

Western Wisdom Bible Study



“Judge Not—”

Judge not, that ye be not judged.

For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.

And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye?

Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye?

Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye.

—Matthew 7:1-5

Undoubtedly, one of the most difficult lessons for the spiritual aspirant to master is that of not judging or criticising others. The tendency to see the mote in their brother's eye rather than the beam in their own seems to be natural to the great majority of people, and most of them are either entirely unaware of or indifferent to the very detrimental effect this practice has upon soul growth. They are also oblivious to the fact that, because of the ever-functioning Law of Cause and Effect, they invite judgment from others of a kind like to that which they render. Anyone who is a target for the severe criticism of his associates should realize that the experience is but the reaping of what has been sown in the past.

Occult philosophy assures us that since “logic is the best teacher in the Physical World, as well as the safest and surest guide in any world,” we should

cultivate the faculty of logical reasoning by systematically observing everything and everybody, drawing conclusions from actions.

However, “while practicing this method of observation, it should always be kept in mind that it must be used only to gather facts and not for purposes of criticism, at least not wanton criticism. Constructive criticism, which points out defects and the means of remedying them, is the basis of progress; but destructive criticism, which vandalistically demolishes without aiming at any higher attainment, is an ulcer on the character and must be eradicated.

“Discrimination teaches us in an impersonal way what is good and evil, but gives us no feeling about it, and that is the important point. Examination of a fact, idea, or object, and a decision respecting its worth is necessary and not to be shunned, but harsh thoughts should be avoided, for they form arrowlike thought forms which pass outward from us to pierce and obstruct the inflow of good thoughts constantly radiated by the Elder Brothers.”

“While it is not required that we shall say that black is white and overlook manifestly wrong conduct, criticism should be made only for the purpose of helping, not wantonly to besmirch the reputation of a fellow-being because we think we have found a little stain.”

The sincere aspirant turns his most unsparing criticism upon himself. “None is so perfect that there is no room for improvement. The more blameless the man, the less prone he is to find fault and cast the first stone at another. If we point out faults and suggest ways for improvement, it must be done without personal feeling. We must always seek the good which is hidden in everything.” □