

THE THIRTEEN GATES OF WISDOM'S WAY

- Adrian Gilbert

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WHOLENESS- by careful attention to the fitness of the body, and the full balance of the four great Needs : Food, Shelter, Sex, and Spirit (Faith, knowledge, and Love); and by careful attention to the arts of creative work and creative play.

INNER PEACE - by complete awareness of the body and its flow of energy, by the com- truthfulness of your heart-of-hearts with your soul-of-souls.

INVISIBILITY - by living the simple life of balance; by boldness with grace, keen- ness of hearing, alertness of vision, a private tongue, and oneness with the force/flow of life.

SECOND SIGHT - By looking not into the lies of the outer faces of others, rather by seeing the mirrors of the soul-- and becoming the mirrors of the soul for others, as they have the heart for it.

ILLUSION - by thinking and moving faster than the speed of vision -- at one with the speed of thought; by allowing others to accept what they wish to per- ceive, while acting in the service of your truest of needs.

ENLIGHTENMENT - by never forcing your self will upon the nature of any living creature nor element of the Great Mother's Creations; by percieveing that there are no forces of good, nor are there forces of evil either, other than those created in the caverns of our own minds - "For a Devil may not enter where he's not invited in". All Nature builds and effaces of and unto Herself, in a constant cyclic motion, like the symbol of the serpent who devours itself and is reborn, only to devour itself again.

Any living being may sway the flow of Nature by as little as the visualization of a dream, or the blinking of an eye--. This alteration in the flow may happen suddenly, yet it most often runs over a span of time. Experience shows that it is better to do things softly, subtly, by the mere direction of heart, in concord with the flow; for Nature is never untrue to Herslf, and ever moves in at- tunement to all that moves with Her.

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In truth, the Lady knows no Master; yet She may also be easily prone to persuasion. Truly be wise enough to know that there are none so wise as they who do nothing, leaving nothing undone.....

FELLOWSHIP - with 'all creatures, great and small', respecting each according to their beauty, and the grace of their deeds; never judging them according to your own needs and desires.

RELATIONSHIP - with all persons and creatures deserving of love, trust, and honour.

Gather such people as these close about you -- for companionship with honourable and trustworthy company, and retreat from the swell of madness into the presence of a loving family, is a treasure greater than all the earthly gold that ever a soul may see.

REVERENCE - for the spark of life, the tiniest of glimmers from the Source of All Creation; and for the Great Mother, wherein these seeds are fed by the life force which flows forth from Her in a shower of loving care, unto and into every living thing, and which emanates a unique speciality to every creation of Nature, both the vividly living, and the seemingly lifeless.

...And for the Great Father, Lord of Harmony as well as of discord, Keeper of the Universal Balance, and Guardian of the Quick and the Still.
...And for the long generations of ancestors; those who lived and died, worked and played, rendered and recieved love, and suffered the pangs of hatred even as they built the very foundations of virtue and character that make ourselves, and the children who follow us, the Arch tects of the World, indeed, the very Universe, far beyond the visions of our times...

HONOUR - For our Earthly Parents, who cast a soft green arrow out into the reign of Nature, that it should sail upon the wind, and alight in fertile ground to grow tall and strong, proud and purposeful, alike to the forest from which it sprang... Our Earthly Mother and Father, who are compelled by love to give and guide according to their best judgement, asking only for your growth in return.

AWARENESS - for those who have lost their way along the many trails of life. We

should help them if we have the skill, yet never allow them to become a chain upon our own life path. If violently confronted, avoid bringing them harm in as far as possible. Do not allow yourself to be harmed, yet remember to fight nothing; rather, redirect the energy. Allow your foe the inherent right of self-defeat.

STILLNESS - It is thru the Stillness of the heart, the mind, and the spirit that we may pass beyond the prisons of the outer mind, and allow ourselves to ebb and flow with the great Bellows of the Universe. From this bellows rushes forth the very tide that forges the nameless and the named; the sibling offspring of the Life Force which causes all things to come and go and then return again; yet never quite the same as it was before. Thru this self-let emptiness the ancient cycles and splendors are daily born anew. Not as they were before, but as they are needed in the now.

RELEASE - of every product of the will, all desire and emotion, every image of the mind. For without the finely tuned art of release the increasing mound of our creations can become a force destructive enough to blind our vision, bring illness to our bodies, misdirection to our purpose, and deafen our hearing of divine guidance. It matters not whether these 'elements' of our creation are positive or not; nor is it important whether these creatures come from the midsts of work or play, happiness or anger, loneliness or loving. Whatever their source or environment of creation, still they are like grains of sand lodged in our minds, just as a grain of sand lodged in the belly of an oyster. They are nurtured amidst our growing discomfort, as if they were pearls of priceless beauty. The splendor of our creations will only bring satisfaction and peace when they are let loose upon the ethers and released. And when these pearls of Imagery have been borne by the wind, only then are our minds set free to begin the search for the new and fertile seeds to nurture within the gardens of paradise of our minds.