

# WESTERN WISDOM BIBLE STUDY



## The Conflict Within



And a man's foes shall be those of his own household. Matthew 10:36.

It is not uncommon for enthusiastic aspirants on the Path, aware of the importance of experience through suffering, to want to go far afield in search of difficult situations through which to develop spiritual power. Others, already burdened with such opportunities either in the home or business, long to run off for a new start elsewhere, where they think improved conditions would enable them to live the life necessary for spiritual attainment. And some, when they learn that service is an indispensable factor, yearn for spectacular roles in needy fields, anywhere, in fact, but where they are. All of which are needless, as the Path of Attainment is not an external one. Its Way leads from the personality of the individual to the spirit within himself and all the progress he makes and the service he renders must be executed there. The purpose of external experience is to force the individual to turn his vision within, to show him up to himself, to bring into the open the foes of his personal household that he may conquer them; and the mutual value of service depends upon what we put into it from the inside.

Once we sincerely will to take that Path, we need not seek afar for difficulties; those best suited for our peculiar pruning promptly spring to life *right where we are*, as Higher Powers have placed us here for that purpose.

If we suffer under circumstances from which we would gladly flee, it is because

those specific conditions have brought out for our inspection, cognizance, and transmutation some hidden enemy we did not know we housed. Replace him with Love and the purposeful external experience will disappear.

If we truly wish to serve the whole human family and every living creature, the place to begin is *within ourselves*. *There* is hidden and confined the Light of the World for which all creation is longing. Any material service we might render is unsatisfying and poor compared with this Light which our indwelling spirit will carry to the souls of men when once this Light pervades the darkness and begins to shine. The foes in our personality obstruct its rays, and our greatest service to humanity will be to remove these obstructions so that our own indwelling Christ may go forth to perform His miracles in a sin-sick world.

In Letters to Students, No. 64, Max Heindel states: "Are we not all suffering spiritually because of the conflict within ourselves? I hope there is but one answer namely, that this inner war is being waged fiercely and unremittingly by every Fellowship student; for where there is no struggle, there is a sure indication of spiritual coma. The 'body of sin' has then the upper hand. But the fiercer the fight, the more hopeful our spiritual state."

With each victory in this necessary conflict, the foes of our household gradually develop into the Lights of our Temple, and become not only an increasing blessing to ourselves, but also a beacon to stumbling feet and a refuge to countless perplexed souls, whose salvation becomes every sincere student's responsibility.