

Liwanag - Tanglaw

International

The Real Secret

By Sis. Videlfia P. Carpio

One afternoon in the summer of 2012, I visited the city of Philadelphia. Strolling down the city streets, I imagined the Founding Fathers—Washington, Adams, Franklin, Jefferson, and Hancock—doing the same with propositions in their minds as they made their way to Independence Hall for the drafting of the Declaration of Independence.

Just outside the Historical District, I was drawn into a quaint little bookstore. Lined along its brick walls were tall wooden shelves stacked with old books. Customers sat on stools reading between the aisles. The shopkeeper in one corner busily shelved misplaced books overflowing in her cart. There among the shelves a book by an author I had never heard of caught my eye. I interrupted the shopkeeper and paid for it. Bought on a whim, the book, “The

Master Key System” (1917) by Charles F. Haanel, would turn out to be a noteworthy find and of some significance in my quest for spirituality.

Charles F. Haanel was an American “New Thought” author. New Thought is a movement promoting the idea that, in Haanel’s words, “Infinite Intelligence, or God, is everywhere” and that “true human selfhood is divine”. Haanel was also a Freemason, a scholar in psychology, metaphysics, and developing technologies among others, and a successful businessman. He achieved honorary academic and doctorate degrees from



Sis. Fiely and Bro. Art Novilla’s garden in Greenwood, South Carolina.

several colleges. Haanel credits the secret of his success to Spirituality which he often mentioned in his book. “The Master Key System” is the same book that inspired Rhonda Byrne to write “The Secret” (2006), the bestselling self-help book that sold 19 million copies worldwide.

“Spiritual Power is convertible into any asset,” says Haanel. Spirituality, or the “sense of peace, purpose, connection to others, and beliefs about the meaning of life” (Greenberg, “Can Spirituality be Defined?”) is of great fundamental value and is key to the continual success of an individual. “To be successful, attention must invariably be directed to the create place; it must never be competitive”. The goal is not to take away from others so as to benefit from their failure. Rather, suc-

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Message on

A Meaning of Sacrifice

By Bro. Virgelio Carpio

Reading the Gospels, we see that it was a confusing time to be a disciple of Jesus. Although warned multiple times, his disciples were still caught off guard by his arrest. They fled. Peter, who perhaps did not go into hiding, had to deny Jesus once he was recognized. Only one in addition to Mary is known

to have shown up at the crucifixion—John. The sight of their savior who would be king covered in blood and hanging limply on the cross between two criminals was just too much to bear. But the man they would call Lord cannot die in vain. His death must have meaning. A meaning of epic scale to properly reflect

the accomplishments he has made in life. But sadly to this day no one can seem to agree on what that meaning might be.

From the time the Gospels were written, the traditional interpretation was that Jesus died for our sins. This was gleaned from passages which

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**East Coast
Next Sesyon:**

June 14 – Saturday

Pag-gunita at pag-alaala sa pag-alis sa laman ng KGG na Gran Superma, Dr. Rosa Pena Tongko. Gaganapin ito sa tahanan ng mga kapatid na Bro. Eddie at Sis. Lota Cantada, sa:

3117 Bangor Drive,
Chesapeake, VA 23321
Tel. (757) 483-2103

West Coast:

Maaring tumawag kina:

- Bro. Louie & family:
(619) 264-4251
- Sis. Fia Zabat Swartz:
(619) 656-3138
- Sis. Amor & Bro. Salvador Pia:
(619) *82-656-0325,
or Fax (619) 421-5240.

A Moment of Silence

Bro. Luzminio Roman

Another light has dimmed and gone. Bro. Luzminio “Miniong” Roman of Roselle, New Jersey passed away on January 23, 2014. He was 59.

Originally from Navotas, he graduated from the Philippine Maritime Institute and was a point guard in college.

Bro. Miniong’s booming voice and zest for life was most apparent in the East Coast sessions. He was a strong pillar of our group. Though his voice is now silent, his legacy lives on in his wife, Sis. Dena Calero Roman, and loving children, Lorena, Dennis Mark, Joseph, Justin, and Devina. In the words of his family, Brother Miniong in life was helpful, caring, and charismatic.

Bro. Rogelio Escover

Bro. Rogelio “Bhay” Escover of Sabang, Dasmariñas, Cavite passed away on February 10, 2014. Born January 6, 1954, Bro. Bhay was 60 years old.

He is survived by his wife, Sis. Merelia Aguilar Escover, and his four children—Leogelia, (“Lhelie”), Miafelia (“Mhia”), Merelia (“Baby”), and Lunaila (“Lonie”).

From his daughter, Sis. Merelia:

“Si Tatay na kilala sa pangalang ‘BhAY’ ay wagas na ama, kapatid, anak, manugang, at biyenang. Handa siyang tumulong sa sinumang nangangailangan. Wala siyang hindi ginustong gawin na ikabubuti ng lahat. Hindi lamang kaming apat na magkakapatid ang pinagtapos niya ng pag-aaral, bagkus bukas-palad din niyang pinag-aral ang ilan sa mga batang nalalapat sa kanyang puso, kamag-anak man o hindi.

“Naging isang mabuting halimbawa siya sa aming mga anak niya. Inakay niya kami patungo sa ating katuruan at lagi niyang bilin sa amin na isa-isip at isapuso ang bawat aral na

aming matanggap upang siya naman naming ipamalas sa aming mga anak.

“Kaya’t ganun na lamang ang pagmamahal naming kanyang mga anak sa kanya. Gayundin ang pagmamahal ng karamihan sa kanya. Hindi ka namin malilimutan, Tatay. Maraming salamat po sa pagiging isang dakilang ama.”

From the family:

“On behalf of the Escover Family, we would like to extend our deepest thanks to our relatives and friends. Special thanks, too, to our dear Tita Baby and Tito Vid who were always there for us.”

Sis. Maura Pantig-Carrasco

Sis. Maura “Muring” Pantig-Carrasco passed away on April 12, 2014. She was 92.

Born May 3, 1922 in Caloocan, she was the daughter of Igmidio Pantig and Felisa Andan.

Having no children, she was well-loved by her nieces and nephews whom she took care of as if they were her own. Like a second mom, her nephews and nieces all called her “Mama”.

On her final days, she stayed at Bro. Sol, her nephew, and Sis. Juvy’s vacation home in Tagaytay.



Photo by Bro. Norvin Chavez.

The Real Secret

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cess is obtained by creating and giving to others. “You do not wish to take anything away from anyone else; you want to create something for yourself, and what you want for yourself you are perfectly willing that everyone else should have.” This is the Law of Abundance, one of Haanel’s Universal Laws. As he reiterates in his book, “...the individual is a part of the Universal. A part cannot antagonize any other part, but, on the contrary, the welfare of each part depends upon a recognition of the interests of the whole.” Self-interest and ruthlessness, as corporations seem to dictate today, do not after all pave the path to great success.

Also from the book:

“Those who fail are walking in darkness or uncertainty. They are out of touch with the light, or guidance of the Universal Law. They are doing the will of the personal rather than of the Divine. They have not yet obtained the knowledge that makes them free.”

Harmony is the nature of the Universal Laws. Man can either be the enabler or the disabler. Says Haanel in another one of his books, “The New Psychology” (1928), “Man is more than man. All the possibilities of the Divine Self await unfoldment through him.” Spiritual Power, obtained through the acknowledgement of and adherence to one’s Divine Self can be a source of great power.

How does one gain access to the Divine Self and obtain spiritual power? To quote Haanel:

“Over-work or over-play or bodily over-activity of any kind produces conditions of mental apathy and stagnation which make it impossible to do the more important work which results in a realization of conscious power. We should, therefore, seek the Silence frequently. Power comes from repose; it is in

the Silence that we can be still, and when we are still we can think, and thought is the secret of all attainment.”

In short, through meditation. “We become masters by self-study, self-control, and self-directed effort,” says Haanel.

Through Spirituality, we are able to find the faith, strength, and self-discipline which allow us to work for the greater good and contribute toward the greatness of humankind. Given that the ultimate goal is achieved—harmony and prosperity for all—success and wealth inevitably follow, as demonstrated by Charles F. Haanel in his own successes. The same is true of the Founding Fathers who built the United States on the foundation of Spirituality.

I would like to say that I had purpose in visiting Philadelphia that summer afternoon. But if I did, it would be completely fictional. Often, it is during such occasions—when I just get up to go somewhere, anywhere—that I experience the most meaningful events in my life. Life somehow finds me in my journeys and teaches me something so profound that I always come back home a wiser and more enlightened person. Spirituality, in this case, turned out to be “The Real Secret”.

References:

- Greenberg, Neil. “Can Spirituality Be Defined?” *Spirituality Defined*. University of Tennessee, 8 Oct. 2008. Web. 10 May 2014. <<http://notes.utk.edu/bio/unistudy.nsf/935c0d855156f9e08525738a006f2417/bdc83cd10e58d14a852573b00072525d?OpenDocument>>.
- Haanel, Charles F.. *The Master Key System*. Saint Louis, MO: Inland Printery, 1919. Print.
- Haanel, Charles F.. *New Psychology*. St. Louis, Mo.: Inland Printery, 1928. Print.

Mula sa Tape ng Lola:

Espiritualisasyon ng Materia

At naging glorifikado ang kanyang Espiritu. At darating ang panahon, makikilala rin siya sa kalagayan niyang pagka Espiritu ng Katotohanan.

Kaya't nandiyan ang pagsisikap ng bawa't isa; huwag ninyong isiping kayo'y mahina, isiksik n'yo sa inyong isipang kayo'y malakas. Bakit? Sapagka't buhat kayo sa Diyos, ang Diyos ang may kapangyarihan. Kung kayo'y napapayakap sa Diyos, aagos sa inyo ang bisa ng Kanyang kapangyarihan.

Huwag ninyong iisiping kayo'y walang nalalaman, ang Diyos ang may karunungan. Kung sumasainyo ang Diyos, aagos sa inyong isipan ang batis ng kaalaman, gaya ng natanaw ng sangkatauhan sa mga alagad ng Maestro ng panahong noon—ang mga yaong mga mangingisda lamang at hindi mga nagsipag-aral sa mga paaralan ng mga marurunong na mga escribas. Mga taong karaniwan na kanyang pinagpulot sa daan sa kanyang paghahanap ng kanyang mga aalagaan upang siyang magsisunod at magbunyag ng kanyang katawang laman. At nagsidunong at nagkailaw ang isipan ng mga taong iyon. Walang takot na ibinalita nila ang kapangyarihan niyang kanilang Maestro at inulit-ulit nila sa sangkatauhan ang mga naalala nila't natandaan nila na mga katuruan.

Kaya't ganoon nawa ang maganap sa maliit na organisasyon na ito na nagkapalad na makatanggap ng katuruan ng Espiritu ng Katotohanan. Iukol na-

tin nang buong kababaang loob, ihandog natin ang ating kalagayan, ihandog natin ang lahat ng lakas ng ating bisig, isipan, buong buhay sa ikasusunod natin sa gawaing ito at sa ikatutupad ng layunin ng gawaing ito.

Kaya't tayo nga ngayon, mga kapatid, manalangin at iyan ang ating hingin sa ating pagdalangin, palakas inong lamang ito. At atin namang bigkasin sa ating kalooban—natatalaga po ako, Panginoon, na ibigay ko ang aking buhay sa 'yong gawain, at nawa maging espiritualisado itong kasangkapang itong ibinigay mo sa akin at magamit mo, Diyos ko, nang sang-ayon sa Iyong kalooban.

Iyan ang ating bigkasin sa ating isipan, sa ating pagninilay-nilay at tumalab nawa sa ating kabuhayan. Magkaroon nawa ng pagbabago ang kabuhayan ng bawa't isa at layunin, at maging maligaya tayo, magpasawalang hanggan, kaligayahang Espiritual.



Photo by Sis. Vi P. Carpio.

Coming Sesyons

Agosto 23

Gaganapin ito sa tahanan ng mga kapatid na Bro. Billy at Sis. Vi Carpio sa 5 Fortune Road East, Middletown, NY 10941. Tel. (845) 692-4561

Oktubre 11

Gaganapin ito sa tahanan ng mga kapatid na Bro. Angel at Sis. Grace Santos, sa 390 Chestwick Drive, Martinsburg, WV 25403. Tel. (304) 267-7248

Our Newsletter is hungry for your contributions! This issue's contributor:

Please submit your articles and suggested topics to:

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- Bro. Angel Santos

A Meaning of Sacrifice

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many now believe can be interpreted in other ways.

Atonement, as this interpretation is called, involves Jesus acting as our substitutionary sufferer. Religious thinkers over the centuries have made revisions to it in hopes of arriving at the truth.

In early versions, either Jesus struck a deal with Satan and offered His life as ransom or Jesus defeated Satan to liberate humankind from being enslaved by Satan. Later, the metaphor that humankind owed God was used. Because of the gravity of humankind's sins, only the perfect sacrifice of Jesus as both God and man can repay what was owed.

In another interpretation, the crucifixion was determined by the Father long before earth was created to redeem humanity from the fall of Adam.

A more modern interpretation runs parallel with today's court proceeding. Jesus was betrayed by a friend, denied by another, and accused by the church of blasphemy and by the state of sedition. In utter abandonment, he was sentenced to die all with the endorsement of an enthusiastic crowd. But being innocent of any crime, the only crime that was actually committed at the crucifixion was the murder of Jesus.

His tomb, however, was later found empty. With no body there is no crime. Believe in the Resurrection and you are absolved because the man you supposedly killed is alive. Deny the Resurrection and you admit guilt in the murder of Jesus.

In today's scientific age, one interpretation makes use of the psychology of scapegoating. Scapegoating is the blaming of a person or group for

misfortunes experienced or of a crime we ourselves might be committing. Scapegoating can be found in school playgrounds, families, and organizations big and small. It is also found throughout history as an effective means of quieting a restless crowd. The Hebrews sacrificed goats on their day of atonement. Blacks became victims of violent outbreaks during harsh economic times in America in the late 1800s. A lower staff employee is often blamed for errors made by management. Scapegoating is a sociological phenomenon that works well. Once a scapegoat is targeted, victimized, and sacrificed, the crisis is forgotten and society is at peace once again.

Jesus was in the middle of one such crisis—the occupation of Israel by Rome. Being of humble origin from a remote village who dared challenge the city and its priests, he became the perfect scapegoat. Jesus, however, was not just any scapegoat. He was God. God wanted to end the practice of scapegoating which led to persecution that He offered His life in a sacrifice that will end all sacrifices. His eventual resurrection rendered the practice of sacrifice that was widely used in biblical times impotent and irrelevant.

These are just some interpretations. We may yet encounter more depending on the whims of the times or what can still be gleaned from the Gospels.

Still, with all these interpretations, a common theme emerges—the struggle to understand the death of Jesus. This struggle could have originated from the same confusion the original disciples felt upon Jesus' arrest. They were, after all, ordinary men who did not volunteer to become missionaries but were

now witnessing their leader being led away like a criminal by the authorities. Questions likely crossed their minds as to why, after three years preaching the word of God with Jesus, they were now on the lam.

But their faiths remained unshakeable. They have seen. Jesus not only spoke words of truth, timeless and eternal, but also backed them up with miracles that can only be ascribed as coming from the divine. Scribes would later ask how then had Jesus, for surely he was God incarnate, not seen what was coming and avert His own violent end? Even had Jesus not been God but God's chosen one, would not God have seen through to his safety until old age? These are questions any follower of Jesus will have to confront. Yet no answers give meaning unless Jesus chose to die. And if he did, his later resurrection notwithstanding, there must be a reason—a reason that his followers will wrestle with for the next two thousand years.

Maybe then we should take a moment now to reflect and take stock of what has been said. And while we're at it, maybe even consider the possibility that Jesus' death has no meaning at all, at least not in the traditional sense.

We are told that we are spirits on the path of learning until we are one with God. We are also told that Jesus is a highly evolved soul who no longer needs to be born in the flesh. He has moved on to other realms and may even already be one with God. If born onto this earth where barbarians rule and brute force is the only known law then it will be his choice, as he will have no new lessons to learn. Being high up in the ladder of spiritual advancement, Jesus will impress lower souls and upset the ruling establishment. He will do

nothing to repel his persecutors or what they will eventually do to him because he came to uphold God's laws and not short-circuit them. And Free Will, whether used for good or evil even among lower souls, reigns supreme among God's mandates. It cannot be hindered. Jesus made sure his work was "finished" but not even the Son of God will stand in the way of divine laws. Jesus did not come to earth to become a force to be reckoned with. Rather, he came to preach humility and submission in the face of suffering as one true path to the Kingdom of Heaven.

Perhaps we will never get out of the belief that Jesus, through his death, saved us. It just rings true. After all, his dying on the cross brought his teachings to greater reach. And this could be the meaning, if we needed one, we can take from the cross. Religious thinkers who come up with atonement theologies keep Christianity's flames burning and Jesus' much needed wisdoms on humility, kindness, and forgiveness continue to spread. We should not forget that for all its ills, the world today is better than two thousand years ago, and better still than had no Jesus come or died on the cross. To think otherwise is to say that Jesus did not matter. If there was any saving at all, it will be from our own actions. A lesser fate for our planet because of the greater sins we were bound to commit may ultimately be what Jesus saved us from.



Sis. Lota and Bro. Eddie Cantada's garden in Chesapeake, Virginia.