

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Father,  
 You who were, are, and will be in our inmost being.  
 May your name be glorified and praised in us.  
 May your Kingdom grow in our deeds and inmost  
 lives.  
 May we perform your will as you, Father,  
     lay it down in our inmost being.  
 You give us Spiritual nourishment,  
     the bread of life, superabundantly  
     in all the changing conditions of our lives.  
 Let our mercy toward others  
     make up for the sins done to our being.  
 You do not allow the tempter to work in us  
     beyond the capacity of our strength.  
 For no temptation can live in your being, Father,  
     and the tempter is only appearance and delusion,  
     from which you lead us, Father,  
     through the light of knowledge.  
 May your power and glory work in us  
     through all periods and ages of time.  
 Amen.

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In the Centre of the Will of God I stand,  
 Naught shall deflect my Will from His  
 I implement that Will by Love,  
 I turn towards the field of service,  
 I, the Triangle Divine, work out that Will  
 Within the Square that serves my fellow man.

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## FOR THIS MICHAEL AGE

### IN THE MORNING

O Michael,  
 I commend myself to your protection  
 I unite myself with your guidance  
 With all the strength of my heart,  
 That this very day today  
 May mirror the power of your will  
 In the ordering of my destiny.



May wisdom shine through me  
 May love glow in me  
 May strength penetrate me  
 That in me may arise  
 A helper of mankind  
 A servant of holy things,  
 Selfless and true.



### IN THE EVENING

I send my sorrow into the setting sun,  
 Place all my cares and suffering  
 Into its radiant womb;  
 Purified by love,  
 Transformed through light,  
 They return as strengthening thoughts,  
 As power for deeds of joyous sacrifice.



May the outer sheath of my aura become stronger.  
 May it make an impenetrable vessel  
 Against all impure, self-seeking thoughts and feelings.  
 May it be open to divine wisdom.  
 May the archangels work on me tonight.  
 May I see the results of their work on me in the  
 morning.



Perfect tranquility of mind.



## COURAGE AND SERENITY IN THE FACE OF DESTINY

We need to eradicate from the soul all fear and terror  
of what comes toward man out of the future.  
We need to acquire serenity  
in all feelings and sensations about the future.  
We need to look forward with absolute equanimity  
to everything that may come.  
And we need to think only that whatever comes  
is given to us by a world direction full of wisdom.  
It is part of what we need to learn in this age,  
namely to live out of pure trust  
without any security of our existence,  
trust in the ever-present help of the spiritual world.  
Truly, nothing else will do if our courage is not to fail us.  
Let us discipline our will,  
and let us seek the awakening from within ourselves,  
every morning and every evening.



Whatever the next hour or day may bring,  
I cannot change it by fear and anxiety,  
For it is not yet known.  
I therefore wait for it  
With complete inward restfulness,

I oppose love of ease, and anxiety.  
I encourage inner initiative  
And a free and strong and courageous will.



I will develop the strength  
To stand against all possible pain  
And hardship of existence  
That comes to me  
Always.



If it is painful or undesirable, I will trust it anyway:  
I will trust my faculties to bear it, to relax into it,  
To learn from it, to handle it and make the best of it.  
I will learn a lesson from this particular frustration  
And will not act as if it were a catastrophe.  
Perhaps it is not a catastrophe,  
Perhaps something good can come of it.



As long as you still nurture the desire

that what has happened might be otherwise,  
 You'll lack the strength  
 with which you must sustain yourself in spirit regions.



I develop for absorption serenity in the presences of destiny,  
 Attentiveness to all occurrences in one's surroundings,  
 Devotion to all living beings, and insight.



God has not given us a Spirit of cowardice,  
 but of courage, and love and self-control.

(2 Timothy, 1:7)



My body is not more important to me  
 than any other object.  
 It is an illusion, and alien.  
 My body no longer belongs to myself  
 And my consciousness expands  
 to include the entire Earth.  
 I carry my body with patience and endurance  
 As I carry my cross.



We have this treasure in earthen vessels,  
 To show that the transcendent power  
 Belongs to God and not to us.  
 We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed;  
 Perplexed, but not driven to despair;  
 Persecuted, but not forsaken;

Struck down, but not destroyed;  
 Always carrying in the body the death of Jesus,  
 So that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our  
 bodies.

(2 Corinthians, 4:7-10)



## SUFFERING AND KNOWLEDGE

Blessed are those who take suffering upon themselves  
 For they will find comfort through their own actions.



Blessed are they who are persecuted for  
 righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom  
 of heaven.

Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you,  
 and persecute you, and shall say all manner of  
 evil against you falsely, for my sake.

Rejoice, and be exceedingly glad: for great  
 is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted  
 they the prophets which were before you.

(Gospel of St. Matthew, 5:10-12)



The very best that you can achieve

may lead to your being reviled  
with mockery and contempt.

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## PATIENCE

Self-enlightenment must come through pain.

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Abide in patience and endure all things  
For He who feedeth humanity and thee also  
Will surely provide that which thou needest.  
But thou must hold to a true faith in the soul's eternal life.

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Teaching can be won through suffering.

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Have patience and wait,  
Until you no longer wish to grasp the truths by your effort,  
But they will come to you.

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Suffering is knowledge.

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Job endures all suffering laid upon him  
And arrives at the conclusion that suffering purifies  
And elevates the human being.

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Grace has brought me to a certain number of truths.  
I will wait patiently until further truths flow to me.

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You cannot overcome  
what you have not consciously  
and fully experienced.

Our minds must ripen to accept them,  
allow them in the right form,  
as far as we are judged worthy.

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A man cannot attain the spirit world  
 By wanting to unlock it through his seeking...  
 To strive for nothing, wait in peaceful stillness,  
 One's utmost being filled with expectation...  
 That is the mystic mood.

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## HUMILITY AND OBEDIENCE

Chamei la nas Alturas	I called there in the heights
A minha Mae me respondeu	My Mother responded to me
Sou humilde, sou humilde,	I am humble, I am humble
Sou humilde um filho seu	I am a humble son of yours

(Mestre Irineu, #92)

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No personality is allowed into the spiritual world.  
 You must make yourself small.  
 Personality pollutes the spiritual world  
 and comes from Lucifer.

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I will see the spirit world as fully real  
 when none of my personality remains  
 to dim the clearness of my vision.

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Self-delusion, arrogance, vanity blind;  
 "the gates of Wisdom do not open."

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My vow – to tame the soul's proud arrogance.

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My own merits deserve no office,  
 I am merely a messenger.  
 It is not us, it is them.

Vanity of Knowing can deceive the soul.  
 Instead of gaining strength  
 From freely offered spirit treasures,  
 It uses them for wanton mirroring of self.

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I owe my existence to all beings of lower existence.  
 We are all links in the chain of evolution.  
 We all need each other as the plants need the soil.  
 We need the plants.

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Guardian to Johannes:

'To see the spirit-world,  
 destroy desires alluring you further.  
 The clues you pursue lead you to naught  
 As soon as they are driven by desires.  
 They lure you past my Threshold and elude it.'



Chaste and unassuming, no desires, passions, longings  
As I have emerged from the Creator.



## INITIATION: PREPARING TO RECEIVE

The spiritual power  
That is ordained to descend upon humanity  
Will now shine forth in me,  
And I am its appointed receptacle.  
I must henceforth do all that within me lies  
So that the Force within my being  
May find true and proper expression  
And that I may acquire those qualities  
That shall fit me to cope  
With every form of trial and experience  
That may come upon me.  
Thus shall I know  
How to impart the power of divine impulse  
To my fellow in proper fashion.  
If I would indeed become worthy of that mission  
That will shine in upon humanity  
Because of this wholly new concept of God's image,  
Then I must change utterly the nature of my inner  
being,  
Even to the most profound of its forces,

So that I am no more as I have been.  
I subdue the soul that dwells in me and,  
Through those deeper powers within,  
Bring my inner Ego a new life,  
For it may no longer remain as it is now.  
I uplift its quality.



## TEACHING THE MESSAGE

Dear God, make it so that I,  
With regard to my personal ambition,  
May completely extinguish myself.  
May Christ make true in me the Pauline words:  
'Not I but the Christ in me';  
So that in me the rightful Holy Spirit  
Of true education and teaching can hold sway.



I am called to look at everything without illusion;  
I must be neither pessimistic nor optimistic,  
So that impulses may awaken in my soul  
Which give me the power  
To aid the free development of the human being  
And to contribute to human progress  
In the place and situation where I am.



(Padrinho Sebastião)



For speech and communication do not think hastily.  
Formulate, research for a form, use thinking as seeking,  
Suspend completely thoughts as long as possible.



## SHIRKING RESPONSIBILITY

...Whoever takes charge of something should carry it out. No one is free of responsibility, and whoever has responsibility always has a duty to fulfill.

(The Decree of Mestre Irineu)



I must feel a terrifying responsibility towards what I think.



A morte do corpo  
É a ponta da lingua

The death of the body  
Is on the tip of the tongue

Vain fancyings and figments of illusion,  
What have you to do  
With the high purpose that is set before me?  
The spiritual Beings want it of me.  
Then will I be my own soul's adversary,  
And summon up this vacillating heart  
To clear and honest thinking—  
The heart that serves me, strong and true,  
If I but will it so.



I must learn to see my thinking outside of myself.  
I attempt growth rather than perfection.



I pattern my life on Jesus.



...Whoever takes charge of something should carry it out. No one is free of responsibility, and whoever has responsibility always has a duty to fulfill.

(The Decree of Mestre Irineu)



## LOVE: ENCOUNTERING THE OTHER

As the Father hath loved me, so have I love you: continue ye in my love.

If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.

These things I have spoken to you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.

This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. (The Gospel of St. John, 15:9-12)



All encounters are a sacrament.



My goal is to develop the ability  
To feel the feelings of others  
Together with them in total peace.



What meets me in life as my destiny,  
Pain or joy, what brings me into contact  
With this or that person and so forth,  
I must view from the standpoint that I,  
With my self which transcends my narrow personality,  
Am the very one who has brought all this about.



Love: Growing affection for those who abuse us.



It takes us all a long time and a sharp discipline  
To learn that he who would keep his life must first lose it,

And that to empty oneself is the sure way to be filled.  
 The heart of man is so constituted  
 That its fullness comes of spending.  
 In the great things of life  
 Christianity teaches us this sublime lesson,  
 But it is equally applicable to the lesser things of life,  
 Even to its veriest trifles.  
 When we serve we rule. When we give we have.  
 When we surrender ourselves we are victors.  
 We are most ourselves when we lose sight of ourselves.  
 He is most certain to have his own way  
 And to find pleasure in it,  
 Who deliberately chooses  
 To resign his preference in favor of others.



## PRAYERS OF NEED

### WHEN IN DANGER:

You spirit of my life,  
 Be thou the goodness of heart  
 In my will,  
 Be thou the love of humanity  
 In my feeling,  
 Be thou the light of truth  
 In my thinking.



### CRISIS:

To turn towards the light

In times of darkest needs,  
 To lift the soul's clear sight  
 The spirit of dawn to heed,  
 The will of man to earthly plane,  
 This be, and evermore remain.



### FOR TIMES OF ACUTE CRISIS:

God the Holy  
 Holy and Mighty  
 Holy and Immortal  
 Have mercy on me



### FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL:

God's protecting, blessing ray  
 May it fill my growing soul  
 So that it may apprehend  
 Strengthening force everywhere  
 It doth will to pledge itself  
 To awaken in itself  
 Full of life, the might of love  
 Thus to see the power of God  
 On the pathway of its life  
 And to work in God's design  
 With everything it has.



God's Spirit. Fill thou me  
 My soul endow with strength  
 With strength also my heart  
 My heart that seeketh Thee  
 Seeketh through deep desire  
 Through deep desire for health  
 For health and courage strong  
 That streams into my limbs  
 Streams as a noble gift  
 God's gift from Thee, God's Spirit  
 God's spirit fill thou me.

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**SPOKEN BY THE PATIENT:**

I am now surrounded  
 by the pure being of God  
 And I am steeped in the Holy Spirit of life,  
 love and wisdom.  
 I acknowledge thy being and thy power,  
 O Spirit who dost bless.  
 Blow out now in thy divine wisdom my  
 mortal errors  
 And bring into being my world  
 Through the power of love  
 According to thy perfect law.

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**ILLNESS – ONLY A CRISIS – AND NOT BY PATIENT:**

Hearts that love, suns that warm  
 Ye footprints of Christ in the Father's world-all.  
 We call you out of our own hearts  
 We seek you in our own spirit  
 O strive to him/her.  
 Rays of the human hearts, warm, mindful, longing,  
 Ye home-lands of Christ, in the Father's house of earth,  
 We call you out of our own hearts  
 We seek you in our own spirit  
 I live with him/her.  
 Radiant love of man, warming glow of the sun,  
 Ye soul-vestments of Christ, in the Father's temple of man:  
 We call you out of our own hearts  
 We seek you in our spirit  
 O help in him/her.

**DANCE OF PEACE**

The wishes of the soul are springing,  
 The deeds of the will are thriving,  
 The fruits of life are maturing.

I feel my fate,  
 My fate finds me.

I feel my star,  
 My star finds me.

I feel my goals in life,  
 My goals in life are finding me.

My soul and the great world are one.

Life grows more radiant about me,  
Life grows more arduous for me,  
Life grows more abundant within me.



Let purpose guide the little  
wills of men –  
The purpose which the  
Masters known and serve.

From the centre which we  
Call the race of men  
Let the Plan of Love and  
Light work out.  
And may it seal the door  
where evil dwells.

Let Light and Love and  
Power restore the Plan  
on Earth.



From the point of Light  
within the Mind of God  
Let light stream forth into  
the minds of men.  
Let Light descend on Earth.

From the point of Love  
within the Heart of God  
Let love stream forth into  
the hearts of men.  
May Christ return to Earth.

From the centre where the  
Will of God is known

Before the eyes can see,  
They must be incapable of tears.  
Before the ear can hear,  
It must have lost its sensitiveness.  
Before the voice can speak in the presence of the  
Masters,  
It must have lost the power to wound.  
Before the soul can stand in the presence of the Masters,  
Its feet must be washed in the blood of the heart.

(Mabel Collins, *Light on the Path*).



To resolve our past requires knowledge  
 To forge our future we need courage  
 To experience the present we must develop dedication  
 Our thinking needs riddles to wake up  
 Our feeling needs pain to mature  
 Our willing needs resistance to become strong



Learn to be silent, receive power  
 Release power, receive will  
 Release will, receive feeling  
 Release feeling, receive knowledge.



## MEETING THE FIRST GUARDIAN OF THE THRESHOLD

AMONG the important experiences that accompany an ascent into the higher worlds is that of “Meeting with the Guardian of the Threshold.” In reality there is not only one such Guardian, but two; one known as “the Lesser,” the other as “the Greater.” The student meets with the former when, in the manner described in the last chapter, he begins to loosen the connection between the volitions, the thoughts, and the feelings so far as they concern the etheric and

astral bodies. The meeting with the Greater Guardian occurs when this loosening of the links further extends to the physical body (that is to say, the brain).

The Lesser Guardian of the Threshold is an independent being. It did not exist before the individual had arrived at this particular point in his evolution. It is the individual's creation. Only one of its essential functions can be here described,— indeed it were no easy matter to furnish a complete description.

First of all, let us present in narrative form the meeting of the occult student with the Guardian of the Threshold. Only by means of this meeting

does the former become aware of the separation of the threads that connected his thoughts, his volitions, and his feelings.

A terrible spectral creature, in truth, is this that confronts the student. The latter needs all the presence of mind and all the faith in the security of his way to wisdom which he could acquire during his previous training.

The Guardian proclaims his significance in something like these words:—"Hitherto, powers which were invisible to you have watched over you. They worked so that in the course of your life your good deeds brought their reward, your evil actions

their disastrous results. Through their influence your character formed itself out of your experiences and your thoughts. They were the instruments of your fate. It was they that ordered the measure of joy and pain which was meted out to you in any one of your incarnations, according to your conduct in earlier lives. They ruled you by the all-binding law of Karma. Now they shall free you from a part of their constraint, and a portion of that which they have accomplished for you must you now accomplish for yourself. In the past you have borne many hard blows from Fate. Did you not know wherefore? Each was the effect of a

pernicious deed in a life gone by. You found joy and gladness, and you partook of them. They, too, were the fruits of earlier deeds. In your character you have many beautiful qualities, many ugly flaws ; and both of these you have woven for yourself out of your bygone experiences and thoughts. Till now you did not know of this; only the effects were revealed to you. But they, the Karmic Powers, beheld all the deeds of your former lives, all your obscure thoughts and feelings; and thus have they determined what you now are and the manner in which you now live.

"But the hour has come when all the good and the evil aspects of

your bygone lives shall be laid open before you. Till now they were interwoven with your whole being; they were in you, and you could not see them, even as with physical eyes you cannot see your own physical brain. Now, however, they detach themselves from you; they emerge from your personality. They assume an independent form which you can observe, even as you observe the stones and flowers of the external world. And I — I am that very being which has found for itself a body wrought of your noble and your ignoble deeds. My spectral robe is woven according to the entries in your life's ledger. Hitherto you

have borne me invisibly within yourself, yet it was well for you that this should be, for the wisdom of the destiny which was hidden even from yourself has therefore worked hitherto toward the extinguishing of the hideous stains that were upon my form. Now that I have emerged, that hidden wisdom also departs from you. It will henceforth trouble itself no more concerning you. It will now leave the work in your hands alone. It is for me to become a complete and splendid being, if I am not, indeed, to fall into decay. If this, the latter, should occur, then should I drag you also down into a dark and ruined world. If you

would avoid this, then let your own wisdom become so great that it can take over to itself the task of that other wisdom which was hidden from you, and is now departed. When you have passed my threshold I shall never leave your side for a single moment. From henceforth, when you do or think anything that is evil, you will straightway discern your guilt as a hideous, demoniacal distortion of this that is my form. Only when you have made good all your bygone evil deeds and have so elevated yourself that further evil becomes a thing impossible to you,—only then will my being be transformed into

glorious beauty. Then, too, shall I again unite myself with you in one being for the helping of your further activity.

“My threshold is constructed out of every feeling of fear to which you are still accessible, out of every shrinking from the power which will take over to itself the complete responsibility for all your deeds and thoughts. So long as you have still any fear of that self-government of your fate, all that belongs to this threshold has not yet been built into it; and so long as a single stone is there found missing, you must remain standing as one forbidden entrance, or else must you stumble. Seek not, then, to pass my threshold

until you feel yourself liberated from all fear, ready for the highest responsibility.

“Hitherto I have only emerged from your personality when Death recalled you from an earthly life, but even then my form was veiled from you. Only the powers of destiny who watched over you could behold me, and they were able, in accordance with my appearance, to build in you, during the interval between death and a new birth, all that power and that capacity wherewith in a new terrestrial existence you could labor at the glorifying of my form for the assurance of your progress. It was an account of my imperfection, indeed,

that the powers of destiny were driven again and again to lead you back into a new incarnation upon earth. If you died, I was yet there ; and according to me did the Lords of Karma fashion the manner of your re-birth.

“Only when through an endless procession of Eves you have brought me to perfection shall you no longer descend among the powers of death, but, having united yourself absolutely with me, you shall pass over with me into immortality.

“Thus do I stand before you here to-day visible, as I have always stood invisible beside you in the hour of death. When you shall have passed my threshold you

will enter those kingdoms which else would have opened to you only at physical death. You will enter them with full knowledge, and henceforth, when you wander outwardly visible upon the earth, you will also move through the kingdom of death, which is the kingdom of eternal life. I am indeed the angel of Death; yet at the same time I am the bringer of an imperishable higher life. Through me you will die while still living in your body, to be reborn into an immortal existence.

“The kingdom that you now enter will introduce you to beings of a superhuman kind, and in that kingdom

happiness will be your lot. But the first acquaintance to be made in that world must be myself, I that am your own creation. Erstwhile I lived upon your life, but now through you I have grown to a separate existence and here stand before you as the visible gauge of your future deeds, perhaps, too, as your constant reproach. You were able to form me, but in so doing you have taken up the duty of transforming me.”

What has been here presented in a narrative form one must not imagine to be merely something allegorical, but realize that it is an experience of the student which is the highest degree actual. [ [Note 1](#) ] The Guardian will warn

him not to go further if he does not feel in himself the power necessary for the fulfilment of those demands which have been set forth in the preceding speech. Although the form of the Guardian is so frightful, it is yet nothing but the effect of the student's own past Eves, his own character, risen out of him into an independent life. This awakening is brought about by the mutual separation of the volitions, the thoughts, and the feelings. It is an experience of the deepest significance when one feels for the first time that one has produced a spiritual being. The next thing to be aimed at is the preparation of the occult

student so that he can endure the terrible sight without a vestige of timidity, and at the moment of the meeting really feel his power to be so increased that he can take it upon himself to effect with full realization the glorifying of the Guardian.

A result of this meeting with the Guardian of the Threshold, if successful, is that the next physical death of the student is an event entirely different from what death was before. He consciously goes through the death whereby he lays aside the physical body, as he lays aside an outworn garment or one that is grown useless on account of a sudden rent. This — his physical

death — is now only an important fact, as it were, to those who have lived with him, whose perceptions are still restricted to the world of the senses. For them the occult student “dies,” but for himself nothing of importance in his whole environment is changed. The entire superphysical world into which he steps already stood open to him before death, and it is the same world that after death confronts him.

Now, the Guardian of the Threshold is also connected with other matters. The individual belongs to a family, a nation, a race. His deeds in this world depend upon his relationship to this greater unit. His individual character is

likewise connected with it. The conscious deeds of a single person are by no means the sum of all he must reckon with in respect of his family, stock, nation, and race. There is a destiny, as there is a character, pertaining to the family or the race or the nation. For the person who is restricted to his senses these things remain as general ideas, and the materialistic thinker will regard the occult scientist contemptuously when he hears that for the latter the family or national character, the lineal or racial destiny, becomes just as real a being as the personality which is produced by the character and destiny of the individual. The occultist comes to know

of higher worlds in which the separated personalities are discerned as members, like the arms, legs, and head of an individual; and in the life of a family, of a nation, or a race, he sees at work not only the separate individuals, but also the very real souls of the family, nation, or race. Indeed, in a certain sense, the separate individuals are only the executive organs of this family or racial spirit. In truth, one can say that the soul of a nation, for example, makes use of an individual belonging to that nation, for the execution of certain deeds. The national soul does not descend to sensible reality. It dwells in higher worlds, and in

order to work in the physical world makes use of the physical organs of a particular person. In a higher sense it is as when an architect makes use of a workman for executing the details of a building. Every person gets his work assigned him, in the truest sense of the words, by the soul of the family, the nation, or the race. Now the ordinary person is by no means initiated into the higher scheme of his work. He works unconsciously toward the goal of the nation or race. From the moment when the occult student meets the Guardian of the Threshold, he has not merely to discern his own tasks as a personality, but must

also work consciously at those of his nation or his race. Every extension of his horizon implies an extension of his duties. As a matter of fact, the occult student joins a new Body to those finer vehicles of his soul. He puts on another garment. Hitherto he went through the world with those coverings which clothed his personality. That which he must accomplish for his community, his nation, or his race, is managed by the higher spirits which utilize his personality. A further revelation which is now made to him by the Guardian is that henceforth these spirits will withdraw their hands from him. He must get quite clear of

that union. Now, if he did not develop in himself those powers which pertain to the national or racial spirits, he would completely harden himself as a separate creature and would rush upon his own destruction. Doubtless there are many people who would say, "Oh! I have entirely freed myself from all lineal or racial connections; I only want to be man and nothing but man." To these one must reply, "Who, then, brought you to this freedom? Was it not your family who gave you that position in the world where you now stand? Was it not your ancestry, your nation, your race, that have made you what you are? They have brought

you up; and if you are now exalted above all prejudices, if you are one of the light-bringers and benefactors of your Clan, or even of your race, you owe that to their education. Indeed, when you say of yourself that you are nothing as a person, you owe the very fact that you have so become to the spirit of your community." Only the occult student learns what it means to be cut off entirely from the family, the Clan, or the racial spirit. He alone realizes the insignificance of all such education in respect of the life which now confronts him, for everything that has gathered around him falls utterly away when the threads that bind the

will, the thoughts, and the feelings are sundered. He looks back on all the events of his previous education as one must regard a house of which the stones have fallen apart in pieces and which one must therefore build up again in a new form.

It is more than merely a figure of speech to say that after the Guardian of the Threshold has uttered \ his first communications, there rises up from the place where he stands a great whirlwind, which extinguishes all those lights of the spirit which had hitherto illumined the pathway of life. At the same time an utter blackness engulfs the student. It is only broken

a little by the rays that stream forth from the Guardian of the Threshold, and out of that darkness resound his last admonitions:—"Step not across my threshold before you are assured that you can illuminate the blackness by yourself : take not a single step forward unless you are certain that you have a sufficiency of oil in your lamp. The lamps of the guides which hitherto you have followed will now, in the future, be absent." After these words the student has to turn round and direct his gaze back-ward. The Guardian of the Threshold now draws away a veil that before had hidden deep secrets. The lineal, the national,

the racial spirits are revealed in their complete reality, and the student now sees clearly how he had been guided so far, but it also dawns upon him that henceforth he will have no such guidance. This is a second warning received at the threshold from its guardian.

No one can attain to this vision unprepared; but the higher training, which generally makes it possible for a person to press on to the threshold, puts him simultaneously in a position to find at the right moment the necessary power. Indeed, this training is of so harmonious a kind, that

the entrance into the new life can be made to lose its exciting and tumultuous character. The experience at the threshold is, for the occult student, attended by a foreshadowing of that bliss which is to form the keynote of his newly awakened life. The sensation of a new freedom will outweigh all other feelings; and together with this sensation the new duties and the new responsibilities will seem as something which must needs be undertaken by a person at a particular stage in his life.