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A. J. HOWIE, Editor

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Mind Magazine

MAY, 1937

To the Readers of Mind Magazine

Are you a regular reader of Mind Magazine? Even if you follow our pages regularly, do you know what we are trying to do? If not, the fault is our own for not telling you.

Countless thousands are seeking more light on the scientific basis of religion. They have their churches and fraternal societies, but the emphasized uncertainties of the last decade urge them to find a more mature restatement of their beliefs.

Mind Magazine is striving to serve this thoughtful element made up of those who do not unsettle easily, but once having lost their unquestioning faith, are slow to hook up to a definite code of ideals and hopes. We are not in a position to evangelize, much less force our opinions on the world. We feel that we have a peculiar mission at this time, and we want you to help us reach the people who need us.

Interest is the key to the attention of our readers. We are using all dignified means of appealing to the general interest without resorting to out-and-out sensationalism. We know the growing interest in the simple teachings of Jesus and other great avatars whose lives proved the existence of higher laws.

Devotion! Prayer! Meditation! Words that mean so much to those who know how to retreat into those discip-
**Fragments**

Men who undertake considerable things, even in a regular way, ought to give us ground to presume ability.  
—*Burke*

As we advance in life, we learn the limits of our abilities.  
—*Froude*

Fundamentally there is no such thing as private action. All actions are public—in themselves or their consequences.  
—*Bovee*

Our grand business is, not to see what dimly lies at a distance, but to do what lies clearly at hand.  
—*Carlyle*.

That action is best which procures the greatest happiness for the greatest numbers.  
—*Hutchinson*.

I have always thought the actions of men the best interpretation of their thoughts.  
—*Locke*

Heaven never helps the men who will not act.  
—*Sophocles*

All may do what has by man been done.  
—*Young*

Studious to please, yet not ashamed to fail.  
—*Samuel Johnson*

Applause is the spear of noble minds, the end and aim of weak ones.  
—*C. C. Colton*

**Heavenly Gifts**

*(Diary Leaves)*  
*By Nicholas Roerich*

People should rejoice at every manifestation of the soul of humanity being touched, for in that is expressed the striving towards the Good, and in this common bliss is already contained a real Heavenly Gift which mankind should cherish above all ages and nations. And did not the Bhagavan himself, in his goodness, show the example of tolerance and all-containment? If people would only evince more care and reverence for all the heavenly sendings which continuously illumine our dusky, earthly life!

Heavenly Gifts in human consciousness are always connected with lightning speed. Everything from the Highest, everything from Above naturally directs human imagination towards light, towards sparkling, towards urgency. And so it is. The greatest realizations can come like lightning, instantaneously.

But yet another condition has to be cognized in our earthly understanding. In these high manifestations is revealed a heavenly language whereas ours is an earthly tongue. Even for the highest conceptions we have but poor clumsy expressions. If around the concept of Heavenly Gifts we shall gather all our conventional definitions, they will be yet but weak and limited expressions of the Ineffable.

Only the heart can give life to such expressions as solemnity, greatness, ecstasy, tremor, joy. Without a transfiguration through the heart, the best words will remain but dead sounds. Therefore it has been ordained since antiquity that the best gifts should be reverently accepted and dignifiedly introduced into the earthly life.

Love is like lightning, but it must be educated and affirmed in full consciousness, or even this heavenly feeling will be but the tremor of a mirage.

*Reprinted in part from Praluddha Bharata.*
Many epics tell of the sending of Heavenly Gifts into earthly surroundings. By such legends the effort was made to warm human light-mindedness and to introduce into the consciousness a worthy understanding.

Heavenly Gifts, if not introduced lovingly and with care into earthly life, will be as torn-off wings, which even despite their magnificent beauty will yet remain cut off. But by the Highest Will wings are given for blissful flights. Without a genuine ardent striving towards spiritual flights man will forget the wings which will become dusty amidst the household rubbish. Tiny grey entities will creep out from dark corners to change the God-sent magnificence into morbid grey wings.

Stuffed birds with motionless spread wings always arouse a sad thought that the symbol of movement and high flight has been nailed down and is thus condemned as a worthless thing in the dust.

The culture of Heavenly Gifts in earthly conditions is a difficult science. Precisely difficult, for this realization is born in labor. And precisely is it a science, because many experiments, many tests had to be made before the Heavenly Blossom unfolded itself unharmed in its entire, predes- tined grandeur.

Not only the rare chosen ones are called to care for the blossoming of Heavenly Gifts on earth. In every home there should be a sacred garden, into which the Heavenly Gifts should be brought with the greatest love and surrounded with the best offerings of which the human heart is capable of rendering.

At times people in despair imagine that Heavenly Gifts have ceased to be poured out. But they do not ponder whether their own eyes are vigilant enough to discern the Invisible Light amidst the glare of the sunshine. Do not people take refuge from blissful rain under an umbrella? And do not people flee into dungeons from purifying thunder storms and from majestic waves of light?

Do not people try to make a small thing of the greatest? And how sad it is when Heavenly Gifts—these generous, beautiful treasures—are derided or locked up in the safe of a miser!

These deniers will try to invent all imaginable excuses to shift to anyone else their own ignorance and rudeness. Little physical effort is needed to tear off a beautiful flower. And in the same way is very little coarse force required to defile the highest Heavenly Gift. But if anyone will argue that this is already a commonplace, let us reply with the words of Vivekananda: "If you know what is good, then why don't you follow the ordinments?"

In these significant words thunders a direct challenge to all who violate and abuse the Highest. And is this question nowadays not most imperative?

If anyone will tell you that it is unnecessary to repeat, answer him: "If something useful is not applied, one has to re-affirm it!" Everyone will agree that one should always help. This means that if somewhere something most precious is being neglected, then one should endlessly reiterate it as long as one's voice lasts. And if anyone sees that a humanitarian principle is violated by ignorance or malevolence, it is his duty to point this out, if only he himself understands wherein are true values.

Heavenly Gifts are multifarious. Generously and magnificently are these beautiful helpers sent to assist humanity. The shower of Bliss is poured in benevolent generosity but only drops of this treasure reach. But every thought about Heavenly Gifts already strengthens the heart. Especially now when human hearts are in such confusion and deep pain, one should strive after the highest panacea, after Heavenly Gifts.