

## Esoteric Bible Studies

BY CORINNE S. DUNKLEE

### THE PROHIBITION QUESTION

In discussing the prohibition issue how many of us realize that America is taking one of the greatest steps, either forward or backward, in the evolutionary history of mankind? Here is man's opportunity to find his place either among the sheep or the goats, as Christ Jesus called them, that is, among either the pioneers or the stragglers of humanity.

A study of alcohol is most interesting from the viewpoint of esoteric Christianity. That food and drink are very important factors in spiritual evolution the masses of humanity do not as yet realize. With each Epoch a new food has been given man to meet the requirements of evolutionary purposes. The gift of wine is described in the stories of Noah and Moses, which are different accounts of the same thing—the spirit of alcohol. The spirit of fermentation was introduced to further the material advancement of the Fifth Race man. But none who partake of its false stimulus can while thus partaking ever know anything of the true higher self—the real man—or the purposes of true, spiritual life.

As man became more material-minded, his diet came to consist largely of meats, and the drinking of wine increased, since the taking of stimulants tends to overcome temporarily the deadening effects of a flesh food diet. That there are no (or few) vegetarian drunkards is due to the fact that the high rhythm of the vegetarian's body has no need of false stimulation, and foods of such low vibratory power as flesh and alcohol are nauseating and revolting to him. If he should be forced to partake of them, his entire system would rebel and he might become physically ill.

It is of interest to note that one of the factors through which fear came into be-

ing was the use of flesh food and alcohol. Their use was one of the causes by which man lost his spiritual sight. He could then no longer see the great, glorious Beings who were his teachers and friends. He could no longer see his loved ones after they had passed on at death. So death gradually became a thing of terror to him, and the unknown life beyond the grave a fearful secret which he was unable to solve.

In Numbers, 6:3, the Nazarites, an esoteric group similar to the Essenes, are commanded to abstain from wine and strong drink; nor could they eat moist or dried grapes (esoterically on account of the active spirit of fermentation) Solomon, in Proverbs, 23:29-30, recites some of the ill effects of wine: "Who hath woe? who hath sorrow? who hath contentions? Who hath babbling? who hath wounds without cause? who hath redness of eyes? They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine."

Wine as an intoxicant is not always meant when the word "wine" is used in the Bible. In Psalms, 104:15, David is singing of spiritual power, which he designates as wine, oil, and bread: "And wine that maketh glad the heart of man, and oil to make his face to shine, and bread which strengtheneth man's heart."

The word is used with the same spiritual significance by Isaiah, 55:1: "Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price."

In Matthew, 26:27-29, the words of the Master are very significant: "And He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; for this is my blood of the New

Testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom." As His first act was to turn water into wine, showing the path of materiality man must travel for a time, so His last private lesson for the disciples was to give them the new ideal of transmutation. The cup from which He drank became the Grail Cup, which symbolizes the Christ power that must be formed within man. He said, "He who drinks *unworthily* of this cup shall know sickness and death." In the new age there shall no longer be the spirit of fermentation and decay, for we shall then know the glory of a life which is eternal. With the passing of the reign of the evil spirit of alcohol a great step forward will be made on the way to this divine event toward which all creation moves—the establishment of the "new heaven and the new earth."

Alcohol is an external spirit of decay, *the exact antithesis of the spirit of life within man*. For this reason it is one of the most potent tools of the Lucifer spirits and the brothers of the Black Grail. They know full well that as long as man can be kept under its mesmeric spell, he will be blind to the spiritual realities of life and a tool for their pernicious work in the world. Did the masses of humanity know these occult truths, they would better realize this subtle danger to the progress of all mankind, and be more alert to counteract and control this deadly menace to man's spiritual welfare.

Many advanced egos are waiting to come to earth as teachers of the race, but cannot do so for they are not able to find parents pure enough to give them the necessary physical material out of which to build bodies in which they can function. The men and women of today, and particularly the boys and girls, do not realize the terrible price they must pay in future ages for the desecration

of their bodies by the use of alcohol. No man lives to himself alone nor dies to himself alone. The terrible effects of alcohol can only be fully realized in the light of rebirth, for exactly as we use our bodies here so will be produced the corresponding vibratory power, much or little, with which the archetype or pattern of our next earth body will be built in the Second Heaven. All God's laws are perfect, exact, and just. "As a man soweth, so shall he also reap" can be fully understood only through the teachings of rebirth. In future lives many shall stand at the door and knock and call in vain for the light for which the soul so ardently longs, but shall receive no answer because of their dull, insensate bodies, insensible to higher vibrations on account of the deadening effects of the evil spirit of alcohol now indulged in.

In connection with this great clarion call of temperance to all the world, this "noble experiment" fostered in the United States, the land of the New Race, we need not be alarmed at a few seemingly dire effects produced during the first few years of the great cleansing. Let us look forward to the future. In a few generations egos will be born pure and free from all desire for false stimulation, born to parents who also are pure and clean. The pioneer days of any great movement, either spiritual or material, are always the hard days, the testing time of the soul's strength. But the law of evolution is ever forward and upward. Evil must decrease and good triumph, for the law of evolution is the law of God, and God is law, yet God is love.

Let us work and pray for this great Cause as one of the principal factors in the world's history which shall hasten the glad day when a purified earth shall float in a sea of golden ether, and a redeemed humanity shall with joyous acclaim welcome the triumphant return of our blessed Savior to a world and a people who are His very own.