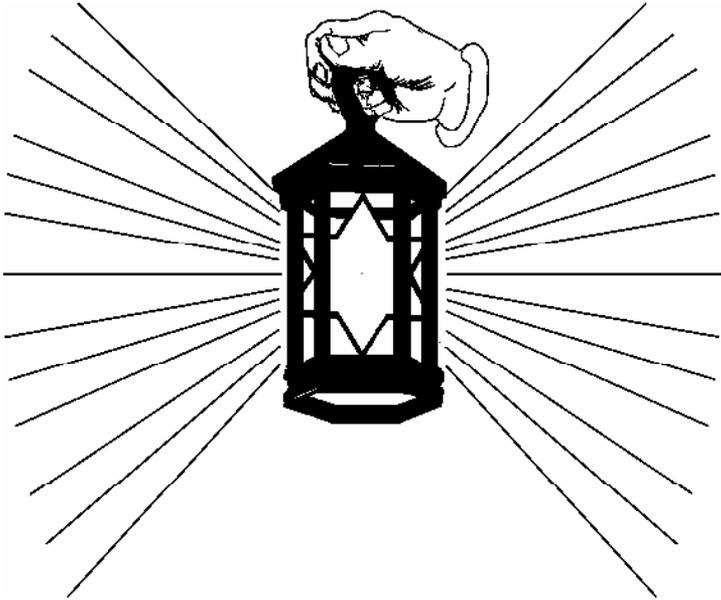


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LANTERN

Fall 2006

Vol. 8, No. 1

“Thy Word
is a lamp unto my feet,
and a light unto my path.”

Psalms 119:105

builders of the adytum, los angeles, california

LOVE – THE WAY OF THE HEART

*A talk given at the BOTA Berlin Conference
Spring 2006*

SHALOM FRATRES AND SORORES,

What a pleasure it is to be here in this great city of Berlin with so many members of our spiritual family. We have been brought together in a city which was the symbol of extreme separation from 1945 to 1990. Berlin, the capital and largest city of Germany was the site of the Berlin Wall which symbolized the division between East and West. After the reunification of Germany in 1990 we have seen a continuing growth of Unity all over Europe. Our work of extending the Light, or L.V.X., furthers this development of Unity among the nations.



The Fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989

We are indeed privileged to have been called to travel the Path of Return through our affiliation with Builders of the Adytum. The purpose of B.O.T.A. is stated as being the teaching and practice of the Oneness of God, the kinship of all life, and the brotherhood of Man. The lessons, meditations, and practices of this Order serve to prepare the students to aid the Hierarchy of Light in the evolution of mankind. The Aquarian Age is just beginning to dawn. In the Aquarian Age the whole human race will be under the control of those who really understand that man is truly the Untouchable Glory of God. Not all will see this but those who do will rule.

The Greek word for Heart is KARDIA (καρδία) and through Gematria the letters of this word add to 136. This is the key to all the meanings in Gematria of 136. The meaning of this word is the tabernacle of God in the human heart, and the Shekinah or Divine Presence in it's Holy of Holies is the untouchable glory of God. This meaning also applies to the Hebrew word QOL (קול) which

also adds to 136. QOL means “voice” and Qabalists refer this particularly to the sixth Sephirah, Tiphareth, which is the heart or inmost center designated also by Kardia.



QOL refers to the Unheard Voice or the Voice of the Silence, and this is the Voice of Intuition. The Voice is heard in the Heart. The practical consequences of the real, living Presence of God in the Tabernacle of the human heart is that men may live their temporal, personal lives under the immediate direction of the eternal, impersonal Wisdom.



Qabalah means “reception” and to be receptive we need to be silent and attentive. Soren Kierkegaard expressed this beautifully when he wrote about his experience with prayer.

“As my prayers became more attentive and inward I had less and less to say. I finally became completely silent. I started to listen – which is even further removed from speaking. I first thought that prayer entailed speaking. I then learned that prayer is hearing, not merely

being silent. That is how it is. To pray does not mean to listen to oneself speaking. Prayer involves becoming silent, and being silent, and waiting until God is heard.”

What we endeavor to do when we are actively studying with a Western Mystery School is to become consciously aware of the Untouchable Glory of God which dwells within us. Once we have become somewhat aware of this presence we begin to develop the understanding and knowledge of who we are and what we are striving for in our studies.

Love is the silent voice of this understanding. The Hebrew words for Love (Ahebah – אהבה) and Unity (Echud – אחד) have the same value which is 13. Love is always unifying and draws life to Itself. Love is a reality which transcends any form through which it expresses. Our concepts of love have been circumscribed by the

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illusion of separateness. Our capacity for receiving the all-pervading Love of the universe is unfolded by the practice of reaching for higher guidance in our lives.

We are being trained to be more effective aids to evolution through our service to the Hierarchy of Light. True service is loving service. It is to give as the Sun gives its light. It is to become a radiating center of Love. It is to give because it fills one with unexplained joy and happiness. Through our studies and meditational practices we develop a flow of power into our area of personal influence. We want this increasing power to be dedicated to the service of Love on the level of the Christ Consciousness in Tiphareth. Dedication to serving the center of Love is our most powerful means for directing the increased energies into channels that will lead us to liberation and conscious union with the Higher Self.

Using the power of Love continuously gives it strength. In order to develop the capacity to love on the Tiphareth level we need to practice loving. Even if we don't really feel loving we need to keep practicing. We keep at it until we finally begin to feel truly loving.



We have to work with Tarot Key 1, The Magician, in order to establish the kind of lovingness that emanates from the heart center. This calls for conscious attention and concentrated effort to unfold this quality of higher love in all our relationships. Through training, self discipline, and attention we add to the quality of love that emanates from within us.

As we give in selfless service we give in selfless love. Giving love is giving nourishment for higher ideals and higher emotions in human consciousness. By giving love we are increasing our capacity for love. We give life when we give Love! We give magic when we give Love! Magic that accelerates the evolution of the object of our love. This is the at-one-ment that leads to conscious union with the Christ Center in Tiphareth.

Each one of us is being trained to serve the Light with increasing qualification to do so.

Our practical work is aimed at effecting a shift in personal identity from the personality self to the One Ego in Tiphareth. The Egoic consciousness experiences the Oneness of life directly. To know firsthand that you are not a separate being is to experience Higher Love. When every personal ego is known to be a ray of the One Ego there is nothing separate to oppose – there is only opportunity to Love.

It is beneficence and Love that we want to express with greater strength. That is what all mankind should be seeking and yearning for. For whosoever seeks with love and compassion will surely find the limitless treasures of the Self within the Heart.

We must live to bless all mankind, all creatures, all conditions. Condemnation checks improvement while blessing furthers it. Benevolence must be given in words of praise and helpfulness and must be intensified into active beneficence which backs up words and thoughts of good will by deeds of loving service. To bless is always to be blessed. To give freely is one sure way to receive abundantly.

Benevolence and beneficence have specific physiological effects. Good will to all men, to all creatures, to all conditions is an active force. Good will is the only true magical will. It purifies personal consciousness, purifies nerve currents, purifies the blood stream and the whole body.

No life is worth living unless it is a blessing to others. Happiness is not an objective. It is a byproduct of the life of benediction. None are truly happy save those who are instruments of blessing.

As we move through life may we emanate the Love of the Most High and bless all those who come our way. May we remember that there is but One Life and One Mind and One Will and may that knowledge be expressed by our every thought, word, and deed.

*Rev. Diane Rhodes
Prolocutor General*



SHALOM!

“The Ennead ‘flows around the other numbers within the Decad like an ocean.’”

– *Attributed to Nichomachus of Gerasa (c.100 A.D., Greek mathematician influenced by Pythagoras)*



The ennead, the number 9, is the first square of an odd number (3 x 3). According to the Pythagoreans, it was associated with failure and shortcoming; because it fell short of the perfect number 10 by one. However, it was called perfect or finished, because it was the number of months involved in human gestation.

Among the keywords associated with the ennead are ocean and horizon, because to the ancients these were boundless. The ennead was considered to be the limitless number because there is nothing beyond it except the infinite 10, also known as the decad.

But at the same time, the ennead was also called boundary and limitation, because it gathers all numbers within itself; that is, it represents an ongoing cycle. Once you get to nine, the cycle of counting starts over again.

The number 9 is the ultimate power of one place; 99 is the ultimate power of two places, 999 is the ultimate power of three places, etc.

To illustrate:

9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9
thousands hundreds tens units

In other words, the number 9 is the last digit in the units place in the sequence of single digits before the number 10 or the tens place is reached. Likewise, 99 is the last number in the tens place in the sequence of double digits before the number 100 or the hundreds place is reached, and so forth.

The Infinite Cosmos must therefore be represented by a series of 9s

of infinite places. The number of the INFINITE is therefore 9999999999999999.....

Pythagorean philosophy says that the number 9 has the power of always reproducing itself by multiplication. By Theosophic Reduction, the product always reduces to the number 9.

To illustrate:

$2 \times 9 = 18$	$1 + 8 = 9$
$3 \times 9 = 27$	$2 + 7 = 9$
$4 \times 9 = 36$	$3 + 6 = 9$
$5 \times 9 = 45$	$4 + 5 = 9$

$6 \times 9 = 54$	$5 + 4 = 9$
$7 \times 9 = 63$	$6 + 3 = 9$
$8 \times 9 = 72$	$7 + 2 = 9$
$9 \times 9 = 81$	$8 + 1 = 9$

It is interesting to note that the digits of the products of multiplication formed above the line in this example are in reverse of those below the line. Recalling that even numbers are considered to be female and odd numbers to be male, the digits comprising the products are alternating male and female. Thus, it is said that the number 9 is an emblem of things, which, like matter, though continually changing its form, is never annihilated.

Another curious peculiarity of the number 9 surfaces when it is divided by the number 7. The result is 1.2857, 142857, 142857, 142857, 142857, 142857, 142857,..... The residuum eternally repeating as “142857” is considered to be the number of Infinite Evolution. By Theosophic Reduction, the repetend¹ results in the number 9!!

To illustrate: $1 + 4 + 2 + 8 + 5 + 7 = 27 = 9$

Since the beginning of history in Egypt, this repetend of “142857”

¹ Repeated sequence.

has always been considered a Sacred Number and was often engraved on monuments.

The number 9 is also associated with the circle, because the circumference of a circle is 360 degrees, and $3 + 6 + 0 = 9$, and 360 is a multiple of 9. Keeping in mind that 360 divided by 9 equals 40 ($4 + 0 = 4$, the geometrical symbol of the square), could this perhaps be one of several subtle clues behind the mystery of the “Squaring of the Circle?”

In the next and last of the number series articles, the symbolism of the number “ten,” known to the Pythagoreans as the Decad, will be explored. According to the Pythagoreans, the Decad is the greatest of numbers, not only because it is the Tetractys, but because it comprehends all arithmetic and harmonic proportions.

IX

“of this you may be sure, if you are
impatient
to advance in this work, your
feeling is
an infallible indication that you
have need to go slowly.”

KEY 4 – THE EMPEROR

by Paul Foster Case



The fundamental meaning of the 4th Key is *Reason*. The key is called the Emperor, and the Emperor is one who oversees and controls. This is the basic function of reason, for by it we supervise and control our daily activities. *Vision* is also attributed to this card and has a close connection with the faculty of reason, when we consider reason as “insight” or mental vision. Physical sight is also meant here, and the orange background is symbolic of the Sun, source of the light by means of which we are able to see.

The mountain represents the fiery activity of Mars and Aries, which are attributes of this Key. Aries is also symbolized by the rams’ heads on shoulder and throne, and Mars by the steel armor with which the Emperor is clad. The twelve points that ornament the helmet are also astrological.

The globe is a conventional symbol of dominion. This globe and cross, like the circle and Tau of the sceptre, symbolize the masculine and feminine potencies of the radiant mental energy, or Life-Force.

The purple flaps over his armor hint at his rulership – since purple is the color of royalty.



For my Way is the Way of the Word,
 And the Word is hidden in thy heart.
 For this is the Word creative,
 Which calleth all things into being.
 Here is a mystery,
 For the letter HEH concealeth the Word,
 And the Word is as truly a vision as it is a voice.
 With me there is no difference between speech
 and sight
 In very truth, I utter myself by seeing.

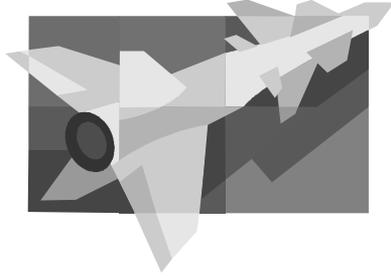
*~ from The Book of Tokens
 Meditation on Heh*

BEGIN WITH YOURSELF

by Harriet B. Case

Quite a few students write to us who are deeply concerned, not to say disturbed, about the present turmoil – wars, revolutions, racial antagonisms, general unrest and assorted disasters which are

occurring all over the world.



It is true that we should be concerned about them, but not in the manner, nor for the reasons, that these happenings are feared by the majority of people.

We should be concerned as to what *we* can do individually to bring about more harmonious and peaceful conditions in the world, our country, our community, our family and *ourselves*. For remember the old saying that a chain is only as strong as its weakest link.

Recently I read a little prayer of Chinese origin:

“Lord, reform Thy world,
beginning with me.” (The underlining is mine.)

Now those of us who are privileged to have studied the lessons B.O.T.A. has to offer (which are the legacy of Dr. Paul Foster Case to the cause of enlightened freedom, true Brotherhood of Man, and Self-awareness) are not inclined to maim or kill anyone. Nor will they rob or cheat, bear false witness or show discrimination against anyone whose race, color or religion differs from theirs. However, there are other areas in which we could examine ourselves and see how in *subtle* facets of our thinking and feeling there may be much room for improvement.

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Let us ask ourselves: “Are we inclined to get caught up in mass hatreds (even personal hatreds) and desires for revenge? Do we dislike or even hate ourselves? Can we really forgive those who we feel have hurt us? Do we subconsciously feel inferior and insecure and so tend to seek power and exert it over others, particularly those not in a position to rebel? And lastly, do we harbor bitterness and resentment? Or do we feel really free of all these negative emotions and are not fearful of what ‘they’ will say if we do not conform like sheep to all the social taboos of the community?”



These may not seem very vital points, yet they are, because they are negative attitudes of mind and feeling that radiate out from us. They affect not only those who are near, but those afar off as well. As you know, space and time do not limit thoughts and emotions. Therefore all these non-constructive

thoughts and feelings are sent forth to join with those of like kind projected by others, forming something like a huge black cloud of hatred, fear, greed, etc., until it reaches a point of precipitation. Then it manifests as war, strife or some devastating physical catastrophe; for we must remember that the physical-material world is NOT, as most believe, something separate from the mental, emotional, spiritual worlds. All interpenetrate. On the other hand, the constructive, loving, wise and controlled thoughts and feelings go forth to help build up the better world we all desire to see. Jesus said: “Watch and pray.” This means watch your thoughts, watch your emotional reactions.

What I am trying to point out is, that every human being who is sincerely aspiring to find the real SELF within, following Jesus’ injunction: “Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness,” is doing his or her part in helping to bring that Kingdom into manifestation. I would like to repeat here a couple of paragraphs from one of Dr. Case’s lessons in reference to the above quotation from the Gospel:



“ . . . This makes the quest for the inner center of *first* importance in the work of a practical occultist . . . The pity is that this is the *infallible* prescription for the healing of all our personal, economic and political ailments. The sort of thing which repeats itself in the sad history of human conflicts and inharmonies *simply could not happen*, in a world where most men and women

made the search for the *inner center* their primary object in life. Whoever does this invariably finds what he seeks. When contact with the *one point* is established, all other relationships automatically resolve themselves into harmony. This is true yesterday, today and forever. It is true for the individual whenever he actually does make this quest his first concern. And he who does find the *center* escapes even the worst catastrophes, is free in the midst of tyranny, and prospers, no matter what sort of economic or political set-up may be in force during his lifetime.”

One should remember, too, that we are in a period of upheaval, of complete change of old forms in preparation for the New Age. This period might be compared to yeast working in a bowl of dough, causing transformations in the fields of social behavior, education, religion, politics and economics. The Supreme Consciousness **has** a plan and purpose for this world, and through evolution is bringing it from a primitive chaos to the perfection of real civilization. Each of us is a center for the expression or manifestation of this purpose. Therefore, let us take those two lines of the little Chinese prayer to heart and, beginning with ourselves, help in the reformation or regeneration of the world.



THE POWER OF THE WORD AND HOW TO USE IT

Ann Davies Sunday Service, November 26, 1961



This morning we are going to speak about the power of the word and how to use it. As we all know, the Bible begins with quite a long series of declarations said to be made by God. “And God said, Let there be light!” “And God said, Let the firmament be divided.”² “And God said . . .” let there be this or that, etc.³ In Qabalah, “God said” has very special meanings. Tarot Key 16, The Tower, shows it in some of its phases. The Key has a tall tower with two terrified figures falling out of it. They symbolize self and subconsciousness being thrown out. There is also a bolt of lightning coming from a white sun and hitting the tower, setting it on fire. The Hebrew letter assigned to this Key is Peh, פ, which means, Qabalistically, the mouth as the organ of speech.

Genesis tells us that creation began with a series of declarations from God: “God said.” Yet we also have a picture of the mouth as the organ of speech which looks quite terrifying. Throughout the Bible we have many instances of the Word of God in its various aspects. Saint John says: “In the beginning was the word and the word was with God and the word was God.” It goes on to say, “and this life was the light of men, and the light shineth in the darkness and the darkness comprehendeth it not.” Later it says, “the word was made flesh and dwelt among us.”⁴ So you can see there are quite a few meanings.

This morning we will try to show several areas of power that are involved in the idea of the word. When we speak, what happens is that an expression, a *vibrational* expression, is being given to

²Genesis 1:3,6

³The first book of Genesis has ten instances of “And then God said”: אלהים ויאמר, *ve-yomer Elohim*

⁴John 1 verses 1,5 and 14

something which was a thought. That thought is almost always tied up with emotion, because it is impossible to have a thought that *isn't* involved with emotion. Every vibration is a part of the entire spectrum of consciousness; from the primal beginning of creation down to the very last part of whatever we think is expressing a particular sound, vibration or idea. Words are evolved from thought, as we express it on the physical plane. Their purpose is to be able to communicate with each other; to have the ability to attempt to express to each other certain thoughts and feelings which we are unable to convey directly on the physical level.

Why are we unable to communicate, to express our thoughts *directly* on the physical level? In order to evolve the self-consciousness, we have what might be called our own private fields of expression. Consequently, we are to some degree cut off from each other. This is the way the Divine Life pushes us into developing and evolving methods of communication in order to sharpen our consciousness. It is also



the way our consciousness is intensified; and that intensity evolves ever more individualities within the one vast, cosmic creative process, the One Mind. So we have speech on the physical, the only overall method of communication between us that we can become self-consciously aware of. Those very few of us who are genuinely psychic have a few added faculties. We may be able to pick up emanations directly from others, but we are still picking up the same thing that makes the word. It is still the same thing because a thought and a word are identical and inseparable. **A word is the final expression of a thought on the physical plane or, in other words, a word is a final creative act; and the word that you or I use is really indicative of our state of consciousness.**

Anyone who has developed the slightest perceptiveness can see that what a person says more or less habitually, or in an emotional state, is really indicating what his state of consciousness is and is not. Most of us have not learned how to interpret this correctly, and so

we get ourselves into lots of trouble. We have to discover exactly what is being expressed out there in order to learn how to truly express the word within ourselves.

Many of you have heard me say: “Don’t look now, but your consciousness is showing.” The revelation comes mostly from listening to what people say and understanding what they are giving away. Your words give away your complete evolutionary level, whether you recognize it or not. People think they have to be psychic in order to directly perceive what is going on in the human heart. This isn’t true at all. If you are one of the extremely few who have reliable psychic insight, you have an added way of verifying your evaluation of words.



Let’s look at a few examples. When we get mad at someone, all of us have different ways of showing it. Sometimes we say nothing at all. We clam up and give the cold shoulder, the “silent treatment.” We cut off communication. So we are saying, without using vocal language, that we think the person is far too low and vile to

be worthy of communication with such exalted beings as ourselves. So we cut them off; we are punishing them. If you want to make sure your wife or husband is miserable, use this technique!

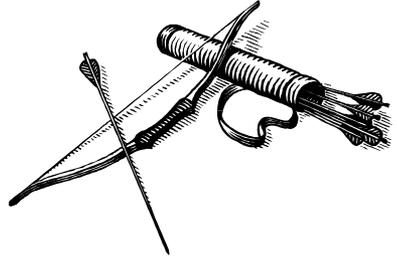
Besides the silent treatment, we have other uses for words when we get angry. Sometimes we burst out with vile name-calling. We have ourselves a beautiful time with righteous indignation. The point is that we rarely seem to remember that once a word has been spoken, it can never be unsaid.

Speaking is really a creative act, and all relationships are a continuous back and forth flow of creative acts. There is no essential difference between what God did to create the world by speaking and what we do to create our world. Spoken and unspoken

words are what make and break all relationships.

We sometimes suffer a tremendous sense of isolation simply because we have accepted the words of others as something very holy. Too often we believe what others say as our own truth, not realizing that what people say most of the time is just their perception of truth at the moment. If we could perceive on wider levels we wouldn't have that problem.

We form judgments of other people (and not accurate ones) mostly in order to show that we are wiser or smarter or more attractive or more talented or more spiritual than the other person. Consequently we say things about other people which can create a real hell on earth for those with whom we have a relationship. A word flies like an arrow and can never be put back in the quiver. Look back into your own heart. We can see how often we accepted what someone said about another person and how it tore down good feelings.



Look at what Hitler was able to do with the power of the word. It is a tremendous power which can be used to intensify the emotion of hate and blame in order to attempt the destruction of specific groups. That power almost destroyed the entire world.⁵ It was the power of the word being used in reverse. We don't seem to realize that when a friend comes to us and says: "I really love her, BUT. . . !" and then proceeds to inform us about all the person's faults, what is really going on is that our minds and hearts are being poisoned against another human being. This is what we mean by "Don't look now, but your consciousness is showing!"

If you love another are you going to advertise what you think are their imperfections? Or are you going to protect them from having

⁵"By the time the Second World War started, Hitler had a special office for the military application of nuclear fission. Repeated and heroic sabotage and bombing raids prevented the German Army from developing a nuclear device before the end of the war." *Encyclopedia Britannica*, Vol. 13, p.326

them discovered? If you truly love, are you? To say, “I love someone, BUT. . .” is one of the most dangerous uses of words. It comes from a deep level of the sense of separateness in human consciousness. We must all evolve out of it sooner or later. And we cannot avoid being influenced by this phenomenon unless we are aware of it. We must never let the power of the word influence us toward hatred or resentment or false pride. We must never let that power enable us to look at another person with contempt or criticism. If we do, all we are doing is showing our need to feel superior to someone else. We will become seducers and betrayers of others. It happens automatically because of the push of the heart which has the pathetic need to feel better than another person.

I wonder how many of us have the courage to stop a person when they say: “I love him or her, BUT . . .”? This is using the power of the word positively. The power of evil is stopped, and we don’t mean evil can be stopped with hatred. All of us know that we do not need to listen and ooh and ahh when we hear gossip about our fellow human beings. We do not have to accept it. Most of the time those type of reports are far from true, anyway. Judge no man until you have walked in his moccasins for three moons.⁶

If you truly develop that ability you will use the power of the word in a far more powerful way. It will affect your entire spiritual experience and aspiration for this simple reason: we waste our energy by letting negative forces come into us from others and go out from us to others in the form of more criticism, more contempt, more condemnation which wears the false face of spiritual pride, saying: “I don’t condemn so and so, BUT. . . !”

One thing a new occult aspirant does is to start becoming more subtle about assassination via the word. A person who is not an occult aspirant is apt to be more direct. It is sad to be angry, but isn’t it sadder to use the potent power of the word in its final expression, the barb? The thing that will hurt? Isn’t that even worse? Remember that you can never unsay anything you have said. At the very least we can develop enough occult discipline to make an effort to lift our emotions to a higher self, reminding

⁶ Native American proverb.

ourselves that we are all one and that there is nothing injurious you can say about another person which will not injure you and everyone else. **NOTHING.** It is the same with our actions, which are another form of words.⁷

In occultism many seem to have an incorrect idea about why they are told to keep their mouths shut when working on a project, when attempting to use the power of the mind in order to accomplish some type of change or demonstration in their environment. In the work of B.O.T.A., you are asked to decide what you want to be or accomplish, and then work towards it in various ways while keeping silent. Why? When you talk about your goal you reduce the concentration of creativity that is flowing toward manifestation. “And the word was made flesh.”⁸ Remember that a word is not separate from a thought; it is merely vibrating at a different rate. When you talk about something you are working towards, you are releasing the power of the word prematurely before it gains strength. It needs to gain strength in order to project itself into flesh. In some rare cases talking about a goal with one or more persons may strengthen the word. But this only happens when the people sharing the word, the goal, have the same emotional drive towards manifesting the picture, because by communicating a picture as a group, the intensity is greater than if you were alone. Yet very rarely will you find another human being who will be able to hold the same desire and creatively build up the picture or goal. That is why it is so important to remain silent, rather than let your energy be wasted.



Also, when you talk about whatever it is you are working towards, other people are very apt to put a block between your thoughts, once you have shared them. Other people unconsciously will reject your principles. So if you tell someone you are working toward a specific

⁷Words are associated with Tarot Keys 7 (speech) and 16 (mentioned previously). Action is associated with Keys 16 (Mars), 13 (motion) and 11 (work or action).

⁸John 1:14: Και ὁ λόγος σὰρξ ἐγένετο, literally “and the word flesh became.” (Gematria value 1273)

goal and if that person is not one-hundred percent sympathetic towards your goal, that person will have thoughts and emotions which will weaken your thoughts and emotions. This is another reason to keep silent. The power of the word is very potent indeed.

In sound and color work we combine the use of color and sound. If you take the rate of vibration for any sound, say the note C, and you keep doubling it geometrically, it will finally come to the rate of vibration we call light, with its divisions of color. If that rate of vibration were increased geometrically, it would eventually reach into the primal principle of thought itself. That is why it is said: "And the *Word* was made flesh." This is the creative thought of God, working in the area of vibration where the light is the life of the world. Here the idea is being expressed in relation to the word. So our livingness, which expresses on another level of vibration as thought, vibrates in the same range as light. It comes down to a slower and slower speed, from the primal principle of thought itself, to light then sound and finally to electromagnetic fields which we call physical objects.

Physical objects are not separate things. They are all part of the One Thing. Remember that the word is the most direct expression of thought when we use it to communicate. When we perform certain practices we are really taking this power of the word or thought and intensifying it in our nature so that as we work with these principles everything that we think and feel becomes more and more powerful.

Power does not make what we think and feel good or bad. It is a very dangerous thing if we allow our resentments, hatreds, and fears to run us, to influence us. Having more power does not make us good. It simply gives us the ability to express more, and that expression can be good or evil.

This is why you have heard it said that occultism can be a very dangerous undertaking. It is also why, in this Order, you are given a long term of training in the Tarot, so you can become aware of and transmute those parts of your nature which might make it dangerous for you to tread the Path of Return. Yet you have to face the dangers or you'll never get anywhere.

If you aspire, you have to recognize that there are dangers involved in intensifying your nature. Intensification using color and sound is the most powerful method that exists. In Eastern thought it is called Mantra Yoga.⁹ It is a chant that has a definite group of meanings. When we intone the note corresponding to red, for example, there are meanings involved far beyond just the color. There are all the meanings that belong to the zodiacal sign Aries: all the drives, the emotional reactions and the ability to gain dominion from the spiritual level.

Joining together week after week in Qabalistic chanting, we have an extra influx of power from the Inner School, flowing in from the hierarchy right from the center of God and descending into the depths of ourselves. Every cell of our bodies, every atom of every cell is intensified. This Qabalistic chanting, the power of the word, becomes more and more influential in us. For that reason we have much more responsibility for what we say and do not say, for what we permit to emanate from us.



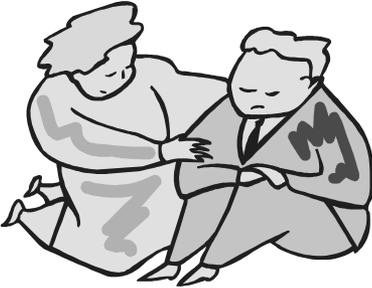
One of the great sorrows a truly sensitive person experiences is awareness of emanations coming from people in their environment. These emanations are the power of the word and they will express in some word or another, somehow or another. They are attitudes, types of thinking and feeling we permit ourselves to have about each other. With a single word we can give another human being a lifelong sorrow. Also, with a single word we can give another human being a lifelong comfort never to be forgotten. The recipient of a loving word will always have a warm sense of gratitude, acceptance and comfort.

So what are we going to do with this intensified power which we

⁹“Mantra can be defined as a verbal expression which may be a syllable, a word or a whole phrase used for recitation, chanting or verbal meditation, aloud or internally in the course of worship. It is a verbal means of communicating with and influencing the transcendent.” Karel Werner, *Dictionary of Hinduism*, p. 105

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have been gathering together? Every stage of the way you are faced with tests and trials. What are they? **They amount almost entirely to your attitude towards those around you.** The test and trials are your intimate relationships. If we could only know it and remember it every moment of our lives! You can't say: "I *LOVE* humanity, but I can't stand people!" You don't love humanity or you would yearn towards people, and you would certainly not condemn them or sit in judgment upon them. You simply haven't got the data!



It is true that some people are tremendously destructive, but our job is to be aware of that and not to let it poison our hearts. We've got to remember that no one is either totally destructive or completely constructive. We must not pick up their destructiveness and pour it back into them. We can't afford to. If we do, we will suffer far more than the average person because our work has opened us to greater power. We have greater power to love, to hold constructive thoughts, to forgive.

Even if we are attacked, we have the power to say with Jesus: "Blessed are ye when men shall persecute you for my sake."¹⁰ That is the thing to remember. It has happened to all of you and your reaction was your test, your feeling about the need to retaliate. It is true in all relationships. The power of the word is becoming mightier and mightier within you. It is in our interrelationships that we acknowledge the oneness of God and therefore the brotherhood of man.



From now on, let's try to shrug off any of the unkind things said to or about us. It is more important now than ever before. Let's not

¹⁰Matthew 5:11: "Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake."

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react in the same way, but rather lift our hearts and minds to the Higher Self. Let's refuse to be pulled into criticism, but instead raise our consciousness to the oneness of all life. When we do that we are making the power of the word of God more vital. We are active centers helping to bring about the brotherhood of man. We are serving the Lord of the Universe and living lives of love and serenity.

We will never have that kind of life if we permit ourselves to be influenced by the seducer, the slanderer, who causes us to forget our unity and resides in our own bosom and in the bosom of our fellow man. So this talk is not just a talk about the word, but its really a little talk about love, isn't it? It is extremely important to watch the power of your words at every level and to use them as positive, loving creative forces for establishing the brotherhood of man.

He who is in love is wise and is becoming wiser,
sees newly every time he looks at the object beloved,
drawing from it with his eyes and his mind
those virtues which it possesses.



~Ralph Waldo Emerson



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The daily lesson work and practical application of the principles therein in our everyday lives are the life-breath of the spiritual training and work of B.O.T.A., and that which will promote the greatest personal growth. Active participation in groups can also aid in spiritual growth, when group activities are equilibrated within the central focus of self-transmutation—the essential study and practice of the lesson material, B.O.T.A.'s priceless heritage given from the hearts of our beloved Paul Foster Case and Ann Davies. For members interested in the group work aspect of the Order, many areas of the country have officially recognized on-going study groups and Pronaoii, as well as scheduled special events. For information about special events or participation in Pronaos or study group, visit the B.O.T.A. website at <http://www.bota.org> or contact the Regional Coordinator for your area.

You are invited ...

Fratres and Sorores who live in or are visiting Los Angeles are cordially invited to attend the Qabalistic Healing Sunday Service presented every Sunday morning at 11:00 a.m. at the B.O.T.A. Temple in Los Angeles, 5101 N. Figueroa Street. This always special event is open to all.



Contact the Regional Coordinators for your area for information about Pronaos, study groups or special events.

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Northeast Region

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http://www.bota.org.nz

South America and Mexico Region

Contact B.O.T.A. Headquarters (323) 255-7141, Fax (323) 255-4166

European B.O.T.A. Groups

Contact B.O.T.A. Europe Office (New Address September 1, 2004)
16, BLD ASSISCLE
66000 Perpignan, FRANCE
E-Mail: *europe@bota.org* Web: *http://www.bota.org*

**Questions about Pronaos and Study Groups in your area
should be directed to the Regional Coordinator, not to the
B.O.T.A. office.**



I am the rose of Sharon,
and the lily of the valleys.
As the lily among thorns,
so is my love among the daughters.
As the apple tree among the trees of the wood,
so is my beloved among the sons.
I sat down under his shadow with great delight,
and his fruit was sweet to my taste.
He brought me to the banqueting house,
and his banner over me was love.
Stay me with flagons, comfort me with apples:
for I am sick of love.
His left hand is under my head,
and his right hand doth embrace me.
I charge you, O ye daughters of Jerusalem,
by the roes, and by the hinds of the field,
that ye stir not up, nor awake my love, till he please.

~ *Song of Solomon*