



*Mankind's  
secret  
heritage*

by RICHARD GOWIN

## MANKIND'S SECRET HERITAGE

"MYTH" is a word in transition. Most people would define it as a purely fictitious story usually involving supernatural persons, actions, or events. Many would say that a myth is but a story to entertain children. Yet a moment's reflection will convince anyone that the living myth is a powerful force shaping our lives. The Lost Continent of Atlantis and Father Christmas are myths. Yet even in these simple examples we already see overtones of strange forces. The Lost Continent of Atlantis we look upon somewhat skeptically of course . . . but if true it would be very interesting. And the Atlantis myth does cause cults to be formed, books printed, money time and effort to be spent. It is a Living Myth since it causes human action. Father Christmas is pure invention too; yet millions of people bring up their children on it, and even feel it so important that they will go to considerable trouble and expense to enact the myth themselves. Questioned on this strange behavior they will say that in some way it represents the "Spirit of Christmas." And when a hysterical little man with a comic mustache starts talking of blood and soil, of living space, of a mystical unity, "Ein Reich, Ein Volk, Ein Fuhrer," the imagination is moved, and so moved as to change the whole course of history. The myth itself may be "a purely fictitious narrative," but THE LIVING MYTH is a FORCE!

Today man is dominated by a special kind of



Living Myth called ideologies. We are compelled to recognize that certain symbols, certain ideas, certain images have tremendous effect. As dictator after dictator has demonstrated, the Living Myth can move mountains. With the right myth a man can mold entire peoples to his will.

The religions of the world are such Living Myths. This does not mean that they are mythical in the ordinary sense. The living myth may also be the Living Truth.

In the last three hundred years a powerful new force has appeared, drastically effecting the Living Myth. This force is science. Its effect upon religions and ideologies has been fundamental, and fundamentally different. Upon religious beliefs its effect has been caustic. It has undermined, cast ridicule upon, "debunked" most of the dogma of most of the religions: with the result that Mankind to a great and increasing extent has been cut off from the religious approach to the Living Myth.

Thus today we find peoples whose civilization and cultures were originally based on religions cut off from their roots—uncertain, undecided, unsure of themselves and of life. Against them stand fanatical faiths and a thousand irrational cults, which seem to be madness or worse, but in which the Living Myth unquestionably moves. The great anchor points of life, connecting the present in which we live with the past and future, are crumbling and becoming more and more insubstantial. Crime, mental illness, addiction to drugs and alcohol, breakdown of the family structure, political turmoil, all add to a sense of hopelessness and impending doom. Men need the Living Myth as surely as they need bread. Bread sustains life, but myth gives life point.



Frighteningly, totalitarianism offers both.

In the early years of this century, pioneers in the exploration of man's central core of being made important discoveries. Sigmund Freud, Alfred Adler, and C.G.Jung came to hold specific theories as to the origin and nature of drives and forces in the deep unconscious.

There followed a series of wholly unexpected discoveries. In every human being, it was found, there is a repetition of age-old symbols, themes from myth, and significant dream material. These are often identical with the themes from the mystery cults of antiquity, in the Judeo-Christian Bible, in classical myth and legend, in folklore and fairy-tales, in Indian and Chinese yoga, in the visions of mystics, in the rites and practices of medieval secret societies, and in the great world religions.

Jung found intricate symbols produced by modern Americans and Europeans which neither he nor they knew anything about, but which were afterwards discovered in obscure treatises from all parts of the world, buried in the depths of Time. Furthermore, the moderns through whom this activity was operating were experiencing new insights, new energy, and a dynamic renewal of life.

During the same period of time, while Jung was dealing with creative energy in the microcosm of the human psyche, Arnold J. Toynbee in "A Study of History" was dealing with the effect of that activity in the growth, decline, and death of civilizations. In Toynbee's eye, the factor of primary interest in history becomes not so much the physical challenges but the Living Myth, which enables peoples to stand up to the challenges and emerge triumphant.

According to Toynbee, when a civilization is

past its prime and "a time of troubles" causes the fate of the society to hang in the balance—there are some men and women who turn from the macrocosm of the outer world to the microcosm of the human psyche. There in some way they find the answer to the challenges wracking their civilization, and turn again to the outer world to form the nucleus of a "creative minority" which—if successful in transmitting its vision to the great mass of the people—leads the civilization through its time of troubles to new creative achievement.

Contemporary with these breakthroughs of Jung and Toynbee, a new element appeared in the Christian religion. In various places individuals and groups began demonstrating what they called "Gifts of the Spirit" such as were described in the early church (I Cor. 12). These gifts assumed a number of forms—supernatural healing, prophecy, wisdom, spiritual discernment, speaking in tongues, and a number of other phenomena beyond the explanation of physical science.

Those in the Christian religions who demonstrated the Gifts of the Spirit were for the most part driven out of the established churches by ridicule, persecution, or excommunication. As a consequence they were led to congregate together in new churches and denominations which are usually categorized as Pentecostal. (Today there are in the neighborhood of 15 million denominational Pentecostals in the world, though barely 70 years have elapsed since their origin.)

Starting in 1958 the Pentecostal phenomenon caught hold in established churches and has spread like wild-fire through all, including the Roman Catholic church. It is difficult to estimate the number of neo-Pentecostals within the established churches due to the rapid growth, but at the time of this writing it was at least two million.



The same symbols and myth themes emerged independently from the religious revival, the work of Jung on the deep unconscious, the work of T.S. Eliot in his poetry and Toynbee on the history of civilizations, and countless others. Particularly under the cleansing power of religious conviction the central core of human life is regularly reached. Invariably it brings new creative energy and frequently physical, mental, and spiritual healing.

Having benefitted beyond measure from the practice of these insights, the writers of this treatise wish to share Mankind's greatest heritage with all. This heritage can be neither purchased nor sold for money; indeed, all who benefit from it find they must give it away in order to retain it.

The Living Myth, with its symbols engraved in the very core of our being, is embodied for us in the Judeo-Christian religion. Discussions, debates and arguments about the literal truth of parables and myths are futile—since the message they bear is always true to the way our psyche operates. Indeed, cutting ourselves off from these life-giving sources invariably opens the way to sickness, madness, poverty and death. Our roots are imbedded in the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and in His Son, Jesus the Christ. When we cut these roots we wither as a tree will wither, separated from its roots.

To be completely whole—to be an entire person—we must deny the alienation of modern rationalism. We must unite ourselves, in the fullest way, with Jesus. Thus we cannot satisfy this basic requirement for life by going through an empty ritual led by ministers who snicker in private at the teachings they preach in public. As we adjust our lives to beat in perfect harmony with the great living heart of the universe as found in Christ—we find things falling into place.

Our creativity, our prosperity, our health, our relations with loved ones and with humanity as a whole—all these become whole in Christ Jesus.

Our experience has taught us that those who have so separated themselves from their spiritual roots that their lives have become a shambles can be most quickly reunited with the Source of all life through a technique we have called Prayer Therapy. This individual guidance we endeavor to make available to all. A happy, whole, sane and healthy world can only exist when it is composed of happy, whole, sane and healthy individuals. Thus by learning the Techniques of Prayer Therapy and applying them to your life—you can not only bring your own life into tune with the great universal Source, but you can also help to save a sick and dying world.

We are sending, along with this message, information as to where you can personally receive individual Prayer Therapy and learn the transforming techniques that have revitalized millions of lives and can bless you beyond measure. Make your contact today—now.



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