

WESTERN WISDOM BIBLE STUDY



"Judge Righteous Judgment"



Jesus answered them, and said, My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me.

Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment.

—John 7: 16, 24.

Every individual is better than he appears to his fellow men. The personality that we behold reveals, not what the man is struggling to be in this life, but what he made of his opportunities in his previous existence.

The plant we see growing today was prepared through the life of the plant that preceded it. What was stored in the seed from which it developed determined its grade and structure.

So with the human personality, which consists of a physical body, a vital body through which vitality is supplied, a desire body for expressing desires and emotions, and a mind. These too depend on the seeds, or seed atoms, brought over from the past, for their constitution. Everything the man thinks, desires, and feels, or indulges in physically, is impressed upon the seed atoms of the respective vehicles, which are preserved to act as nuclei around which the bodies for the next life are built.

The man himself progresses during his sojourn in the heaven worlds between lives. He learns much from his past experiences as he reviews them in retrospect, and grows variously due to the many opportunities for development the heaven life presents. Therefore he is a better man when he is reborn than he was when he "died," but the instruments he must use in his new earth life are no better than he, in his former existence, provided. The world errs in judgment because it judges these instru-

ments, or vehicles, instead of the man inside them.

If we would judge righteous judgment we must remember that the sharp retort, the selfish impulse, the flash of meanness, are not deliberate acts the man is proudly displaying. They are usually spontaneous reflexes in the ready-made equipment he brought with him; an outfit of which he is often so ashamed that he spends his life striving to improve it or make it over. This inner struggle, however, the judging world cannot see. It sees the flash of temper, hears the biting remark, notes the weak will, but it cannot see the chagrin and discouragement that follow such exhibitions, or the determination to try again until they are conquered.

It sees the outer show when the man fails in his effort to check the spontaneous push, but it cannot see within him and so would not know of his frequent victories, when his struggles succeed and he resists the natural reactions of his bodies. The man, however, knows of his progress by the resultant soul power he feels growing within him which he soon treasures more than all the approbation of the world.

The seed atom in each vehicle faithfully registers every sincere effort and conquest, to be used as the nucleus of a new and finer instrument for the spirit's use when the man returns again to earth. And so the sincere student need not be disturbed by the fickle world's appraisal as long as he persists in his struggle and progresses within. The only failure is when he ceases to TRY, and with every degree of conquest over these bodies increased blessings are secured in the present as well as unspeakable riches in the lives to come.