matters relating to cosmic law, and by training their minds to habitually think along these lines in most instances, they set right causes into operation and experienced the inevitable beneficial effects. Nor was their egoic progress held back by having to spend unnecessary time undoing and righting wrongs they had perpetrated.

In conducting themselves and their affairs in harmony with cosmic law, they expressed their earnest desire to attain increasingly the goodness and wisdom of God. And by faithfully following His precepts, they truly worshipped and glorified the Creator. So they enjoyed a wonder and beauty of surroundings as well as a continuous sense of serenity and fulfillment.

The Proletariat

Today, many associate the term *proletariat* with the working class of society. Often, economic conditions and a lack of education find these

individuals practically unable to better their situations, and many attempts have been made to free this class from their position.

There was a very different situation at the time we are now describing. The proletariat of Mu enjoyed a standard of living comparable to that of today's multimillionaires. Their educational opportunities were the same as every other individual's. But the minds of those who came to be known as the proletariat were closed to higher education or anything pertaining to cosmic truths. They were perfectly happy to participate in and enjoy the many benefits provided by the aristocracy and citizenry, but were indifferent to any thought of egoic development. Nor did they care to train themselves to help govern or advance society as a whole. They cared little for the simple, lovely services conducted in the temples for those who were striving to further their advancement and fulfill their purpose in life. They were far more interested in the ornate ceremonials and pomp of the churches that had been inaugurated in the hope of gradually elevating their consciousness.

In short, the priesthoods, lured by the prospect of power over this unthinking segment of the population, took advantage of their ignorance and desire for show. One way they gained control was to revive the early gods worshipped by primitive people, ascribing to them even greater powers. In addition, they instilled the idea of malicious gods, and from this personalized concept of individual and powerful influences for evil has come the devil, or Satan, so long a part of modern religions.

After the degeneration and fall of the Empire, the greater part of the world's scattered population consisted of the proletariat. Since the teachings of the priesthoods appealed strongly to the proletarian element, these misrepresentations spread during the ensuing millennia. And while there were those who did not want to follow the priesthoods, their concepts of the truths taught in the Empire were so vague that they colored what little they knew with their own personal ideas. In this way, still other distortions of the original teachings came about, and the worship of many gods spread throughout every land. In time, ruling deities, to whom minor ones were subservient, came into being.

Throughout the legends, folklore and mythologies of the ancient Greeks, Romans, Norsemen, and the less known Aztecs, Polynesians, and many other cultures, is found this personalization and worship of the many forms and phases of nature extending into well-known historical times. In them we can recognize humanity's eternal need for something or someone greater to turn to when troubled.

Eventually, polytheism developed into idolatry, becoming prominent in early Egyptian times when images, or idols, representing their gods were worshipped, later being worshipped as the deities themselves.

In the millennia following the migration of the false priests to India, Brahmanism became the religion of the Hindu people, and while millions now believe Brahma or Spirit to be the beginning and end of all things, they continue to pay homage to many gods. Gautama Buddha, who attained Mastership through the Brahmic School established by the Elder Brothers in India, encouraged many to break away from some of the extreme practices in the Hindu religion of the time. Yet, while Buddhism is based on achieving balance between self-denial and self-indulgence, and has been a positive force for many, some of its sects are also burdened with gods and rituals.

The Coming of Christ

To break down the many misconceptions fostered by the nefarious priesthoods and reestablish the true religion practiced in the Mukulian Empire by teaching people how conditions enjoyed there may again be realized, the great Archangel Christ made His tremendous sacrifice two thousand years ago.

He designated no special building for talking with those who wished to be in His presence and hear Him, but spoke along the dusty waysides and wherever the multitudes gathered to listen. Nor did He by even the slightest reference imply that He advocated anything of a sectarian nature. His admonitions were free of theology, and all were masterpieces of simplicity stressing how harmonious human relationships and peace of mind may be achieved.

Christ came to give us a new concept of religion, designed to lead people into a fuller realization of their inherent abilities. Those in positions of power and authority during the period of His ministry realized that if the principles He taught were accepted and practiced by the multitudes, the entire world would be revolutionized and they would lose their power. To prevent this, He was crucified, yet His principles are equally potent today. Their balanced and understanding use by great numbers could result in such intelligent and harmonious cooperation among the world's people that the brotherhood of man would rapidly become a reality.

After the advent of Christ, the worship of one God once again spread around the world. But even though Christ's Teachings plainly indicate that God is more than a mere personality, personalization of the Creator as an individual persists, preventing many from accepting the truth. Even today, unable to properly define God, many find it difficult to disassociate Jesus, Christ, Jehovah and God.

Yet, progress has been made. Since the disintegration of Mu, ideas about religion have gradually evolved as the consciousness of men and women has evolved. The religion practiced by primitive humans, with its wild and weird displays, seems unacceptable to us now. Scientific explanations have accounted for the thunder, lightning, and other natural phenomena that once produced fear of gods and demons. We have also largely outgrown the polytheistic approach to worship.

Religion Today

Most people today worship one all-powerful, ever-present and loving God for whom we no longer feel the trembling and awesome fear so long associated with some great, unknown power. It has also become generally accepted that the Father God, the Creator, the Christian Heavenly Father, Lord Almighty, Brahma, Allah, and Jehovah are different names given to the Great Spiritual Intelligence to whom all look for understanding love and guidance.

Out of the intolerance that was once such a blemish on the religion of western thinking people, the Christ-like quality of compassion is gradually growing. Behind us are the Crusades, the Spanish Inquisition, the massacre of St. Bartholomew in France, the witchcraft persecutions in Europe. Most Christians now regard such events with deep dismay.

On the other hand, it would be foolish to deny that a lack of balance persists. Still evident is the unbalanced idealism which has led to so many atrocities perpetrated in the name of religion, while many have swung into an age of materialism. Neither is balanced, and neither has brought that inner satisfaction so essential to a true sense of security.

Science vs. Religion

In the argument between creationists and evolutionists we can see vestiges of the ancient conflict between Katholi Kist and the Phree Muson factions of later Mukulian times, one side holding to their idealistic faith while the other adheres to a practical materialism. Science considers primarily the development or evolution of the human form, because it has no way to identify or observe the life essence that permeates the form. On the other hand, religion usually considers only the spiritual side of human existence, seemingly with little understanding of the progress spirit must make before reaching Perfection.

If each could appreciate the complementary nature of both and realize that while the human *body* has grown through evolution to its present state of organization, the human *spirit* has also progressed through

involution of individualized portions, or Egos, to its present level of life expression, they could facilitate the conscious and intelligent forwarding of both processes.

The truth is that science and religion are both evolving, and because of the natural tendency for all things to move toward greater balance, are actually moving closer together. As various religions have felt the need to reach out and physically help people, they have been confronted with many practical realities which are helping to moderate an overly idealistic or theoretical approach.

Meanwhile, science seems to be approaching religion through its efforts to define the basic building blocks of matter. At one time, it was believed the atom with its protons, neutrons and electrons filled this position. But in breaking these particles apart further, physicists were perplexed by what they found. More elementary particles such as "quarks" seem to behave in ways that defy the known laws of physics, appearing to be both energy and matter. There is also great interest in "dark matter" and "dark energy" which science believes may comprise the force that counterbalances gravity, causing the universe to continually expand. As new theories are postulated and debated, it seems clear that science is entering a dimension imagined only very recently.

Religion in Transition

Viewing the changing landscape of religious concepts, it is obvious that the transitional period discussed earlier in this lesson embraces religion just as it does all other phases of life. This would necessarily be true, for religion has to do with our spiritual well-being which, as you learned in Lesson Six, "has its basis in the balance to be achieved idealistically, mentally, and practically or materially." All three sides of the triangle must be balanced, not only by the individual, but universally as well.

Despite current deterrents to greater harmony and unity among people, progress is slowly being made as people around the world continue to swing back and forth between the good and the not so good, between altruism and selfishness, between compassionate and militant views. Gradually, thoughtful people are coming to understand that narrow, bigoted, and fanatical attitudes of any religious persuasion must continue to change, and individuals must be allowed to make decisions for themselves. Despite appearances, people are becoming more broad-minded; the rigid, dogmatic approach to religion is growing less acceptable and less satisfying to many.

Lifestyle changes are also bringing a change in the attitudes of religious leaders. There are discussions between churches and religions in the common desire to bring about greater unity and understanding between people. There are movements dedicated to world peace and to helping those afflicted by the devastations of nature or of inhumanity toward one another. Denominational differences are no longer as important as they once seemed, and there is an increasing awakening to the fact that all true religions have a common basis in the practice of ethics as set forth in the Golden Rule.

There can be no doubt that the trend today is toward the more practical and personally helpful approach to religion. Conditions characterizing almost every phase of life in many parts of the world are kinder and more hopeful today than they were when blind acceptance and the emotional appeal of the church were the order of the day. Many noble and self-sacrificing pastors are wholly sincere in their work and teachings, and churches of all denominations continue to bring solace to millions. Without them, humanity would be in a far worse plight. Yet, we cannot always depend on someone else to uplift us or to direct our attention to the source of our help and inspiration.

To some, religion seems nebulous and interwoven with tenets that seem to divide people rather than bring them together, and often too impractical to appeal to those immersed in a personal struggle for existence. Some people seem half ashamed of displaying any religious inclinations at all. Some have lost sight of the true and practical in religion. And yet, sociologists tell us that though church attendance is declining in most advanced industrial societies, more people are actually thinking about the meaning and purpose of life. It is time religion is restored to its rightful place in our lives.

As you think about what has been touched on in this chapter in light of your own observations, you will realize that religion is passing through a transitional phase and that we must return to religion as it was originally understood and lived in the incomparable Mukulian Empire.

The Need for a True Religion

That there is a desperate need for a religion that provides practical guidance for solving human problems in this era of complicated living is evident from the mounting numbers of emotionally disturbed individuals as well as those in prison. The help given by psychologists and social workers is invaluable in the recovery of many, but has it made them strong enough to meet and overcome the many troubling vicissitudes of life that will continue to confront them? What will prevent their succumbing as before?

People must learn to handle life's problems, but without the firm conviction of God's sustaining love and an understanding of cosmic law, they are too likely to experience frustration, helplessness, and confusion. Only as one grows to understand the rules God has formulated to govern the physical, mental, and spiritual welfare of all human beings, and only by learning to use these in solving problems, is it possible to gain the necessary courage and confidence to be free from doubt and uncertainty.

We need a religion so much a part of us that not only may we contact God in times of stress, but be conscious of His presence and help always. We need a *living* religion. Through a keener, more intelligent search for a better understanding of the underlying factors of Christ's Teachings will come a finer and higher phase of religion which will combine all that is true and beautiful in the old with a new practicality and usefulness enabling us to *have life and have it more abundantly*.

As all students must know by now, to benefit fully from these divine principles takes more than simply knowing about them. And merely to feel deeply about them because they emanate from God is not enough to experience permanent results. People must first use their minds to understand the working of these laws, and then *use* them in their lives and affairs.

In extending your thought to accomplish this through the study of the Lemurian Philosophy, you are demonstrating a sincere reverence for God. And what could be more pleasing to the Creator than a wise, strong, and beautifully balanced character striving to live happily as He intended? Such was the religion of Mukulian times when the citizenry and aristocracy lived in accord with these divine principles. Their worship was expressed in how they lived.

While they attended the temples regularly, there was little ceremony at these times, for these people gathered to honor the Great Creator in a very different way. They came together to commune with and thank God for their many blessings. As sweet, unobtrusive music softly enfolded them, all silently concentrated on conditions, both personal and general, that contributed to their well-being and happiness. This was also practiced at home, where all set aside a definite period for daily meditation in much the same way as earnest students now send positive thought energy to the Lemurian Power Reservoir.

What's Old Is New Again

Christ's principles were originally given the people of the Rhu Hut Plains by the Lords of Venus and Mercury and later expounded by

Melchizedek. They are universal, and in their conscientious application to existing problems by all who desire to work together for the common good, lies our only hope for happiness, security, and permanent peace. For as stated in Lesson One,

When true spiritual understanding has developed to a point equal to that of our present material advancement, people will have built within themselves a means of defense that hurtful, destructive forces cannot break through.

Eventually, all will find their worship of God is no longer based primarily on emotion as in the past. Instead, it is becoming more and more a matter of balanced thinking. The observance of universal truth will find us worshipping God in the truest sense we are capable of, for this reverence will be expressed through every *thought, word, and deed*. Because all people will ultimately practice such worship, it could be described as a universal religion that will bind us all together in one great community. When this way of life comes to pass, great numbers of Egos of the present human life wave will advance steadily toward their goal on this plane of existence.

* * * * *

The discussion of religion in this lesson includes observations of today's situation and helps us see a broader picture — that throughout the ages, human accomplishments in areas such as science, politics and especially religion reflect an aggregate level of unfoldment of the Egos currently a part of the society and world into which they have incarnated and have contributed to creating. It is an ever-changing process and in observing positive changes over the centuries, we can feel confident that with our understanding of the Plan of the Lemurian Brotherhood, we can add still more that is constructive toward ultimately bringing about the long awaited Kingdom of God.

May the following chapter help in understanding how you can contribute to this forwarding of our purpose as we put cosmic principles to work in our lives not only for our own benefit but as a help to all humankind and its ultimate goal.

LEARNING TO LIVE OUR RELIGION

Realizing that the majority had failed to recognize the value and purpose of Christ's Teachings, and that God's Plan for man's egoic progress was being seriously delayed, the Great Ones laid out the program whereby it could be expedited. The first step was the release of the Lemurian Philosophy for the purpose of educating and training a group of individuals in the proper understanding and application of divine principles so they might exemplify *a way of life* based on these principles.

So their efforts might be concentrated and to speed up the process in its early stages, the Lemurian Fellowship's Gateway property was purchased. A few Order members were extended the opportunity to live there. As they adjusted to each other through the earnest application of Lemurian principles, others were and are being given the same opportunity until there is a large enough group to prove the efficacy of these principles in actual life and living.

Since the Work will be judged largely by the conditions that prevail on these grounds, it is obvious that all who participate in the work at Gateway bear a responsibility to the Great Ones to demonstrate the superiority of the Lemurian way of life.

And since most people are impressed by prosperity, the Order must reflect a healthy economic growth to attract people to the Great Work. It cannot depend only on the tithes and gift offerings of its members for financial support, but must become highly productive through established and growing industries. Material progress is as much a part of balanced spiritual development as mental and ethical accomplishments.

As Lord Lithargos explained to the people of the Rhu Hut Plains, proper organization was their first priority. (*The Sun Rises*, page 142) And so it has been for the pioneers of the Lemurian Order. It has taken much time and effort for these Egos to understand and bring about what was needed, and now, this is being achieved to a reasonable degree. A growing Crafts business is a reality and the modern facilities it requires have been precipitated. All that's needed are enough qualified Order members to build on this solid foundation.

The second characteristic that will create interest in the Work and lead others to undertake the training is the atmosphere of serenity and well-being that must prevail at Gateway, the center of Lemurian activity. This atmosphere can't be superficial, to be displayed only in the presence of visitors, revealing the fact that our absorption of Lemurian

principles is little more than skin-deep. Most of the people we hope to attract to this Work are quick to sense whether or not the pervading atmosphere is genuine.

The friendliness, harmony, and serenity which should permeate the Gateway at all times are a reflection of the love and understanding Order members have developed for each other through wholehearted and consistent adherence to cosmic principles. This is to be expected of those seeking to make the Lemurian Philosophy their religion.

One of the fundamental requirements for building the New Order will be our ability to harmonize with others while at the same time maintaining our status as thinking individuals. Since the New Order will be the brotherhood of all humankind, a spirit of good will, cooperation, and fellowship must exist among all its participants.

Lesson Eight

Only constant thought and adherence to the Golden Rule will enable students to exercise these qualities and build the understanding cooperation essential to the success of the Lemurian Order. In attempting to hold to this rule for harmonious human relationships, it will be found that *selflessness* is a very necessary and helpful ingredient.

Lesson Ten mentions the selflessness of voluntarily giving of material possessions to further a worthy cause, and of the greater unselfishness of giving one's time and energies in promoting such a cause. Then the lesson explains that even this is not the ultimate of unselfishness, for as Christ told His disciples, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow me."

Here, Christ was saying that if one hopes to make important egoic progress, all self-interest must be erased from his consciousness by working with his personal self (his cross) in the manner in which He taught. Christ's thought was always for others, and in our ongoing, we too must learn to give ever more thought to bringing peace and happiness into the lives of others than we do to bringing them into our own lives. The gain will be ours through the operation of the Law of Action and Reaction, as the serenity and joy we have brought to others reflects in our own greater well-being.

Building Selflessness at Gateway

We who strive for Lemurian Initiation must always bear in mind that while the ability to get along with others is essential to success and

personal contentment, it is also part of our purpose on this plane of existence. Like any other ability, it may be cultivated, and the first step in the right direction is to endeavor to understand and be thoughtful of others. In doing so, we will learn something of what it means to practice the selflessness that reveals our worthiness to be considered for Initiation. Careful thought will show that its expression necessarily implies the use of the virtues as well as other cosmic principles.

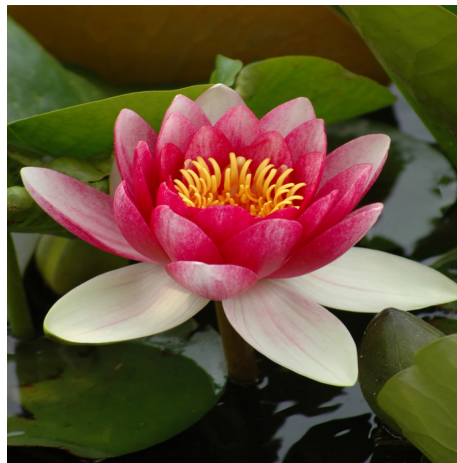
How may we build this selflessness within ourselves? And particularly, how may Order members at the Gateway do this?

All too many are quick to form a dislike for some people when first meeting them, only to find later that their impulsive judgment was mistaken. As you have learned, appearances can be deceiving. These may be very fine people, but because they lack self-confidence when meeting others for the first time, they may try to conceal a sense of awkwardness or embarrassment, giving others a wrong impression of themselves. Remember, too, that the unhappy and insecure tend to alienate themselves from others because they are afraid of being misunderstood.

We must not allow our reaction to a personality to influence our judgment of an Ego. Always heed the admonition of the Elder Brother to:

Consider the lotus bud. Closed, it is like its thousand brothers. Opened, each displays a beauty all its own. Look deep into its heart and feast upon the beauty there. Be not like the coolie who sees only the clinging mud in which the plant is rooted.

Lesson Eight



The nature of a human being is much like a delicate flower; do not bruise it in any way by forming hasty conclusions regarding it, but be as the warm sunlight, extending yourself to be kind, thoughtful, and patient. What you will then perceive will be a small but lovely miracle, for the warmth will cause the "bud" to open, revealing to you many likeable and admirable characteristics that lie at the core of its being.

Another characteristic that prevents some from practicing selflessness is the tendency to develop personal animosity toward certain individuals for no reason whatever. They are quick to seize on seeming violations of positive thinking, using them to justify their own irrational appraisals. If we want to achieve citizenship in the New Order, we must be alert to such tendencies on our part and check them immediately!

If we would actually be the thinking people we believe we are, then let us bear in mind another admonition of an Elder Brother:

That about another which displeases you is but a reflection of your inner consciousness. When you can see about you only good, then you may know your heart is right — and not else.

Lesson Five

Seeing Others as the Great Ones See Them

The Lemurian Order and, eventually, the New Order will be composed of people from all walks of life — people with varied backgrounds of experience and degrees of educational and cultural advantages. Some will have had little formal education, and the culture some will have acquired may consist chiefly of what they have learned through their study of the Lemurian Philosophy. Their economic level or educational status means little to the Elder Brothers whose main interest lies in what the individual has done toward developing a strong and selfless character.

By the time students become Order members, it is hoped that they will have acquired the ability to regard conditions such as education or wealth in much the same way. When beginning the study of the Lemurian Philosophy, these standards may have rated high in the appraisal they made of people, but as stated in Lesson Two, with the study and application of cosmic principles, one's sense of values changes: what previously seemed important no longer appears so, while other things that had no significance take on more and more meaning.

That Order members regard permanent egoic values as more important than personal values is obviously most essential. To think otherwise would be to create standards at variance with those of the Elder Brothers and could result in separation among the members of the Order.

This would be especially true in the close association at the Gateway; cliques of those who believed themselves to be superior to others in various fields would come into being, and the civilization which is to be founded on the unselfish basis of "all for one and one for all" would suffer a serious setback. The desire to form or be part of a clique is a selfish and detrimental one since cliques shut out others, causing them to feel inferior and unhappy. They not only create jealousy and resentment, but tend to spawn intolerance. Manifestly, they can play no part in the forming New Order.

Nor may an aspiring Order member feel superior to any other by the seeming lack of problems affecting his health, finances, home life, or business. The cosmic status of another's egoic progress is the only real basis for determining his advancement, and this no student is given to know. Only the truly perceptive have gained the wisdom to see beyond the appearance of the present lifetime to the reality, and their understanding and humility would preclude any sense of superiority. In fact, their natural kindliness, tolerance, and charity would not permit them to cause another to feel inferior and uncomfortable.

All Order members have problems of some kind they must learn to work with. Some, though, have more than others and because the burden is often heavy, the kindly understanding of fellow Order members can be very helpful in reassuring their troubled minds. And after all, isn't thoughtfulness of others — particularly of those who are in need of it — to be expected of those striving for citizenship in the Kingdom of God?

The student who is not engrossed with thoughts of himself will soon discover that contrary to what he would have believed, those individuals who carry the heaviest burdens are often the most cheerful and least inclined to complain about their lot in life. In the face of their courage, aspiring Order members might well wonder how *they* would handle some of these situations, and whether they would react as well under similarly difficult circumstances.

Helping Others Be Their Best

People contribute most to society when they have faith in themselves and their abilities. Yet, due to previous unfortunate experiences, prin-

cipally those occurring in the formative childhood years, many lack this self-confidence and need help in acquiring it. Nothing can contribute more to building assurance in ourselves and our abilities than the knowledge that our associates believe in us.

To help others acquire self-confidence presents opportunities to develop selflessness, for your thoughts can't be concentrated on yourself or your affairs while looking for and observing instances where you can help strengthen others' belief in themselves. In view of the long-range good to be accomplished, this is also an excellent way to earn cosmic credits, although Order members should be less concerned about cosmic credits and more taken up with the happiness they experience in rendering selfless service. At this point in the training, the student should do good for the sheer joy of doing so, and not because of reward.

It is not always possible to recognize those who need approval. Although most people are not consciously aware of it, the need for belonging and being of value is common to *all* human beings, for as Harriet Beecher Stowe wrote, "There is not a person . . . who does not, like ourselves, desire recognition, praise, gentleness, forbearance, patience."

How do we help others build the essential quality of self-esteem? Strangely enough, we accomplish this by doing the things we should ordinarily take for granted — by doing unto others as we would have them do unto us!

To get started, make your associates conscious of your genuine interest in them and their affairs by learning something of their families, hobbies, and problems. When they speak to you of these, really listen instead of allowing your mind to drift to your own personal interests. Just as you would be sensitive to any indication of preoccupation on their part, so are other people toward you. Be thoughtfully attentive so your response may be intelligent and kindly. If the person you are talking to has a problem, be sincerely sympathetic and encouraging. Avoid being effusive, for any extreme demonstration can suggest insincerity.

Test yourself sometimes: Are you at ease and comfortable allowing another to tell his story, or are you eager to jump in and tell your own?

Be observant of the accomplishments of your associates, regardless of how insignificant they may seem to you, and speak a word of commendation now and then, making it a point to mention some particular phase of the achievement. Maybe there have been times when you, too, have felt that you or your efforts have gone unnoticed or unappreciated so you know what the cheering power of sincere praise can

mean. By making a practice of observing the worth of your associates, you will experience pleasant reactions in your own life.

To empathize with those whose thoughts parallel our own, or who are of pleasing personality and physical attractiveness, is a natural inclination. Still, while our association with them may be very pleasant, it could conceivably contribute little to the development of our character. Nor does their *need* for recognition approximate that of those most people are not especially attracted to.

Less compelling associations sometimes offer greater opportunities to practice selflessness in helping others become more self-reliant, and in so doing add to our own egoic stature. This is especially true of associations at Gateway. The sincerity and devotion to the Lemurian Program displayed by many through years of training in qualifying for Order membership may never be disregarded or overlooked.



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Working Toward the First Degree of Initiation

Only the Elder Brothers can say who has made the greater effort in reaching this first important step along the way toward Lemurian Initiation, for they do not view these matters from a personal standpoint as we are inclined to do. They observe objectively each of our efforts to fulfill the requirements to the best of our ability and as we under-

stand them. Because the Great Ones are fully aware of the task we have set for ourselves, they view with compassion those who do not display appealing personalities or talents, or who carry disheartening, pressing personal problems, or whose health keeps them from being as active as they might wish to be.

Those earnestly striving for egoic advancement do not seek sympathy, but rather the understanding all human beings like to receive, whether or not they are consciously working for Initiation. In their desire to lay the foundation for the New Order, though, all Order members have a responsibility to try to be in harmony with one another. This is how they grow. For just as we learn most from pitting ourselves against opposing circumstances, so do we gain the greatest knowledge of human nature by learning to adjust to those whose dispositions differ from ours, or who have problems unlike ours.

To acquire this knowledge is a necessary phase of our development. As explained in the chapter, "Human Relationships," of Lesson Ten, people's progress toward Mastership and ultimate unity with all things is predicated on an increasing ability to harmonize with their physical environment. The lesson states that "the most difficult step in this direction is that of adjusting to others." Although this adjustment is the most difficult, it is also the most important step in our progress. Devoid of our associations with others, little or no egoic development would be possible.

Since the lesson refers to the most difficult step in our progress as being that of adjusting ourselves to others, this places the problem directly in the hands of the individual — in *your* hands — for nothing is said about influencing others to adjust to your ideas, or of what they should or should not be. People may set up standards only for themselves, by which they can judge whether or not they personally are making progress. They can't do this for others because their understanding of them is limited, and since most people do not yet see beyond the appearance, their thinking regarding other people is often distorted.

We may observe others and learn from them but we must not attribute any lack of harmony in our environments and mental outlook to *their* transgressions of cosmic principles. These are of our own making, and in failing to recognize this fact, we are our own worst enemies, standing in the way of the progress we might otherwise make. So be alert to *your* negative reactions, such as jealousy, resentment, fear, bitterness, hurt, recognizing these emotional responses for what they are. *Work to control them* by employing the suggestions given throughout the Philosophy. In no instance attempt to rationalize them.

If you have come to believe that the Law of Cause and Effect is one of the basic laws of the universe, can you ponder the possibility that what displeases you is actually a result of causes emanating from you — your thoughts or actions? That's not easy to see when the fault seems so clearly to lie with another. But if you think about it and begin to recognize why you are facing the troublesome problems you are, or at least believe they hold some good for you, the results can seem like a miracle. And you will feel closer to the Great Ones in sensing the value of this experience in your ongoing.

If we are to learn to live and work harmoniously with others as we must do if the Kingdom of God is to materialize, we will be obliged to give up our own ideas many times. For each to cling to personal opinions about others is obviously impractical. There must be a blending of views concerning the common good, and all must be in accord with cosmic principles.



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So that aspirants for citizenship might have the correct basis for understanding what will be involved in the precipitation of the New Order, and be informed of the requirements for participation in it, the *Lemurian Brotherhood* has released the Lemurian Philosophy. In their

great wisdom, they set this up as a form of instruction to be administered by their mundane channel, the Lemurian Fellowship. Under the leadership of their chosen Emissary, and over a period of many years, the members of the Fellowship Board of Governors were guided into the proper understanding of cosmic principles and given all essential information and instructions relative to the Great Plan for bringing in the New Order.

Not only is the Fellowship fully capable of helping students through their basic instruction and advanced training, but with the available guidance of the Elder Brothers, they are well-qualified to instruct Order members in realizing their greatest potential. And as the channel through which the Great Ones work, these individuals are charged with the responsibility of directing the activities of the Lemurian Order in its efforts to establish the foundation for the coming New Order.

Creating Your Own Gateway

The early people who took the first forward steps resulting in the glorious Mukulian Empire had no background of experience to draw upon, no educational and cultural advantages, no knowledge of scientific attainments such as have elevated our standards today. Nor did they know what it was they were setting out to do; they had no vision of the future they were to bring about, and nothing on which to base their hopes and dreams.

On the other hand, these primitive people had implicit faith in the Elders whose advice they followed without question, and this, together with their absolute willingness to spare themselves no effort, was responsible for the rapid progress they made. While we have many advantages over them, they did not have the skepticism, intellectual smugness, or exaggerated self-esteem characteristic of so many today, which handicap our endeavors to bring in an Order based on cosmic principles and the teachings of Christ. Also, in attempting to lay the foundation for the New Order, we work against subversive forces that take advantage of our every weakness, using them to deter the Work of the Brotherhoods, for they well know that once it gains momentum, they will be doomed.

Yet, as those interested in the Great Work recognize their shortcomings, and humbly and earnestly strive to overcome them, and as all Order members begin to accept and follow the counsel given by the Lemurian Fellowship whose great desire is to fulfill the wishes of the Great Ones, the affairs of the Lemurian Order will quickly fall into line and the influence of the nether forces will wither and fall away.

Each of us is responsible for our own salvation. We must come to see ourselves as we are, not as we may fondly imagine ourselves to be. This applies to everyone, but as an aspirant for Initiation, you are mostly concerned with its application to *you*. Don't waste time observing how others may err, for this does not help you in the least. It is simply a stumbling block you place in the way of your own progress.

Admittedly, control of our minds and personal selves is not easily achieved. To extend beyond our present capacities so we may develop the characteristics and abilities of the Initiate requires constant observation of our thoughts and actions, as well as constant self-discipline in governing them. Yet, this conscious endeavor to do what we know must ultimately be done by all is far less arduous and disheartening than the slow progress being made by those who know nothing of the purpose of life or the reasons for the often heartbreaking situations they encounter.

Isn't it better to do what is required *now* because we *want* to rather than wait until Nature and God compel us to do so through misfortune and sorrow? To be sure, it will take time, but what better time is there to begin? If we will just try to become aware of our shortcomings, take them up one by one and deliberately work with them, we can and will achieve our goal.

There will be tests of our faith, sincerity, and ability to use cosmic principles properly. But only the insincere need fear such tests, for the kindly and loving Elder Brothers never submit us to any test beyond our strength and ability to cope. If we fail, and try to excuse our inadequacy by placing the blame on others or by telling ourselves that we could not know it was a test, we only add to our weakness. These tests may sometimes seem difficult, but if we meet them courageously, glad in the understanding that they are invariably designed for our greatest good, only good will come out of them, regardless of what may appear to the contrary.

Make your philosophy a veritable part of you by devoting some time each day to its study, by thinking of the principles taught as they relate to your own life and affairs, and by applying them in ever increasing measure. Make it your way of life . . . your religion!

For some time to come, your understanding will be more or less superficial, and your interpretations will often reflect this lack. "For now we see through a glass darkly . . . Now I know in part . . ." (1 Corinthians 13:12) Only as perception deepens through years of thoughtful study of the Philosophy, conscientious application of cosmic principles, and

habitual contemplation of both do we gradually penetrate into the *reality* of what has been given us. The farther we progress, the more of truth do we come to recognize.

At the Gateway, as every effort is made to contribute something of value to the Great Work, nothing can detract from its ultimate success; as the lips of all Order members who live or visit there are sealed against criticism, reproach, or complaint; as kindly, thoughtful, and selfless acts toward one another become increasingly habitual, this location will gradually grow more truly representative of the Great Work and will reflect that sweet and peaceful vibration we associate with the Kingdom of Heaven. May it be inspiring to you to see how you can create something of this atmosphere in your own life wherever you may be.



GUIDELINES FOR CITIZENSHIP IN THE NEW ORDER

As the Elders trained the various tribes to be admitted to the Rhu Hut Plains, so does the *Lemurian Brotherhood*, through its mundane channel, prepare Egos for the forthcoming New Order. Yet the New Order is still a distant goal at this time of turmoil in the world, and the goal of First Degree Lemurian Initiation so little understood, that a more tangible, interim goal must first be outlined for those seeking eventual Citizenship. This goal is embodied in the Lemurian Order with its headquarters at the Gateway in Ramona. We know that aspirants for admittance to the Rhu Hut Plains were trained by the Elders for seven years; so, too, should students think realistically about the period of training required to achieve the goal immediately before them.

As explained earlier in the lesson, only a few are able to qualify for the privilege of staff membership today, though this is gradually changing as more students recognize the unique opportunity to serve humanity. It is not practical for all students to aspire to be members of the Gateway staff, for there are many who have chosen other missions in this early transitional period. But an effort to understand and meet the requirements for Gateway residence in your own environment and associations can improve your understanding of what Lemurian students can do to strive for greater progress no matter where they may live. As they do this they are assured of finding more quickly their specific mission in the Lemurian Program.

Because many students are uncertain as to how deeply they should become involved in the Lemurian Program, we have prepared this final chapter so that you may think specifically of what is transpiring in Ramona now. These guidelines are covered generally here, but as you think about them, ask yourself whether Gateway staff membership is something that might fit your current egoic pattern. Or would it be more advisable to begin your participation from the San Diego area, so you may experience Gateway and work together with other Order members and staff to see what life there is like? Or, would you prefer to begin from where you live today while seeking to participate from a distance?

Observe the obligations of your daily life today, and your associations with others in order to consider your future goals. How satisfied are you with your life as it is now? Are there times when you sense uneasiness, a frustration, or lack of happiness in your life that seems

to have no real basis? Such feelings could indicate that your present environment has served its purpose, that it is time to take a long, hard look at your goals for this incarnation. It could be an indication of a behind-the-scenes influence urging you toward plans you made for this lifetime that now have a direct bearing on your participation in the Plan of the *Lemurian Brotherhood*. In thinking of the testing encountered by Rhu and Hut, the close observation and guidance of these two and others by the Great Ones as described in *The Sun Rises*, have you begun to consider a similar process beginning to take place in your life? Are you one of those Egos who desires to respond to the guidance of the Great Ones?

Since enrolling with the Lemurian Fellowship, you have had to make many decisions as you studied and sought to apply the information of the Lemurian lessons. And have you also sensed that there will be a greater need for wise decisions as you progress? Through the proper use of *self-determination* we may build character and fulfill our purpose here on the Physical Plane. This is a power that requires proper use, for we must voluntarily discipline ourselves to abide by God's laws. We humans are so constituted, though, that when left to our own initiative, we often do less than we are capable of doing. And somehow Egos seem able to counteract the behind-the-scenes pressures the Great Ones bring to bear from time to time for our benefit. This state of affairs has obtained for thousands of years as can be seen by our present lack of unfoldment.

The *Lemurian Brotherhood* is well aware of the pattern for your incarnation. Yet the Great Ones have given us the Lemurian Philosophy and added their behind-the-scenes guidance to help us sustain our desire to advance. They have also provided the Lemurian Order. This collective effort among Egos who desire to earn the First Degree of Lemurian Initiation is the Plan of the *Lemurian Brotherhood*. But more than this, early in the establishment of their Work in Ramona, they selected the Gateway to be the proving ground for those seeking Citizenship in the New Order.

As the Great Ones have observed those engaged in the work here, and their response to it, they have shown us many of the pitfalls and challenges of this transitional period and how they must be overcome through the use of the Lemurian Philosophy. To the degree that you can think of Gateway as being today's proving ground for Lemurian principles in action, so may you also glimpse the vision of the Plan that is now unfolding there.

Since first reactions are often spontaneous and honest, carefully examine your feelings as you read this concluding chapter of the lesson.

A significant reaction to this information may be the first indication of an awakening to the egoic mission you may have chosen for this incarnation. The decision about whether to strive for Lemurian Order membership is before you as you study this lesson and Lesson Twelve. But more important is determining if you have an intense desire to assist in forwarding the Plan of the *Lemurian Brotherhood*. The level of your desire and interest will determine whether you will be eligible for, and can hope to benefit from, the Advanced Training as preparation for Lemurian Order membership.

If you can think of the requirements for Gateway staff members as an indication of how the Great Ones help all Lemurians progress, you may enhance your recognition of the guidance extended to you since enrolling. Close observation by the Great Ones begins long before the actual opportunity for greater progress manifests.

Observing Help Through the Philosophy

We ask that you pause for a moment and review what your life and affairs were like when you first enrolled with the Lemurian Fellowship. Think of the human relationships and challenges that were a part of your life that may have prompted you to begin this study. What was taking place in your life at that time? Then, think about your application of the Lemurian Philosophy since enrolling, and consider what has already occurred over these many months. Are there specific examples of behind-the-scenes help as you studied elements of the character essential to true unfoldment? Consider, too, the lives of others around you who may not have the same purposeful life that is yours as a Lemurian student. Can you see a difference? The more thought you give this analysis, the greater will be the benefit to you.

Standards to Live By

The following guidelines are not only applicable to those seeking to align themselves with the purposes and standards of Gateway, but represent what is currently expected of all those living the Lemurian Philosophy.

You may recall what *Into The Sun* states about the Egos who serve the Great Work as staff members:

Selecting personnel for the two staffs is a matter of careful screening and approval by the Board of Governors. The high standards of conduct and ability required of teachers and other staff members are set by the Elder Brothers who

guide the Work. The Fellowship can do no less than seek to abide by the Plan they have so thoughtfully established.

While Egos qualifying for staff membership must meet certain requirements, have an intense desire to progress, plus an egoic pattern that is in harmony with such a goal, *everyone* enrolled with the Lemurian Fellowship in this early transitional period has an unusual opportunity to progress no matter where they live or what obligations they have. Those who have elected to earn the privilege of being staff members, or who may work in the vicinity of Order headquarters, encounter an acceleration of opportunities as they work with other Lemurians intent on the conscientious application of the Philosophy.

If you will deliberately ask the Great Ones to help you see the goals selected for this lifetime, you may realize that the guidance similar to that given us at the time of selecting our life's pattern is also present whenever crucial decisions need to be made. What do you desire as a Lemurian student? What are you willing to earn?

Let's imagine that you have come to the Lemurian Fellowship to ask about the requirements for Gateway staff membership. Here is a general outline of the subjects that would be covered to help you understand what is expected of you.

Staff members have the advantage of special personal training, personal interviews when necessary, as well as being shown what to do and how best to perform their work in Ramona. There are comments on reports, service messages, along with the Elder Brothers' behind-the-scenes help and guidance. Living in an environment with others who share your goals, and who face similar testing and preparation, is an added advantage that can facilitate egoic progress. All who are considered for staff membership have the benefit of ample training and contact with the Work before coming here. While this does help in the adjustments required, until students recognize and accept their individual pattern and testing, they can't fully anticipate what lies before them. An intense desire to progress is a vital key to realizing the privilege of staff membership.

When Order members are considered for staff membership, they are expected to gradually see and voluntarily work with their egoic patterns that become ever more apparent in this environment. Beyond *intense desire* are the needed qualities of *flexibility* and *self-discipline* to discover and do what is needed as indicated by the Great Ones, for when the time is right, it is the Elder Brothers who confer Lemurian Initiation. We are never tested beyond our endurance and ability, but

there must be evidence that potential staff members are alert to the tests in their lives and able to respond to them voluntarily.

When students express a desire to be in this area, or to eventually earn staff membership, visits to Gateway are planned so they might acquire first-hand information about staff work and living. They are encouraged to spend as much time at Gateway as seems helpful. The Fellowship makes an effort to talk over certain problems — to the degree that conditions can be anticipated for both the individual and the Work — so there are no surprises later on. The Board of Governors answers questions to enable students to recognize some of the individual adjustments ahead. Given time and a sincere application of the Lemurian Philosophy, all that the Great Ones promised is experienced. Patience is vital to making the changes that need to be made by all who seek to serve the Work in Ramona.

Certain guidelines apply to all who seek to build the foundation of the forthcoming New Order. The Lemurian example expected by the *Lemurian Brotherhood* in the transitional period is based on an etheric pattern created by the Great Ones. Adding reality to the clothing of this pattern enables us to fulfill a major part of our purpose while moving most efficiently toward our collective goal.

If you will apply these guidelines to your own life and affairs, you may readily find the blueprint for your role in the Great Work in this incarnation. The sense of fulfillment that comes with such a realization is not only a source of inspiration to all who live and work here, but those who participate from a distance as well. It makes each task seem more worthwhile, for there is an ever-increasing understanding as to where such efforts are leading.

A Word About Testing

Both current and past staff members agree on one thing: no one arrives in Ramona fully aware of the roles required by the Elder Brothers. Age seems to have nothing to do with this. All must continually learn and refine their actions, reactions and attunement as they seek to fit into the Plan of the *Lemurian Brotherhood*. And how else may we create the needed example of New Order thought and action except as we change and improve? Logical as that may seem, the process is not easy. Change is difficult. This is where *testing* comes in, which is really no less than an intense course in human relationships based on Lemurian principles — cosmic law.

We've said it before, but the idea bears repeating: Those living apart from Gateway have greater freedom to choose whether to respond to

and learn from the challenges, or tests, they encounter through others. At Gateway, because we associate with students who are also keenly aware of cosmic law and the virtues, our personal faults and failings, as well as our strengths, are apparent for all to see, and the need to solve these challenges is ever present.

In the outside world, a little observation shows how common it is for people to belittle and disparage anyone who does not agree with them. While you may not do this openly, there may be the tendency to dismiss as unworthy, or simply avoid, those whose ideas conflict with your own. While more passive, the latter procedure involves many of the same thoughts. However careful the selection process at Gateway, those residing there do not always agree either. Yet when disagreements do occur, there is no running away from them. They are *tests* of our understanding of cosmic law and must, sooner or later, be worked out so that all may continue to work together in harmony.

When those living outside of Gateway decide to pursue such disagreements with others who do not have the benefit of Lemurian training, there is a good chance the response will be less than understanding. This possibility, and fear of the reaction they might receive, occurs often enough to deter otherwise sincere Lemurian students from pursuing these tests to a reasonable conclusion, even though the very advancement they seek is inherent in doing so.

Others do not cause our tests. We say the Elder Brothers test us, and they do, but not by *causing* the test. We have created our own environments, and we are still setting causes into motion that bring effects that are difficult to work with. These become our tests. If the Elder Brothers were to allow all the effects to come at once or even randomly, we would be overcome and in many cases our incarnations would be cut short with little gained.

So the Elder Brothers transmute the effects of our causes, and actually slow down the rate at which they occur. When sincere students are attempting to learn cosmic law, the Great Ones often allow those effects to occur that are directly in line with principles being worked with at any given time. If we use the Philosophy to discover what needs to be done, the test is soon over — lesson learned — and we are prepared to take on more difficult tests. When we avoid our tests, though, we actually cause these challenges to pile up until we are working with several at once. If we do not get to work solving the challenges, we grow discouraged, then defensive, angry, and even depressed, for we are avoiding our egoic purpose — our reasons for incarnating.

Life for staff members is supposed to be different — and it is. Daily, they are in contact with others who strive to use the Lemurian Philosophy in their actions and reactions. The goals and progress of the Work are shared in a unique way, for in the heart of each is the earnest desire to see the Plan of the *Lemurian Brotherhood* fulfilled, and to give only their best toward this goal. Because all are observing fellow staff members, there is a lot to be gained from these observations to accelerate the learning from similar testing. And when disagreements can't be worked out, the Fellowship is available to help those involved. Of course, the Fellowship can't resolve the testing of staff members any more than it solves the problems of students. The individual must find the solution, but the Fellowship's more impersonal perspective along with reminders and further training in the finer points of cosmic law are usually all that is needed for the individual to apply new causes to a problem.

While the subjects we will discuss over the next few pages cover some common points of testing staff members encounter, they are also helpful to students and Order members. As is always true, the testing varies with the individual, though there are times when all are tested in similar areas as standards are gradually raised. If students will be alert to such tests in their own lives, they may discover that they are preparing for specific roles, whatever or wherever these may be. And they will lead to further opportunities to earn the First Degree of Lemurian Initiation.

1. *Devotion* To be more aware of the help of the Great Ones and their Plan, we must do our best to be alert to their guidance and encouragement. How can you become more aware of their help, their expectations of you, how you are meeting your tests? Before sending the Fellowship your answers to a lesson questionnaire, or when answering a Fellowship letter, arrange a time of quiet when you seek to communicate your thoughts to the Great Ones about the work just completed. Try to spend a half hour directing your thoughts to them. This could be a time of expressing your gratitude for the Great Ones' role in helping you find the Lemurian Philosophy, and their encouragement to you through their mundane channel. You may wish to renew your commitment to work with the egoic challenges you picked for this lifetime. Or, you may just wish to think about the Elder Brothers and what it would be like to work more closely with them.

Whatever you do during this 15-30 minute period, let your thoughts be genuine and your desires sincere. Afterward, read again what you have prepared to send to the Fellowship. See if there is anything you wish to add, or change. If these occasions are pursued with devotion and reverence, they often provide a sense of peace and pleasant expectation about whatever you are working on.

Don't look for *conversations* with the Great Ones, or expect to bypass the role the Fellowship may fill in your training. The purpose of this suggestion is to help you begin to realize what the guidance from the Great Ones is, and what it is not. Accept this in keeping with their plans and methods of helping Lemurian students. Such devotion could easily increase your response to the Great Work and provide that sense of belonging that enables you to feel a connection no matter how far away you may live, and to place first things first in your efforts to fulfill life's purpose here on the Physical Plane.

2. *Concentration* No matter what you attempt, you will do it better if you will *concentrate* while doing it. The words, "I forgot," may be a reason, but aren't an excuse for not thinking. If you will think about your responsibilities, it should not be difficult to work toward improving your thinking ability. How easily we remember something personal, such as a TV program we want to see, but forget parts of our daily responsibilities in work or associations with others because we fail to impress these matters on our minds through the use of concentration.

By concentrating on a job we are doing, we can learn how long it takes to do it, as well as how we can improve our performance. For example, think about a job you do regularly. Deliberately keep your mind on it without any distractions, such as something on the radio or TV, or the conversation of others. The mental practice of *tuning out* such interferences improves precision and efficiency. Don't excuse yourself when you fail to concentrate. Admittedly, concentration is *hard work*, but learning to use our minds more efficiently is vital to the success of the Work, and it is good self-discipline. It may be surprising to see how much the concentration of a few can inspire others to follow this example.

3. *Compensation* All of us need to be consciously aware of the need to compensate for the privileges that are ours, the behind-the-scenes help of the Great Ones. Setting daily Lemurian goals is a vital obligation to God, to the Elder Brothers, and to all who support the Fellowship. Concentrating on the work done each day is one way of being alert to the workings of the Law of Compensation.

No matter what your work, your role in society provides countless opportunities to earn cosmic credits, or to dissipate them by acquiring debits. By thinking about the need for credits for personal unfoldment, as well as the success of the Great Work, you can move closer to the balance essential to being a part of the New Order during this transitional period.

4. *The Old Order and the Outside World* Using the discrimination needed to gradually change your values from old order to New Order cannot be left to chance. Staff members are asked to consider what may be termed their need to be a part of the "outside world" and its current trends. Students may want to examine how important it is to them to sustain old order standards and values, if they hope to enjoy the results the lessons describe. Every test that comes our way involves some sort of an adjustment. If we can be alert to these, we may gradually bring about the improvements essential to fulfilling life's twofold purpose. But if we continue to wish for the best of both worlds, not only does it complicate our lives, making us less effective, but we may fail to respond to the subtle help offered by the Elder Brothers.

5. *Your Awareness of the Great Ones' Observation* How often during the day do you think of the Great Ones observing you in your activities, your associations with others? What about their observation of your thoughts — your conversations? How often do you start the day eager to discover the tests that could help you gain greater knowledge? Do you look at such tests as signs of the Great Ones' confidence in you to eventually build the noble character essential to the First Degree of Lemurian Initiation?

6. *Selflessness* Thoughtfulness and consideration for the needs of others must be consciously developed. We should look carefully to discover where we lack selflessness, since established habits may seem so natural that we are unaware of them, and they can make a big difference in how others respond to us. The lessons of thoughtfulness and consideration that must be learned often result from one's conscious use of the virtues.

7. *Image Building* The problem of image building can be a constant point of testing for all. For example, how can we be overly solicitous of those who are easy to get along with and at the same time ignore the needs of others? Such behavior should be something we all work to balance.

How often do we draw attention to the work we do, seeking recognition or commendation? How easily may we become indignant with waste in government, yet remain unaware of the waste of time and effort when we seek to project a false image rather than simply trying to improve our own Lemurian example?

The sincere desire to be an example of the Lemurian Philosophy is a positive, motivating force. But it can take time to incorporate the moderation that is a key part of the needed example, and express

the balance required. Trying to appear perfect, or volunteering for as many projects as possible, can be signs of holding an unrealistic personal image, and sometimes cause us to miss the deeper character building opportunities our "busyness" may cover over.

Combining the good communication it takes to blend well, and the humility to ask for help or accept another's idea; to stop when we've reached our limit, whether physically or mentally; or repair an error that would otherwise cause work for another, all require full use of the Lemurian Philosophy and the virtues. Such efforts can be very rewarding. The sincerity of our efforts to take advantage of opportunities for personal and spiritual growth gives them greater meaning and purpose wherever we may be.

8. *Flexibility* Some individuals require greater flexibility in their thinking. They may be reluctant to give up old habits and cherished ideas, believe all their ideas are best, or that whatever they decide to do is *the* most important task at the moment. They find it difficult to change and employ more Lemurian principles in their actions. Some of our ideas are compatible with cosmic law and Lemurian ideals; others are not.

There are also those who tend to be *too* flexible. These people often try to respond to all the requests of others without considering whether they should. It is one thing to be amenable to suggestion, but another to be ever willing to drop everything, abandon all one's own plans, in order to bolster an image of helpfulness or to avoid confrontation.

Flexibility may be required in how one thinks about family. For some this is an emotional issue and family is the source of constant problems. With others it is less so, and for a few, family is in proper perspective. This is an area where all Lemurians have an opportunity to move away from old order traditions and toward more cosmically sound ideals with trust that this can positively affect loved ones.

We can't simply continue doing what comes naturally; we have to *think* about our habits, our desires, our reactions, our wants, our needs. If you will do this, it will be easier to be flexible. Trying to be alert to your habits and ideas that express the rigidity of the old order may enable you to start from where you are to exhibit the flexibility that is a complement to moderation and balance.

9. *Integrity* As students of this great Philosophy, we believe in the impartial justice of cosmic law, yet remain alert to those instances when we are not accepting these truths wholeheartedly. We under-

stand that the Great Ones are fully aware of what we think, say, and do. Even so, we may say and do things we would not want them to know about. When we continue to retaliate against real and imagined injustice or slights, aren't we standing in the way of allowing cosmic law to "have her perfect work"? Such instances of a lack of integrity hinder the achievement of the goals we seek and miss the importance of developing greater integrity if we wish more direct guidance from the Elder Brothers. True integrity is a many-faceted gem, worthy of our best thought. Here are some questions to ask yourself that may help you see your own points of testing so you may consciously develop greater integrity.

How often do you share credit with others for ideas or a project you also had a part in, or do you tend to relate the experience as if you did it all alone, or had all the good ideas? Do you tend to forget the contribution of others? To share credit willingly requires integrity.

On the other hand, have you ever embellished or colored events of the past or present so you might appear more capable than you are, or to avoid blame for something that was done wrong? How do you regard others who do this?

Have you ever sat silently when someone asked how some item was broken or lost, knowing full well that you were involved?

Have you ever said, "I was going to do that," when in reality you hadn't given it more than a fleeting thought? The desire to save face may seem innocent enough, or even justified, but by weighing what Lord Lithargos stated in *The Sun Rises* concerning Hut's lack of integrity (beginning on page 267), we have an example of how the Great Ones observe all of us. Whether to use integrity, or take an easier path, is a decision that either builds stronger character or holds us at status quo.

Are you ready to work objectively toward the New Order? Think about what it could mean in your life to give your all to exemplifying the Lemurian Philosophy. Think about the workings of the Law of Action and Reaction and the benefits you could bring into your life by doing so. Developing greater integrity can benefit anyone who will seek its deeper meaning.

