

The Gospel of the Hereafter

This comes to each one of us, every morning. God's gift of a new clean page. Whence shall we fill it and on what lines shall the sun set. It is a page of life. We may only partially fill it. Many are called away with but few lines accomplished. Many are overcome with frustrations and in desperation try to turn a new leaf only to find that the first must be completed before the second can be made of use. All too many of us fill the clean white blank with wild scuffling. A chaos of inconclusions. Fortunate is he who can fill this page line upon line with effort truly made, the realization that each of us has a kinship with an ^{author} Power beyond ourselves. A power that is ever present, which can be tapped at will by prayer. Not a five day week privilege but a seven day week with a twenty four hour service in eternity.

The Gospel of the Hereafter! A ^{new year} new page, a new year, a new life. It is my resolution that come 1973 I will no more be a slave to this temptation or that habit. Hereafter I will attempt to mend my broken fences, do those things I should do and leave undone those things I should not do. Then suddenly to this unspoken prayer comes the thundering response that ^{refutes} ~~convinces~~ all my ^{plans} ~~trickling~~, faint

hearted hopes and silent fears "There is no hereafter
there is only now.!!!" "from this instant!" ~~and~~ The echo
goes back among the years and returns to the years to
come and always the echo is a never changing "now."

The echo in Onapelle Valley.

How many of us have had the experience of doing
something for someone on the impulse of the moment.

We hesitate, count the cost, estimate possible ridicule
anticipate misunderstanding, and the "now" that was
so present passes silently by. One of the most powerful
proofs of immediate change is given us in the New Testament.
Jesus says to perfect strangers "Follow me!" They drop
everything - now - and follow him. They did not stop
to count the cost or form a committee to look into the
situation, or say "sometime in the hereafter we will
follow you."

We are so besieged by that word 'new' that it is
with hesitation we use it. Pick up so many items on
store shelves and what catches the eye first. The
name of the item perhaps but right alongside is more
often than not the word NEW. If we stopped to think
for a moment we would realize that it is just another
Gimmick to get us to buy. It does not say what
is new, in all probability it is the package and
not the contents.

'Behold all things are made naught' now, each moment
we live and have our be-ing. We look in silent awe
at a starry sky and something whispers to us of "mystery"
Questions arise in our minds and are followed by endless
questions and thoughts and we are staggered in our
imagination of eternity. To think and know within
ourselves that we are an infinitesimal part of this great
universe, part of the plan and the power that holds
the stars in their course and the eternal continuity of
galaxy after galaxy is such knowledge that we
can only whisper a prayer "This is too great for me,
I believe, help Thou my unbelief" And we start the
incoming year in another ^{internal all transcending thought} ~~whisper~~ "O God How
great Thou art!"