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DESCRIPTION OF CHRIST

In a letter to Caesar, Publius Lentulus, the predecessor of Pontius Pilate, describes Christ thus:

"I have learned, O Caesar, that it is they wish to know what I will now relate to Thee, that there is a man living here, of great virtue, named Jesus Christ, who by the people is called a prophet. ".... "A man of noble stature, and of very beautiful countenance, in which majesty resides, that those who look on him are forced to admiration. His forehead is smooth and very serene, his face free from wrinkles ^{or} of spot and with light colour. The nostrils and lips cannot be found fault with. His hands and arms are very beautiful. At present, he is the MOST BEAUTIFUL man, that could be seen or imagined.

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Mario Meunier.

3

APOLLONIUS DE TYANE

Ou
Le séjour d'un Dieu parmi
les hommes.

.....En quittant Athènes, Apollonius se rendit à Anthéla, près des Thermopyles, où se trouvait réuni, dans un temple dédié à Déméter, le conseil fédéral des Etats Grecs. Les Thessaliens s'y trouvaient représentés par deux délégués. Non loin de là, s'élevait le tombeau du Spartiate LÉONIDAS qui mourut, avec trois cents héros, en essayant de barrer aux troupes de Xerxés le défilé des Thermopyles. Apollonius se rendit auprès de cette illustre tombe et s'inclina sur la terre qui recouvrait les cendres d'un héros qu'il aimait. Puis, comme il se dirigeait vers la colline où les Lacédémoniens avaient été écrasés par une grêle de traits, le Tyanéen entendit ses disciples discuter, à la vue de l'OËta, sur la montagne de Grèce qui leur semblait la plus haute: "Amis, fit-il en les interrompant et en leur indiquant la modeste colline vers laquelle ils allaient, voici pour moi la montagne qui me paraît la plus haute. En mourant pour la liberté, LÉONIDAS et ses compagnons ont élevé cette colline au-dessus de l'OËta et au-dessus même des neiges qui recouvrent les sommets du Caucase et du puissant Olympe."

Will you say, dear friends, that they were wrong and that their accusers and jailers and tormentors were right? Nay, society was wrong, and these lone figures were gloriously right, right in the eyes of conscience and of God, and vindicated years later by mankind, slowly catching up to their vision of the truth.

What is the lesson for us to learn? A very stern one, brothers and sisters. We must be faithful to the truth as we see it. We must not expect the plaudits of the multitudes. We must not depend upon the approval of friends or family. We must inwardly strengthen ourselves to face criticism, reproach and opposition. Take as simple a matter as diet. Today diet is one of the standard methods of treatment of the medical profession. Would you believe that the first men to acquaint the public with what diet can do were outside the ranks of the medical profession? Would you believe that their sensible ideas were ridiculed and scorned by physicians? Would you believe that people threw stones at these pioneers in the streets of New York City. Do you know that in New York State the medical society still relentlessly runs every naturopath out of town? The chiropractors are also persecuted.

Many of us are under the false impression that living the life of truth and love will exempt us from struggle, conflict and opposition. By no means. When we stand for righteousness and justice, we must be prepared to oppose unrighteousness and injustice. When we stand for truth we must be prepared to fight falsehood. Would we be free men, we must be eternally vigilant. A people careless of its liberties will find them trampled upon. The exploiter, the usurper, the dictator, like hissing snakes, ever await the opportunity to strike. Women gained the long due right of suffrage after years of struggle. Our country had to pass the agony of Civil War to free the slaves.

It is test and trial all along the way. Only the strongest can survive. It is the final test of your soul development. To be right and to know that you are right when everybody else is wrong. To be faithful to the right in poverty, in exile and in suffering. To carry on through the hours of deepest depression. To carry on in loneliness, discouragement, and tears.

What is the aim of this fiery discipline? You become absolutely dependable. Your will becomes like tempered steel. Your nerves are under perfect control. You are beyond the power of any influence that would swerve you from your appointed task. You stand unimpressed by the thousand conflicting forces and influences in the world. You know your own mind. You know your own soul. No specious argument can ever sway you.

When you consider these ideas, many questions arise in the mind. How shall you know that you are right? How shall you know that you are taking the right course? How shall you know that you are exhibiting real independence and not mere stubbornness and obstinacy? How shall you reconcile standing alone with sharing in the tasks of the group? Friends, there lies the paradox of the spiritual life. There lies the enigma of soul development. Only your soul can tell you. And only time can prove that you are right. He who has found the Inner Light and he who recognizes the Voice of the Cosmic owes allegiance to Conscience and to God alone. He is beyond any man-made law. He becomes a teacher of the world like the prophets of old.