

MIRROR MEDITATION

By EMMITT L. BRINSON

In this age of confusion, people of all religions search the depths of their souls in an effort to find answers they can conscientiously accept.

They are confronted with all the little things that cause the differences in their religion. What is right, and which is right? To choose Christianity would be easy, if there weren't so many different kinds to choose from.

First of all, modern man should face squarely a few basic facts. What is Religion? Is it a belief? A philosophy? The mere fact that we say belief indicates that it is an aspect of something in mind. A persuasion of something not factual.

This indicates in itself that Religion is a system of rules, conduct and laws for organization based upon "belief" in and reverence for authority. "Authority"—whose authority?—Man's!!

Religion differs in concept and interpretation because of man's inability to play God. Man has no authority to direct God. Religion thereby has laid down rule upon rule, law upon law in an effort to control and steer people of an era. Adding to and taking from with each generation as suits the flow of time and civilization.

This creates dogma. Rules, laws and dogmas are made by men in a zealous effort to do what they "think" or "believe" is best for their flock. Bear this in mind; religions separate from themselves because some followers could not accept the man-made laws that robbed them of their freedom of mind.

Mind and thought being soul, or entity with God, will continue to steer mankind away from that which does not ring with logic, reason and truth. Laws of the soul which reject.

The basic reason for all religion is man's dynamic anxiety to know more about where he came from, why he is here, and where he goes from here. This desire is a definite endowment of each individual by creative design. This is why all religions basically recognize a Supreme Being.

Basic Christianity rang of Gnosticism. Gnosis meaning true knowledge, as distinguished from belief of hearsay. The Gnostics of all ages asserted that man is capable of first hand knowledge regarding

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17-Year Locust Crop Due in May or June

Remember May and early June of 1944? The Allies were readying their forces in England for the Normandy Beach Head and the Invasion of France. That was 17 years ago, and marked one of the most superhuman efforts of man.

Almost to a day another event was taking place right here in North Carolina, recorded not by newspaper headlines—but only in the journals of entomologists. The noise of the occurrence here at home did not compare with the tons of explosives bursting on foreign soil, but was a lazy rise and fall of buzzing choruses sounding the beginning of summer.

Brood I of the 17-year Cicada, or Locust, had emerged before right on schedule back in 1927, when our economy was rising to fall plunging with a world-shaking shock—all of the rhythm of that year's Pulitzer prize-winning poem "Fiddler's Farewell."

What this year's brood might herald, Dr. David L. Wray, entomologist with the North Carolina Department of Agriculture can't say, but for one thing he is sure, the locusts will be here.

"Nature's clock-like schedule will find the insects emerging from underground in the latter part of May to the first of June. Brood I is of medium size in the state and will be found concentrated in Wake, Polk, Cabarrus, Davie, Iredell, Rowan, Yadkin and Surry counties," Dr. Wray says.

He suggests protection against the locust by covering young trees with tobacco cloth before the emergence period, and not planting orchards near older and larger growth in forests.

Locusts are found only in the eastern part of the United States and generally east of the Mississippi river. There are 30 broods in all but North Carolina has only 10, seven of the 17-year kind and three of the 13-year variety, he said.

"Sometime during the latter part of May or on the first of June will come the 'magic night' when the insects will emerge from the ground to complete their 17-year life cycle.

"This year's emergence was started back in 1944 when eggs were laid.

"It is during this period when the insect causes the major portion of its damage to plants. In the egg-laying process the female inserts her 'saw' into the bark of tender twigs on young trees making a slit two or three inches long. Into this slit she deposits long rows of eggs. The slitting of the bark causes the twigs to die.

"Eggs of the locust hatch in six or seven weeks and the resulting nymphs fall to the ground. They burrow until they find roots to feed upon, sucking juices from the tree's system, and feed underground, about two feet deep, for 13 or 17 years depending upon the

variety. In the spring of the year when the insects are due to emerge the nearly-grown nymphs move within two inches of the surface, and on the 'magic night' leave the ground by the millions. Crawling to any available object, they attach themselves and emerge from their nymphal cases, maturing fully to adults in a matter of a few hours.

"By dawn they are ready to join with thousands of others in their familiar chorus. Mating occurs within a week, egg-laying follows and the cycle continues. The adults live four or five weeks after emergence.

"Broods vary in size, but all have been greatly reduced by the continual process of land-clearing. Brood I is of medium size. Brood 19, which is perhaps the largest, appeared in 1959."

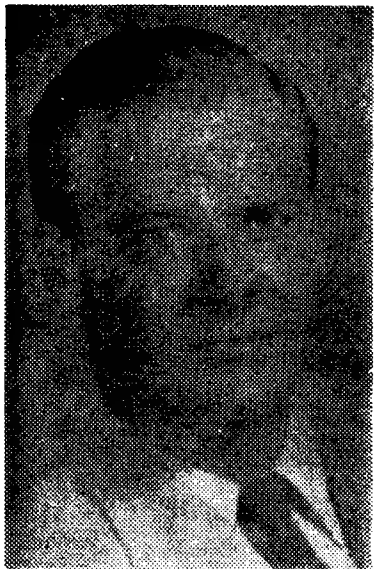
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the essential nature of all things human and divine, and attainment of this direct, absolute and immediate knowledge is his greatest promise of earthly existence.

His for the pursuit of and in his own entity with God. The new testament is full of this truth, yet all along the way man stands before his brotherman and asserts in authoritative emotion in an effort to have him worship a Religion. A religion which is man made, and a means to an end.

The Council of Nicea all but destroyed the basic truths in 325 A. D. and nearly robbed true Christianity of its real purpose. Man then began to direct man into beliefs of religion instead of directing him to his divine endowment, to find the Spirit of God within himself.

The Savior was sorely needed when he came to steer man into recognizing his individual sonship of God. This contact is as present today as it was in the time of Christ, or as it was since the beginning of time. The power behind it is still there. God has not changed—Man has changed.

Yet religion continues to touch lightly on this truth with tongue in cheek, and has narrowed the possibilities of its contact because of man made limitations, or long, drawn out, roundabout routes.

With the people of this world as frustrated as they are, and with Atheism creeping swiftly over the globe, because one does not believe in your religion thank God that he believes in God.

Don't call him agnostic-gnosis means first hand knowledge. Do you have this first hand knowledge? If not, maybe he is not

thinking off his block. Maybe you have blocked off your thinking. He the gnostic-you the agnostic.

The time is here whereby all Religion should return to the basic reason and truth of their existence. Band together for and with God. Freedom to pursue our Beliefs will pass into oblivion.

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