THOUGHT FORCE IN BUSINESS AND EVERYDAY LIFE

By William Walker Atkinson

William Walker Atkinson: Thought force in business and everyday life

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Levčeva ulica 13

SI - 1234 Mengeš

Slovenia

T: +386 (0)1 723 78 28

Email: bird.publisher@gmail.com

www.bird-publisher.com

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Preface

In justice to myself, I think it well to state that this work has been somewhat hastily prepared from the notes used by me in certain of lectures, the lessons give herein practically being the syllabi of the said lectures. In the lectures, and in this work, my one and only purpose has been to acquaint the students with the means of developing, and effectively using the might forces latent within him Personal Magnetism and Psychic Influence. To this end I have scarified all pretensions to literary style, all attempts to secure felicity of diction. I have felt that I had a message to deliver, and I endeavored to deliver it promptly, clearly and plainly, without any attempt at "fine writing." If a homely word seemed to express my thought I used it. If a slang term or semislang phrase seemed to fit in in it went.

I trust that my critics will spare themselves the trouble of pointing out my many defects of style and composition I fully realize these things. I have subordinated everything else, in my endeavor to make this work plain and practical. This is an explanation, not an apology.

With the above understanding between us, I submit this little work to your kind consideration. Whilst fully cognizant of its defects, I still feel that it will be helpful to some of the many who are endeavoring to overcome unfavorable environments, which it may serve as a guidepost, pointing out the past to better things. I feel that it will do its share of the work of removing Fear thought from the minds of men, of replacing "I Can't" with "I Can and I WILL." I feel that I must do these things, for it contains within it the germs of a mighty Truth.

W.W.A. CHICAGO, ILL, DECEMBER 4, 1900

Salutatory

The nearer to the practical men keep The less they deal in vague and abstract things The less they deal in huge, mysterious words The mightier is their power.

Thomas L. Harris

Views of other writers Erroneous theories – Vegetarianism – Celibacy Vital Fluid Deep Breathing - Real progress made by investigation, not by theories - Existence of personal magnetism unquestioned - A selfevident truth Results, not theories - No pet theories advanced Accept nothing that you cannot demonstrate.

"Theories are but mighty soap bubbles, with which the grownup children of science amuse themselves." The majority of writers upon this subject have devoted nearly all their efforts, as well as their space, to proving, first, that Personal Magnetism really existed; and, secondly, that the phenomenon was best accounted for by some pet theory of their own. Some attribute the power of influencing men to the use of a vegetarian diet, notwithstanding the fact that some of the most "magnetic" individuals "make graveyards of their stomachs." Others insist that in celibacy and abstinence from sexual intercourse may be found the secret, notwithstanding the fact that the majority of "magnetic" individuals do not differ in their sexual customs from their less magnetic brothers. Others hold that the "magnetic" force abounds in the air around us to absorb great quantities of the vital fluid, charging ourselves with force in the manner of the storage battery. And so on, each with his little pet theory.

Now, I have no fault to find with the systems above mentioned. Although not leading a life of celibacy, I see much good in the doctrine of continence, and there can be no two opinions as to the merits of chastity; whilst not accepting the theory of the absorption of "magnetic force" from the earth's atmosphere, I am a firm advocate of, and believer in, "deep breathing, " and believe that if the same was universally practiced much sickness and physical weakness would disappear from the earth. All these things are good, but a little reflection will show anyone that they are not the prime factors in the production of the quality known as "Personal Magnetism." The writers on the subject usually conclude by telling their readers of the wonderful possibilities open to anyone who can acquire this power and learn how to use it. They, however, say little or nothing of how this force may be acquired, that is beyond stating their theories. They deliver discourses but do not instruct.

They are preachers not teachers. They dwell upon theories and neglect facts.

The real progress in this branch of scientific research has been made, not by writers or theorists, but by a few earnest investigators who have conducted numberless experiments, and have

explored every avenue of information, and who have brought this wonderful subject out of the realms of mere speculation and placed it upon a scientific basis.

The writer has been a close student and investigator of this subject for many years, and the present work is an attempt to give to his students some of the fundamental principles derived from the investigations and practical experiments of himself and his coworkers in this field. Our lessons, therefore, will be confined, so far as is possible, to statements of proven facts, and practical instruction, touching upon theory only when absolutely necessary.

In my opinion, I would insult your intelligence if I were to present to you an elaborate argument, the purpose of which would be an attempt to prove the existence of that wonderful force, latent in man, developed by the few, but possible of acquirement by all; that mysterious quality called, for want of a better name Personal Magnetism.

To set out to prove its existence, would be akin to an attempt to convince the average intelligent man of the fact that the magnet influences the needle; that the Xrays penetrate the body of man or still more solid object; that a message be conveyed by electricity, along a beam of light, or even by wireless telegraphy, through the air without the need of any other medium. Every intelligent person is aware of the existence of the abovementioned phenomena, and does not need to have the same demonstrated to him. If he is interested in the subject at all, he wishes to be taught how to permeate these forces, so that he may be able to reproduce the experiments himself. This is equally true of the student of Personal Magnetism. He has long since learned that such a force exists. He sees it around him everyday, and knows of the wonders that are accomplished by its aid. He, possibly, is aware that he has developed the force to a certain degree, and what he wants, in any event, is to become acquainted with the means whereby he can fully develop and intelligently use the force latent within him. I therefore shall make no attempt to demonstrate the existence of the force, believing it to be selfevident.

I also intend to avoid a tiresome discussion of the numerous theories, which have been advanced to account for the phenomenon theories, which have been advanced to account for the phenomenon of Personal Magnetism. I have no pet theory to advance. I will endeavor to teach you how to obtain results, and you can then read up on the subject of theories, or possibly formulate a new theory of your own. I will state briefly my own conception of the cause underlying the phenomena alluded to in this work, but I shall not attempt to force my views upon you. You are at liberty to accept or reject any theory, as the result in no way depends upon any special form of belief. Many of those who have obtained the best results, have discarded one theory after another, and now say that they do not attempt to explain the real cause underlying the

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results, being content to work on, without a dogmatic theory, so long as they know how to obtain the results. With this explanation, I will leave the land of theory and enter into the realm of practice, and will endeavor to so instruct you along the lines of the development and use of this mighty force, that you may reproduce the results already obtained by others, and perhaps may become investigators and leaders in the work of blazing the way through the woods of superstition and mystery with which the subject has been surrounded so long. I will ask you to accept nothing that you cannot prove.

all subjects and illuminate them.

Pursue your way through life, earnestly and calmly. Hurry is not Hast; Bustle is not Energy; Noise is not Strength. The man of quiet calm, earnest and persistent qualities reaches the goal long before his brother of opposite tendencies. Confidence, Expectation and Calm Demand is a threefold, mighty dynamic force, which would solve many problems if man but realized it. The wise man uses that which the fool neglects. "The stone which the builders rejected becomes the cornerstone of the temple."

Do not crawl on your belly, like a worm; do not humble yourself in the dust and call upon heaven to witness what a despicable creature you are; do not call yourself a "miserable sinner," worthy only of eternal damnation. No! A thousand times, No! Rise to your feet; raise your head and face the skies; throw back your shoulders, and fill your lungs with Nature's ozone. Then say to yourself, I AM a part of the Eternal Life Principle: I AM created after the Divine image; I AM filled with Divine Breath of Life; Nothing can hurt ME, for I AM a part of the ETERNAL.

Go your way, friend, strong in your new resolves, strong in your newfound strength. Do your duty, first to yourself; then to your fellowmen. Recognize the Brotherhood of Man; realize that all men are your brothers pretty poor lot of relations, but brothers at that. Do not impose on your brotherman, but do not let him impose on you. If you give in to him against your judgment and conscience, you not only hurt yourself, but also injure him. Do not start fights; but let no man smite you with impunity. If a man smites you on one cheek, do not turn to him the other, but do a little smiting on your own account and smite hard. Do not smite him with Hate in your heart, and do not hesitate to forgive him after he has "come to." The doctrine of nonresistance is misunderstood; it does not mean that you should be a backboneless creature a sheeplike, rabbithearted specimen of humanity. No, no; when you allow a man to impose on you and wrong you, you are not acting right toward the other man; duty to him demands that you let him know just "where he is at." I am speaking of real aggression or invasion of your rights, now, not of fancied wrongs or mountains made of molehills; that is the other extreme. But do not allow Hate to find a lodging place in your heart. Go through the world "with the grace of God in your heart, and a good, strong hickory club in your hand." Don't use the club for offense (never do that), but keep it around to defend yourself with. If you are "clad in the armor of a righteous cause," and the world sees that you have selfrespect and will stand no nonsense, it will treat you with respect. The dog who maintains a confident, calm demeanor, is in but little danger of feeling the boottoe of the passerby but the whitelivered cur who draws himself up, and places his tail between his legs that he may present a better aim for the kick gets the kick. He gets what he expects. What is

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true of the dog is equally true of the man. If you have followed the advice and instructions contained in this little work, you will not have many kicks aimed at you. But, remember no kicking of dogs on your part you must be above that.

An old writer has summed up mans duty to man in the following words, which should be inscribed in letters of gold over every doorway in the land:

"WRONG NO MAN, AND RENDER UNTO EVERY MAN HIS DUE."

If the above words form the rule of action, and life, of men, there would be no need of lawyers, courts, or prisons; life would then seem "one long, sweet song." Try to do your part in bringing about this result. Once more, I caution you not to misuse your newfound power, do not drag the gift of the Spirit through the mud.

Use it freely, in your own behalf, in every legitimate way, but harm no man by reason of, or by means of it. If you fail to grasp the meaning of any of the teachings contained in this little work, do not feel discouraged, for it will come to you later. Read over the lessons, which seem to be most difficult to you, and then place yourself in the relaxed condition of body, and mind. ENTER THE SILENCE and a new light will break upon you.

"Knock and it shall be opened unto you; ask and ye shall receive."

And now, friends, we have come to the parting of the ways. We may meet again, but, if not, let us part feeling that we are none the worse for the short acquaintance. If I have done you any good, if I have awakened in you new thoughts, hopes and aspirations, may you make them manifest in actions and results.

Our little journey, along the banks of the stream, has been pleasant to me, and I trust that I have not bored you, nor caused you to regret the acquaintance not a chance acquaintance, you may rest assured, for "nothing ever happens."

I thank you for your kind attention.