

## *What Are We Thankful For?*

**H**ERE WE ARE AGAIN at the time of the year when the Sun is transiting through Sagittarius, the sign ruled by the planet Jupiter, said to be bringer of good things, the god of thunder, and ruler of the skies.

Sagittarius, the zodiacal sign, is represented by a Centaur, a mythical beast with the lower body of a horse and the upper torso, arms, and head of a man, shooting fiery arrows at the stars with his magic bow.

During this month we are therefore turning our eyes toward the sky and toward God our Father, Who is the dispenser of all good things, provider of many blessings, and keeper of the Flame of Light, Love and Life. We look up to Him with thoughts of gratitude and prayers of thanksgiving.

Sagittarius represents one of the twelve steps in man's yearly journey on the spiritual path, as symbolized by the zodiacal circle. This, the 9th step, teaches us about the inner struggle between Spirit and matter, between Light and darkness, between Good and evil, between Knowledge and ignorance and so on.

This apparent struggle, in which the Spirit within triumphs over the lower propensities of our character, is in fact a process by which we integrate the faculties of the Spirit into our personality. It is a process that trains our lower, or little, self to follow the dictates of our Higher Self in order to overcome the limits and illusions of our outer material prison and to open the gates of Heaven within so we may discover the wonderful spiritual treasures in store for us there.

In St. Exupery's book, *The Little Prince*, the Fox gives his simple but profound secret to the Little Prince in these words:

*It is only with the Heart*

*That one can see rightly;  
What is essential  
Is invisible to the eyes.*

Let us understand that Heaven is invisible to the eyes because Heaven is within, not without. God is in Heaven and He loves us immensely. He talks to us all the time, dispensing his gifts of Wisdom unceasingly; therefore all of God's innumerable treasures are closer to us than hand and foot, because we carry them with us at all times, in the midst of our material blindness and deafness.

This is what our Lord Christ Jesus meant when He said:

*They have eyes and they don't see,  
They have ears and they don't hear,  
Because their hearts are hardened.*

The process in this 9th step aims at opening our inner eye, that all-seeing eye, that inspires our Heart towards the Good, the Beautiful, and the True, and that we use to reconnect with the Source, like a high speed modem connected to the celestial network supervised by the Grand Cosmic Webmaster. Let us expand upon this world-wide web analogy. Some of us do not have a computer and are not connected to the Cosmic Internet; others only have a dial-up connection whereby they are connected only at certain times; yet others have a DSL, satellite, or cable modem whereby they are connected all the time. In our quest for Light we as spiritual aspirants seek to be connected at all times with our Father in Heaven.

This is the essence of religion. And guess what? Religion is under the dominion of Sagittarius, of all signs! Religion comes from the Latin *religare* which is composed of two words: *re* meaning again and *ligare* meaning to tie or to connect (with the

Source—God being the Source of all Light, Love, and Light).

Prayer was given to us as the best way to connect with the Source: the Spirit of God. The Elder Brothers through Max Heindel gave us instruction on how to use scientific prayer to reach our Father in Heaven and benefit from his bountiful Power and Divine Light to illumine our steps on the path of self-transformation.

Our scientific prayer takes several facts into account. As we humble ourselves in front of Him and utter our silent prayers of gratitude, our heavenly Father opens our inner eye and whispers His inspired wisdom to guide our steps to the inner Temple of Truth.

“There is only one force in the universe, namely, the Power of God, which He sent forth through space in the form of a Word; not a single word, but the creative fiat which by its sound-vibration marshaled the millions of chaotic atoms into the multitudinous shapes and forms, from starfish to star and microbe to man, which constitute and inhabit the universe. As the syllables and sounds of this creative Word are being spoken, one after another through the ages, species are being created and the older ones evolved, all according to the thought and plan conceived in the Divine Mind...”

God is Light and as we reach deeper into space with our telescopes, we realize that the depths has no end and we must look with our inner eye to apprehend His Spiritual Light and see the writing on the Wall of the Living Temple, that inner temple built not of bricks but of the light of the Soul body.

Such a temple is built by our prayers on a daily basis. But prayer without works is dead, so we must make our work our prayer and our prayer our work! *Ora et labora* was the old alchemists’ motto: Our lives must be a living prayer, as we walk in the light of His loving Wisdom applied in our daily living.

One day St. Francis stepped up to a young brother in the monastery with the invitation: “Come, brother, let us go down to the village and preach to the people.” The young brother was overjoyed at



the prospect of a walk with the Holy Father, for he knew what a source of spiritual upliftment it would be. And so they walked to the village, up and down its various streets and

lanes, all the while conversing upon topics of absorbing spiritual interest, and finally turned their steps homewards towards the monastery. Then suddenly it dawned upon the young brother that they had been so absorbed in their own conversations that they had forgotten the object of their walk to the village.

Diffidently he reminded St. Francis of the omission and the latter responded: “Son, while we were walking the village streets the people were watching us; they overheard snatches of our conversation and noted that we were talking of the Love of God and his dear Son our Savior; they noted our kindly greetings and our words of cheer and comfort to the afflicted ones we met, and even our garb spoke to them the language and call of religion; so we have preached to them every moment of our sojourn among them, to much better purpose than if we had harangued them for hours, in the market place.”

St. Francis had no other thought but God and to do good in His name, therefore he was well attuned to the divine vibration, and it is no wonder that he was a powerful magnet for the divine Life and Light which permeated his whole being. Like him we are to do all things “unto the Lord” in order to reach the harmony of the spheres and one day be able to say the words spoken by Christ Jesus: “My Father and I are one.”

Every prayer, spoken or unspoken, every song of praise, every prayer of thanksgiving, every reading of parts of the scripture which teach or exhort, if done by a properly prepared reader, who loves and lives what he reads, brings down upon both the worshiper and the place of worship an outpouring of Spirit. Thus in time an invisible church is built around the physical structure whose transcendent beauty increases in proportion with the devotion of the congregation.

Repetition of devotional activity increases the

force field and power of the invisible church one builds at the place of worship. Such can be any quiet place set aside for this purpose, even a closet will do, and those seeking to follow the scientific method of prayer must seek to pray in the same location to nurture the invisible temple created by their devotional activities. Such an invisible force field of spiritual Light comes from the Spirit within and is what makes miracles possible.

Legitimate prayers should not be a litany of material requests to God, because that only acts as a pair of lead shoes preventing one from being uplifted to the throne of the Father in Heaven, and does nothing to build the soul body. But repeated expressions of gratitude, praise, and adoration at stated times, propelled by the two wings of love and aspiration and the power of intense earnestness, will do wonders in building the Golden Wedding Garment—that inner temple of etheric gold—indispensable for working as a conscious invisible helper in the vineyard of the Lord, the etheric regions, and later the Desire and Thought Worlds.

Our invocation can take the form of the Lord's Prayer or St. Francis' prayer, or any part of the Psalms, such as one used in the student prayer, with which the reader is no doubt familiar:

*O Lord, increase our love for Thee  
so that we may serve thee better  
from day to day.*

*Let the word of our mouths  
and the meditation of our hearts  
be acceptable in Thy sight,  
O Lord, our strength and our redeemer.*

We may pray the prayer of King Solomon who, when asked by God what he wanted, said:

*Give me now wisdom and knowledge  
that I may go out and come in  
before this people,  
for who can judge this thy people  
that is so great?*

God granted Solomon his wish as well as riches beyond his dreams, because he asked only for wisdom and knowledge in honor and to the glory of the Creator.

We too have been granted an abundance of riches, material and spiritual, and it is time we stopped complaining and began counting our blessings. It is time to thank God for them all as well as for the countless miracles he makes for us every single day, miracles we take for granted and do not even acknowledge because we keep ourselves so busy we can't see beyond the tip of our nose. Let us give thanks and enjoy His love and goodness, for this is the day that the Lord hath made for us to rejoice in it. Let us give thanks for the abundance of opportunities for loving, self-forgetting service we find every day to build our soul body and the chance to commune with Him from within to enrich our spiritual and material life on earth.

Recently I received a fax from folks in Australia who listed some of the things they thought we should be thankful for. Here is a sample of what they said:

"Be thankful for the clothes that fit a little snug, because it means you have enough to eat.

Be thankful for the mess you clean up after a party, because it means you have been surrounded by friends.

Be thankful for the taxes you pay, because it means you are employed.

Be thankful that your lawn needs mowing and your windows need fixing, because it means you have a home.

Be thankful for your heating bill, because it means you are warm.

Be thankful for the laundry, because it means you have clothes to wear.

Be thankful for the space you find at the end of the parking lot, because it means that you can walk.

Be thankful for the lady that sings off key, because it means that you can hear.

Be thankful when people complain about the government, because it means we have freedom of speech.

Be thankful when the alarm goes off in the morning, because it means you are alive ...."

Dear Lord, we thank thee for the awe-inspiring mystery of Thy Universe, for its constant evolution towards perfection and for the privilege of playing an active part in Thy wonderful celestial Creation. □

—Jean de Galzain