

ALL I EVER NEEDED TO KNOW I LEARNED FROM THE BOOK OF DARING!

By Mary Ann Casalino

It's always a happy occasion when a group can come together on the physical plane. It's a wonderful feeling to look out and see all our friends and all the new faces from different parts of the world, all of us bonded by this beautiful work.

At this time of the year we all are turning our thoughts to the high point of the spiritual calendar... the three spiritual festivals of the full moon periods of April, May and June. These are especially related to the Externalization process and the reappearance of the Christ which is one of the main purposes of the Conference. Let us join together by sounding the great world prayer.

The Great Invocation

*From the point of Light within the Mind of God
Let Light stream forth into the minds of men.
Let Light descend on Earth. From the point of
Love within the Heart of God Let Love stream
forth into the hearts of men. May Christ return
to Earth. From the centre where the Will of God
is known Let Purpose glide the little wills of
men The Purpose which the Masters know and
serve. From the centre which we call the race of
men Let the Plan of Love and Light work out
and may it seal the door where evil dwells. Let
Light and Love and Power restore the Plan on
Earth.*

In this talk I want to sound a note of courage and encouragement as we spiral up our work together, now and into the future. A few weeks ago, I awoke with certain thoughts

in my mind. This is a real opportunity to share them with you.

The first thought was that, once again, the tide of spiritual impression and impulse is hitting home. It seems, at times, hard!

When speaking on the phone there is hardly a call where someone doesn't mention the amount of pressure they are feeling. This makes sense to me, since during this period of expansion, there is a tremendous amount of spiritual pressure as we continue to move steadily forward and serve.

Isn't it true that we are being challenged in many ways to bring in new ways of living.

The second thought was the vital necessity for us as a group (who are so closely associated in this work) to stand closer together than ever before in a spirit of steady love and cooperation. I have a deep sense that we are being given a tremendous opportunity to serve in this period of time as a group, with the knowledge that we all have a strong sense of who we are (Leo) and of how we can better serve the group (Aquarius) and play our rather small and humble part in this great Plan.

Another realization that is becoming stronger is that, at this point in my life, I realize that we cannot escape each other. Our hearts and minds are bonded. We need each other and each other's understanding. I know I need yours and I would like to think that you need mine. It really doesn't matter, you have it anyway. I was wondering about what we can do to get past periods of experiencing stress, emotional strain and the draining feeling from

being too tired or from carrying the load of responsibility. And what about the times when we all have to work under great difficulty? What is needed?

We are being challenged to serve with the spirit of DARING -- Spiritual DARING.

What is Spiritual Daring?

Spiritual Daring is a quality of courage which awakens the heart, opens the eyes, and releases the needed energy to achieve the goal at hand.

To be Spiritually Daring is to have the ability to transform any blocks, obstacles or anything that gets in the way (whether that be fear, crisis, insecurity or thought forms that imprison or create inertia) into courageous action, with the emphasis on courageous.

Allow me to give a few examples from personal experience. When we first approached the possibility of teaching the seven rays, we were told (by a lot of well meaning people) *You can't do that! You can't hold a Conference or Seminar on the Rays -- nobody will come! You can't use the name, The University of the Seven Rays. You have to have a more traditional name! No one will take you seriously!* First of all, if you tell a first ray person you can't -- prepare for a challenge! None of these have prevented the work from continuing.

What Does Spiritual Do?

Spiritual Daring releases energy and clears the channels for the inflow of life so that we may preserve the beauty of spirit. In Agni Yoga we are told to THINK DARING. AFFIRM DARING. DISPLAY DARING.

In this work, there are times when we feel alone and wish we had someone to talk to about important matters. As an act of Spiritual Daring, and during the next few days we are together, let us each approach and meet at least three new people each day, introduce ourselves and talk about what's important to us, about what really matters, about life purpose.

IT IS SAID THAT THE HEART KNOWS THE TRUTH OF THIS WAY.

I am feeling extremely optimistic about the future. We have, as a group, done much good work and basically, a pretty good job. I know we have done our best. We are now facing a great opportunity -- doors are being opened for us all.

We have just made a five year plan for the University. I believe that in five years time, if we move forward together with complete unity of purpose and doing our DARING utmost to meet the need, that we shall discover, to our joy, that we will display more resourcefulness, confidence and courage, that we can achieve our goals and vision, and that the quality of our work will be transformed. Remember, the heart knows the truth of this way, and the way is DARING.

Daring is evoked and the royal lotus of spirit unfolds.

We sing to daring our worthiest song. An individual's value depends on his or her capacity to face adverse situations rapidly and without effort.

DISPLAY DARING!

From a keynote address presented at the University of the Seven Rays Sixth Annual International Conference. MaryAnn Casalino is the Co-Founder and Executive Director of the Seven Ray Institute and University of the Seven Rays Publishing House, NJ.