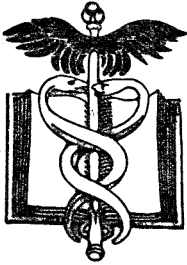


WESTERN WISDOM BIBLE STUDY



"Sin No More"



Afterward Jesus findeth him in the temple, and said unto him, Behold, thou art made whole; sin no more, lest a worse thing befall thee. (John 5:14)

And that servant, which knew his lord's will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes; but he that knew not, and did things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes. (Luke 12:47)

A student of the higher teachings, who understands the Law and has striven for some time to change his life accordingly, finds that by degrees he is being made whole in mind, soul and body. He is becoming a new creature in Christ Jesus. Through purification every atom in every vehicle has become sensitized, readily responsive to immediate influences.

The harmonies of heaven now pulse through his hitherto unreceptive senses, bringing peace, joy, power. He becomes aware of a quickened mind and strange beauties in thought, feelings, and the commonplace acts of daily life. But he finds, too, that the old sins, when at intervals they catch him off guard, leave a more poignant, lasting sting than formerly. His whole complex structure has become so sensitized that when he gives way to discordant emotions, the effect is intensified and the disturbance almost more than he can endure.

In former years, when he lost his temper he might have been upset for a few moments, or an hour, then it passed from his mind. Now, however, when anger, jealousy, violent resentment, passion rush through his desire body, he

feels the agitation to his very soul; it might actually make him ill, keep him awake through the night, and torment him until he rights the wrong. The wise aspirant, therefore, will strive unceasingly to overcome his peculiar faults, "to sin no more," and so enter increasingly and permanently into the joy and service of his Lord.

Every occult student knows that the Law, or his Lord's will, demands that he *prepare* himself, through the slow, thorough process of self-purification and conquest, for conscious union with Him. But there are those who are unwilling to follow this slow, safe path of preparation. They are impatient for phenomenal results, for the glamour of the superphysical, and so strain every effort to that end. They do not train their minds to probe and understand, their emotions to obey their will, or their high-strung nervous system to be calm and steady under stress. Instead of strengthening their will through positive development, they surrender that most precious possession in negative receptivity. The result is that they are indeed "beaten with many stripes"; they prematurely contact conditions they cannot cope with, and their *unprepared* vehicles find themselves at the mercy of bewildering supernatural forces they often cannot withstand. These forces play upon and through their unprotected inner constitution with relentless persistency.

He who *prepares* himself through the positive process of regeneration shall be made whole, secure in wisdom, peace, and mastery on every plane, a co-worker with God and a mighty power for good among his fellow men.