

THE SECURITY OF UNMERITED FAVOR

“I, like Jacob, fight they for Thy security. Give it to me.” (Esoteric Philosophy, Pg. 87:5)

“Jacob shall return and have quiet and ease, and none shall make him afraid.” (Jer. 46:27)

Back of the rich stories told in the Bible, the characters we find there represent various states of consciousness that we all move through, are now, or will encounter as we walk out our spiritual journeys and return to Original Mind. The character of Jacob, introduced in the book of Genesis, shows forth a particular consciousness that we all can relate to in one way or another.

Very much under the hypnosis of matter and worldly affairs, Jacob finds himself tied to and in the bondage of earthly laws, rules, as well as to the way things are done to be successful and prosperous in the world. One could say that Jacob was a “wheeler dealer” in his time; manipulating this, tweaking that, doing and saying nearly anything that would gain him favor and advantage in the material sense. Underlying the activities of a Jacob consciousness, we find fear, insecurity and that most crippling of human illusions “I am not enough.”

Jacob comes to a state of affairs in which he is doing everything he can think of to preserve his family, possessions, the body of his affairs and even his own life. In spite of his efforts, he is beset on all sides by the appearance of insurmountable odds. It is here that Jacob,

at his own wits end, is alone with Reality, alone with God. Instead of surrender, instead of giving in, instead of “looking toward” his Divine Birthright, Jacob chooses to grapple, to bargain, to actually wrestle with God throughout the night, the dark night of his soul.

Jacob approaches his union with the Diving through the looking-glass of his own human personality. Who among us can say that, consciously or unconsciously, we do not approach Immortal Mind in the very same way at times? Jacob railed, wrestled, struggled and demanded a blessing from God, a blessing that might enhance or preserve his earthly life but would leave his Sacred Heart barren and unexposed. *“I will not let You go until you bless me.”* (Gen. 32:26) Like Jacob, we often attempt to bring paradigms and doctrines of our earthly nature to our quest for reunion with Original Mind and, like Jacob, are brought to our knees by our need to struggle in such a way.

What we earn, merit and attain in the material world of shadow we gain by a belief in work, effort, thought and by “wrestling” with conditions. We error when we attempt, consciously or unconsciously, to apply earthly rules to our return to that which knows nothing of conditions, struggle, effort or ego. This attachment to using human means exhibits itself in a myriad of subtle ways. After all, how many times have we referred to the activity of our inner lives as “the work”? There is nothing that keeps Security, Meekness and Grace (Unmerited Favor) at a distance but our own ideas, just as it was for Jacob.

Grace is the activity of Unmerited Favor. It cannot be earned, bargained for, worked toward or attained by effort; It simply IS. It was given before time and before the world was and has never been withheld. It is revealed by or attention, by our “looking toward”.

Unmerited Favor is Security because nothing opposes It, nothing earthly touches It. Unmerited Favor is where the dissonance of earthly life gives way forever to the resonance of Being.

The Adam-man in us feels pride in earthly accomplishment and attainment. Pride is the error thought that results from doctrine where struggle, hard work, effort and “my word” prevail; the world overcomes us. Bringing forth as meekness shows us that wherever Truth is exposed, It is simply given; we have overcome the world. Unmerited Favor dissolves the doctrine of “by my own hand” and announces True Freedom where living comes forth from Being, ideas give way to Ideal, “my word” surrenders to the Word.

Each of us, during the course of a given day or when face-to-face with any condition or circumstance is free to ask “Am I Jacob or am I Christ?” “Do I control or does I AM command as me?” “Am I living or am I Being?”