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PAPERS (3014)**

**BOX 12
FOLDER 4**

**INVENTORY IN THE
AFTERGLOW
DECEMBER 26, 1976**

-- INVENTORY IN THE AFTERGLOW --

5. Dec 26, 1976

CHRISTMAS HAS COME AND GONE, AND MANY ARE SAYING
WITH SIGH, 'IT'S ALL OVER TILL NEXT YEAR!' TIME
TO ASK, WHAT REALLY HAS COME AND GONE, WHAT IS
ALL OVER TILL NEXT YEAR? IF WE CAN THUS PICK IT
UP AND LAY IT DOWN, THEN THE WHOLE THING HAS
LITTLE RELEVANCE TO OUR LIVES.

? LIKE THE SIMPLE THOUGHT OF THE POET:

' IF EVERY DAY WERE CHRISTMAS,
HOW DIFFERENT LIFE WOULD BE:
IF NOT ONE DAY BUT ALL THE YEAR
WERE RULED BY CHARITY.
HAD WE THE FAITH IN MIRACLES
A CHILD HAS CHRISTMAS MORN,
EACH DAY WOULD BE LOVE'S MANGER
AND CHRIST WOULD BE REBORN
IN US AGAIN TO CHANGE AND HEAL
OUR OUTWORN WARS AND WAYS,
HAD WE A CHILD'S OR SHEPHERD'S GIFT
FOR WONDERMENT AND PRAISE.
YET EVERY DAY IS CHRISTMAS
WHEN WE HAVE LEARNED TO LIVE
BY LOVE'S LAW, LEARNED NOT HOW TO GET
BUT ONLY HOW TO GIVE:
AND LIKE A CHILD CAN WONDER
AND LIKE A CHILD CAN PRAY,
BUT HAVE THE GROWN-UP WISDOM
TO GIVE OURSELVES AWAY.'

TDDAY...IN AFTERGLOW OF WHATEVER CHRISTMAS MAY
HAVE BEEN TO YOU...~~INVITE YOU TO SHARE WITH ME~~
~~SOME THOUGHTS ABOUT NEED FOR TAKING INVENTORY.~~
GOOD TIME TO ASK, WHERE HAVE I BEEN, WHERE AM
I NOW, WHERE AM I GOING?

SATURDAY

~~FRIDAY~~ AT STROKE OF MIDNIGHT...WILDLY HYSTERICAL
PEOPLE WILL BE SLAPPING ONE ANOTHER ON BACK AND
SCREAMING, 'HAPPY NEW YEAR!' INTERESTING~~/~~PHENO-
MENON, WITH NO LOGICAL EXPLANATION.

THOMAS MANN: 'TIME HAS NO DIVISIONS TO MARK ISS
PASSAGE, THERE IS NEVER A THUNDERSTORM OR BLARE
OF TRUMPETS TO ANNOUNCE BEGINNING OF NEW MONTH
OR YEAR. EVEN WHEN NEW CENTURY BEGINS IT IS
ONLY WE MORTALS WHO RING BELLS AND FIRE OFF
PISTOLS.'

WHAT IS A YEAR? ^{WE KNOW} ~~EXPLAIN~~ ^{THE} ABOUT EARTH'S ROTATION
AROUND SUN. YET IN ^{AGE} ~~TIME~~ OF SPACE-CONSCIOUSNESS,
IT IS NOT TOO MUCH TO IMAGINE BEING OUT IN SPACE,

AWAY FROM SOLAR SYSTEM, NO SUN TO ROTATE AROUND,
NO SUNSETS OR SUNRISES. NOW, WHAT IS A YEAR?
OBVIOUSLY, MORE PSYCHOLOGICAL THAN ASTRONOMICAL.
YEAR/IS CONVENIENT MEANS OF KEEPING TRACK OF FOOT-
PRINTS IN SANDS, BUT WIND~~OF~~ OF CHANGE SOON BLOW
THEM~~AWAY~~, LEAVING ONLY THE ALLNESS OF ETERNITY.

▶ OF COURSE...YEAR/IS HANDY DIVISION OF TIME FOR
BUSINESS...OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE INVENTORY OF
COMMODITY STOCKS, OF FINANCIAL ASSETS, AND OF
OTHER ASPECTS OF THE ENTERPRISE. ALL VERY IM-
PORTANT FOR AUDITORS AND ^{FOR} PLANNING PROGRAMS FOR
THE COMING YEAR.

▶ INDIVIDUALS, TOO, SHOULD TAKE TIME FOR INVENTORY,
FOR THERE IS SO MUCH WE TAKE FOR GRANTED IN OUR
LIVES. IT IS GOOD TO GET SENSE OF WHERE WE ARE
IN CONSCIOUSNESS, TO ENABLE US TO TAKE STEPS OF
ADJUSTMENT AND MAKE MOST EFFECTIVE COMMITMENTS
~~FOR~~ IN THE YEAR AHEAD.

ARE YOU HAPPY WITH WHAT HAS BEEN REPEATEDLY OCCURRING IN YOUR LIFE? IF THERE ARE DIRECTIONS YOU ARE MOVING IN THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO CHANGE, WHY NOT DO SO NOW? THIS CAN BE DONE BY CHANGING YOUR THOUGHTS AND YOUR REACTIONS TO LIFE.

YOU CAN'T CHANGE OTHER PEOPLE, AND YOU CANNOT CHANGE OUTER CIRCUMSTANCES...THOSE THAT EXIST NOW AND THOSE OF THE PAST: BUT YOU CAN CHANGE THE WAY YOU DEAL WITH THESE THINGS AND HOW THEY EFFECT YOU. YOU CAN CHANGE YOUR EMOTIONS ABOUT THEM.

I LIKE THE COMMITMENT OF WALT WHITMAN: 'OH, WHILE I LIVE TO BE THE RULER OF LIFE, NOT A SLAVE. TO MEET LIFE AS A POWERFUL CONQUEROR...AND NOTHING EXTERIOR SHALL EVER TAKE COMMAND OF ME.'

NOW TO GET DOWN TO BUSINESS. I AM GOING TO GIVE YOU SOME HOMEWORK FOR A PERSONAL PREPARATION FOR THE NEW YEAR 1977. ARE YOU WILLING TO WORK?

FIRST...YOU WILL NEED A NOTEBOOK FOR YOUR INVENTOR
ACCOUNTING. DETERMINE SOME GENERAL CATEGORIES BY
WHICH TO APPRAISE THE QUALITY AND CONSCIOUSNESS
OF YOUR LIFE: WORK, FINANCES, HEALTH, LOVE-LIFE,
HOME AND FAMILY, HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS. TAKE ONE
PAGE FOR EACH...AND WRITE CATEGORY AT HEAD.

ON EACH PAGE DRAW VERTICAL LINE DIVIDING PAGE INTO
TWO COLUMNS. HEAD FIRST COLUMN WITH MINUS SIGN,
SECOND COLUMN WITH PLUS SIGN. 

NOW, REFLECT ON ONE CATEGORY AT A TIME...FOR
INSTANCE...YOUR WORK: HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT
YOUR JOB, YOUR IMPROVEMENT, YOUR OPPORTUNITIES
FOR ADVANCEMENT, YOUR SALARY? WHAT IS DISTURB-
ING YOU ABOUT YOUR WORK? WHAT IS ELATING YOU?
WHAT SIGNIFICANT THINGS HAVE HAPPENED IN THE
PAST YEAR?

YOU ARE TO MAKE THE NOTATIONS IN THE MINUS OR
PLUS COLUMN DEPENDING ON JUDGMENT OF COMMENT.

IS IT A NEGATIVE OR POSITIVE THING? FOR INSTANCE:
'I WAS ASKED TO ASSUME ADDED RESPONSIBILITY OF
THE NEW ACCOUNT.' YOU MUST LIST UNDER MINUS COL.
SINCE YOU ARE UNHAPPY THAT NO SALARY INCREASE.

ANOTHER COMMENT: 'I FEEL INCREASINGLY FULFILLED
IN MY WORK.' OBVIOUSLY A PLUS COMMENT.

FINALLY, TAKE GOOD LOOK AT THE MINUSES. SEE THE
IMPLICATION OF ~~MANY~~ OF THEM. THESE ARE NOT
NEGATIVE HAPPENINGS, BUT HAPPENINGS THAT HAVE
EVOKED NEGATIVE FEELINGS. THEY MAY INDICATE THAT
YOU HAVE FALLEN INTO RUT OF SELF-LIMITATION.
YOU MAY WANT TO MAKE COMMITMENT TO BE MORE
POSITIVE AND NON-RESISTANT IN NEW YEAR.

▶ NOW...GO OVER MINUSES, ONE BY ONE, RE-THINK THE
EXPERIENCE AND ~~VISUALIZE HAVING POSITIVE REACTION~~.
STATE IT AS IT OUGHT-TO-BE. EXAMPLE...
CROSS OUT MINUS LISTING AND REWRITE UNDER PLUS.

YOU WILL WANT TO GO THROUGH THIS PROCESS OF
SELF-EXAMINATION FOR ALL THE CATEGORIES ON
SEPARATE PAGES.

▶ NOW...GO BACK AND CHECK OFF ALL THE ITEMS THAT YOU HAVE HAD TO ~~TRANSPOR~~ FROM MINUS TO PLUS. THESE ARE AREAS IN WHICH YOU SHOULD MAKE SOME RESOLUTION COMMITMENTS FOR THE NEW YEAR.

▶ A RESOLUTION IS A WONDERFUL THING...CAN BE A HELPFUL TECHNIQUE OF OVERCOMING FOR THE SERIOUS STUDENT OF TRUTH. BUT...RESOLUTIONS ARE TOO-OFTEN MADE TO REACH TOO FAR.

LIFE CAN NEVER REALLY BE LIVED IN ANY OTHER WAY THAN IN THE NOW. IF YOU RESOLVE TO DO SOMETHING OR REFRAIN FROM DOING SOMETHING FOR AN ENTIRE YEAR, ONE SLIP AND THE WHOLE PROJECT IS DOWN THE DRAIN. WE MAY SAY, 'WELL, THAT'S THAT! IT WAS A NICE TRY!'

HOW MUCH BETTER TO OUTLINE GOALS FOR THE YEAR, BUT MAKE RESOLUTIONS ~~SEACH~~ EACH MORNING FOR ONE DAY ONLY: 'TODAY, I RESOLVE TO BE ~~STRONG~~! TODAY I WILL BE NON-RESISTANT! TODAY, I WILL NOT OVEREAT!'

IT IS MUCH EASIER TO WORK ON THINGS ONE DAY AT A TIME THAN TRY TO ACHIEVE PERFECTION FOR ENTIRE YEAR. AND...THE BEAUTY OF THE RESOLUTION-FOR-A-DAY TECHNIQUE IS THAT, IF ^{you} ~~WE~~ FALL DOWN DURING THE DAY, THE NEXT DAY ^{you} ~~WE~~ CAN START ANEW.

IF ^{you} ~~WE~~ FAIL 50 DAYS IN YEAR, SCORE IS STILL 315 TO 50. ^{you} ~~WE~~ STAY ON THE WINNING SIDE. THIS PUTS EMPHASIS WHERE IT SHOULD BE. A RESOLUTION SHOULD BE MORE THAN A WISH OR VAGUE YEARNING. SHOULD BE A COMMITMENT, A SINCERE COVENANT WITH GOD.

~~THE BEST RESOLUTIONS ARE AFFIRMATIONS OF TRUTH.~~

IF YOU WANT TO FOLLOW THROUGH ON YOUR INVENTORY COMMITMENTS, YOU CAN FORMULATE AN AFFIRMATION FOR EVERY MINUS TRANSPOSED INTO PLUS. IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN MY FEELING THAT AFFIRMATIONS AND TREATMENTS ARE TOO-OFTEN INEFFECTIVE BECAUSE THEY ARE STEREOTYPED. MUCH MORE EFFECTIVE WHEN PERSONALLY CREATE

IT IS SIMPLE A MATTER OF CONSIDERING ~~HOW YOU~~
~~FEEL EACH SITUATION OR FEELING~~ ^{THE} OUGHT-TO-BE'S.
AND THEN RESTATING ~~IT~~ ^{THEM} IN AN ISNESS CONSCIOUSNESS.
'I OUGHT TO BE ABLE TO DO MY WORK WITHOUT SUC-
CUMING TO FEELINGS OF PRESSURE.' TRANSLATED,
THAT BECOMES, 'I AM ESTABLISHED IN THE AWARENESS
OF ONENESS WITH GOD, I AM FREE FROM TENSION,
STRESS OR STRAIN. I WORK WITHOUT PRESSURE AND
I ~~AM~~ FREE FROM DISTURBANCES OF ANY KIND..'

IF YOU TAKE SOME TIME TO REWORK ALL THE AREAS
OF NEED INTO AFFIRMATIONS AND TREATMENTS, YOU
WILL COME UP WITH A MARVELOUS PRAYER PROJECT TO
BE WORKED ON IN THE NEW YEAR. OUGHT-TO-BE-
OGRAPHY

THIS BRINGS US TO ANOTHER VITAL POINT: THERE IS
NOTHING FUTURISTIC ABOUT TRUTH OR YOUR ONENESS
WITH GOD, WITH MIND, WITH LIFE. WHEN YOU RESOLVE
YOUR AREAS OF NEED INTO I AM REALIZATIONS, YOU
WILL ~~BE~~ FORMULATING YOUR PRAYER. BUT REMEMBER...

THE AFFIRMATION IS NOT DECLARING IT TO HAPPEN
TOMORROW OR SOMEDAY. IT IS THE FOUNDATION OF
YOUR LIFE RIGHT NOW.

DON'T PRAY TO GET BETTER... AFFIRM YOUR WHOLENESS
NOW. DON'T PRAY THAT YOU WILL FIND A JOB OR GET
A RAISE, BUT KNOW THAT YOU ARE NOW IN THE FLOW
OF PROSPERITY AND UNFOLDING OPPORTUNITY. DON'T
EVEN PRAY THAT YOU WILL HAVE A HAPPY AND HEALTHY
AND FULFILLING NEW YEAR... AFFIRM THAT YOU ARE NOW
GOD'S PERFECT CHILD, HAPPY AND WHOLE AND RICHLY
BLESSED.

IF YOU PRAY FOR GOOD TO COME IN THE NEW YEAR, YOU
LOSE THE CONSCIOUSNESS OF THE PRESENCE. YOU GET
INTO THE THOUGHT OF FUTURITY. AND IT IS BUT A
STEP OVER INTO CONCERN ~~OVER~~ WHETHER THE PRAYER
WILL BE ANSWERED...OR JUST WHAT WILL THE NEW YEAR
BRING?

MANY SO-CALLED 'EXPERTS' SURFACE AT THIS SEASON
TO MAKE PREDICTIONS OF ALL SORTS OF DIRE THINGS
FOR THE NEW YEAR... AS IF THE YEAR IS A FIXED
PERIOD REplete WITH ALL THE HAPPENINGS SEEN IN
ADVANCE BY THE SEER.

NO ONE CAN SEE THE YEAR AHEAD, NO MATTER HOW
GREAT MAY BE THE PSYCHIC ABILITY. THE YEAR IS
NOT AN ENTITY. THE PROPHET MAY SENSE TRENDS
AND MOVEMENTS OF CONSCIOUSNESS AND THUS PROJECT
THEM FORWARD TO MAKE PREDICTIONS. BUT EVEN IF
HIS CALCULATIONS ARE GOOD, THE EVENTS NEED NOT
HAPPEN, AND WILL NOT IF WE CHANGE CONSCIOUSNESS
AND ALTER THE FLOW OF CIRCUMSTANCES.

LOOKING BACK OVER ALL THE SELF-EXAMINATION WORK,
YOU MAY DISCOVER THAT AT ROOT OF MOST OF THE
MINUSES IS A LACK OF FAITH. THUS SOME THOUGHT
SHOULD BE GIVEN TO CREATING A FIRM RESOLUTION TO
WALK BY FAITH IN THE NEW YEAR.

? WALKING BY FAITH DOES NOT MEAN WALKING WITH YOUR HEAD IN THE CLOUDS, FOR THIS KIND OF POLLYANNA ATTITUDE IS EASILY DISILLUSIONED IF DIFFICULTIES ARISE.

FAITH IS NOT EXPECTING NO CHALLENGES, FOR LIFE IS CHANGE AND CHANGE MEANS GROWTH AND UNFOLDMENT. FAITH IS THE CONVICTION OF CHANGELESS SUPPORT WITHIN DURING CHANGING EXPERIENCES WITHOUT.

IT IS FAITH THAT SAYS, 'WHEN I MEET MY NEXT WATERLOO, I SHALL BE A WELLINGTON AND NOT NAPOLEON. I WILL NOT BE THE VICTIM OF CIRCUMSTANCES, BUT I WILL BE THEIR MASTER.'

THE ATTITUDE OF FAITH WILL OPEN THE FLOW OF GOOD WITHIN YOU SO THAT, AS SHAKESPEARE SAYS, YOU WILL FIND THE 'SWEET USES OF ADVERSITY', FINDING 'SERMONS IN STONES, BOOKS IN THE RUNNING BROOKS, AND GOOD IN EVERYTHING.'

▶ ONE OF THE MOST MEMORABLE CHRISTMAS GREETING CARDS

I EVER RECEIVED CARRIED THIS MEANINGFUL INSCRIPTION UNDER A LOVELY ORIGINAL DESIGN:

'THIS CARD WAS CREATED BY ANNE ADAMS, A POLIO PATIENT WHO, PRIOR TO HER ILLNESS WAS AN ARTIST. THROUGH PERSEVERENCE SHE HAS TRAINED HERSELF TO DRAW BY HOLDING A PENCIL BETWEEN HER TEETH: EACH ORIGINAL DRAWING TAKES UP TO TWO MONTHS TO PRODUCE.'

A LESS RESOLUTE PERSON WOULD HAVE CALLED THIS THE END OF A CAREER. BUT ~~ANNE~~ ADAMS CALLED IT GOOD, AND WENT ON. THE IMPORTANT THING IS THAT LIFE IS GROWTH...AND THIS PERSON IS GROWING IN A WAY THAT MIGHT NEVER HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED UNDER NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES.

CAN YOU IMAGINE ANNE ADAMS DOING THE SELF-INVENTORY PROJECT. JUST THINK OF THE ITEMS SHE COULD HAVE LISTED UNDER THE MINUS COLUMN. YET...BY THE SPIRIT SHE IS EVIDENCING IN HER WORK, IT WOULD

APPEAR THAT SHE ~~SHAS~~ ~~AL~~READY RESOLVED THEM INTO PLUSES, LEADING TO A LIFE OF CREATIVITY AND MASTERY THAT IS INSPIRING FOR ALL TO SEE.

FEW OF US WILL EVER HAVE THAT KIND OF CHALLENGE TO FACE, BUT THE IMPORTANT THING IS TO TAKE WHATEVER CHALLENGES WE DO HAVE AND RESOLVE THEM INTO THINGS WORKING TOGETHER FOR GOOD.

▶ THIS IS ONE OF THE REASONS I AM OPPOSED TO PEERING INTO THE FUTURE THROUGH PSYCHIC READINGS OR ASTROLOGICAL CHARTS, OR WHATEVER. FOR IF YOU COULD SEE A TOTAL PREDICTION OF THE YEAR AHEAD, YOU MIGHT WANT TO AVOID AT ALL COSTS SOME THINGS THAT MIGHT OTHERWISE BE GREAT EXPERIENCES OF GROWTH.

PHILLIPS BROOKS: 'PRAY NOT FOR EASIER LIVES, BUT PRAY TO BE STRONGER PERSONS.'

THERE ARE SOME LINES THAT ARE TRADITIONAL WITH ME IN THE DAYS LEADING TO THE NEW YEAR. QUOTED BY KING GEORGE OF ENGLAND IN CHRISTMAS BROADCAST TO

WORLD AT BEGINNING OF WORLD WAR II IN 1939...

'AND I SAID TO THE MAN WHO STOOD AT THE GATE OF THE YEAR: 'GIVE ME A LIGHT THAT I MAY TREAD SAFELY INTO THE UNKNOWN.' AND HE REPLIED, 'GO OUT INTO THE DARKNESS AND PUT YOUR HAND INTO THE HAND OF GOD. THAT SHALL BE TO YOU BETTER THAN LIGHT AND SAFER THAN A KNOWN WAY.''

THE 'KNOWN WAY' IS ALWAYS IN THE PAST. WALKING THE KNOWN WAY WILL MAKE THIS COMING YEAR AS EVERY OTHER YEAR. RESOLVE INSTEAD TO WALK IN NEW WAYS. AND AS YOU PUT YOUR HAND IN THE HAND OF GOD'S, WHICH MEANS YOUR CONSCIOUSNESS WILL BE SYNCHRONIZED WITH THE INSPIRATION OF THE ALMIGHTY INSTEAD OF WITH THE WAY OF THE WORLD, YOU WILL WALK BY FAITH AND NOT BY SIGHT...AND YOUR WAY WILL BE FRAUGHT WITH UNBELIEVABLE GOOD. YOU WILL WALK WITH SPRING IN YOUR STEP, BY WHICH WE MEAN YOU WILL WALK IN PATHS OF ETERNAL SPRINGTIME

HAPPY NEW YEAR! HAPPY NEW YOU!

HAPPY NEW UNFOLDMENT OF THE DIVINITY WITHIN YOU