

**ERIC BUTTERWORTH
PAPERS (3014)**

**BOX 22
FOLDER 6**

A CONTRACT FOR 1986

DECEMBER 29, 1985

A CONTRACT FOR 1986

'HAPPY NEW YEAR!' / IT IS A SALUTATION THAT WE WILL
HEARING, / AND UTTERING / THOUSANDS OF TIMES / IN THE
NEXT 60 HOURS. / AND AT 12 O'CLOCK ON TUESDAY
NIGHT / THE BALL WILL DESCEND ON TIMES SQUARE, /
IN CENTRAL PARK THERE WILL BE / AN ERUPTION OF
FIREWORKS, / AND THIS WILL ALL TOUCH OFF / SOME / TIMES
^{OF} WILD CELEBRATION / OF THE NEW YEAR 1986.

WHAT IS A YEAR? / WE KNOW ABOUT THE EARTH'S ROTA--
TION AROUND THE SUN. / YET IN AN AGE OF SPACE-
CONSCIOUSNESS, / IT IS NOT TOO MUCH TO IMAGINE / BEING
OUT IN SPACE, / AWAY FROM THE SOLAR SYSTEM, / WITH
NO SUN TO ROTATE AROUND, / NO SUNSET AND NO SUNRISE.
/ NOW... WHAT IS A YEAR? / OBVIOUSLY IT IS MORE PSY-
CHOLOGICAL / THAN ASTRONOMICAL. / A YEAR IS A CON-
VENIENT MEANS / OF KEEPING TRACK OF FOOTPRINTS / IN
THE SANDS OF TIME, / BUT THE WINDS OF CHANGE SOON
BLOW THEM AWAY, / LEAVING ONLY THE ALLNESS OF ETER-
NITY.

IT IS AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY/TO GET A NEW INSIGHT INTO THIS THING CALLED TIME./ TIME IS NOT A PASSING PHENOMENA,/ BUT THE UNFOLDMENT OF AN INFINITE POSSIBILITY. '

EVERY DAY/WE UNFOLD MANY OF THE INFINITE POSSIBILITIES OF LIFE./ ONLY A FEW OF THEM DO WE ACTUALLY SEE,/ AND A SMALL^{ER} PERCENTAGE OF THEM/ARE ACTUALLY REALIZED./ BUT A POSSIBILITY CAN NEVER BE LESS THAN A POSSIBILITY./ THUS IN TOMORROW/AND TOMORROW/AND TOMORROW/IT CONTINUES TO UNFOLD. THIS MEANS THAT/A NEW DAY IS REALLY/A FRESH OPPORTUNITY/TO MOVE IN THE FIELD OF/POSSIBILITIES WHICH ARE CONSTANT.

A YEAR IS A CONVENIENT DEVICE/FOR KEEPING TRACK OF THINGS/HISTORICALLY AND ECONOMICALLY,/ IT IS A GOOD SLIDE-RULE FOR FISCAL ACCOUNTING,/ IT MAY ENCOMPASS A SEASON FOR A SPORTS TEAM,/ OR A UNIT OF WORK FOR A STUDENT,/ AND IT CAN BE AN AMAZINGLY

HELPFUL DEVICE IN SELF-EVALUATION./ BUT IT HAS
LITTLE RELEVANCE/AS A MEASUREMENT OF LIFE./ WE
SAY,/'THIS IS MY TENTH YEAR ON THIS JOB'./..OR
'THIS IS THE YEAR OF MY 50TH BIRTHDAY'./..OR 'THIS
IS THE YEAR 1986.' / BUT WHAT DOES ALL THAT MEAN?
IT IS LIKE LABELING THE WAVES ON THE OCEAN./ HERE
COMES WAVE NUMBER 6527934596321. / SILLY ISN'T IT?/
FOR A WAVE IS A WAVE,/NO MATTER HOW MANY HAVE GONE
BEFORE/OR HOW MANY WILL COME AFTER./ AND WHAT IS
A WAVE/BUT THE OCEAN FORMING ITSELF/FOR A BRIEF
TIME INTO A WAVE.

A YEAR IS NOT A THING./..AND 1986 WILL CERTAINLY
MAKE NO/AUTOMATIC COLLECTION OF TOLL/ON LIFE
AND LIVING./ YOU WILL REALLY BE NO OLDER IN
1986/THAN YOU WERE IN 1985./..BUT YOU MAY BE A
LITTLE WISER, OR YOU SHOULD BE.

PEOPLE OFTEN REFER TO 'A GOOD YEAR'/OR 'A BAD YEAR'
/AS IF THE YEAR CAME AS A/BERIBBONED PACKAGE THAT

BLINDLY

WE DRAW OUT OF A HAT, / HOPING WE WILL BE LUCKY / AND
GET A GOOD YEAR. / WE SAY, 'I WONDER WHAT THIS
YEAR WILL BRING ME'. / WE BECOME VULNERABLE TO THE
MANY PSYCHIS AND SEERS WHO, / FOR A FEE / WILL LET
YOU PEEK THROUGH ~~THE~~ CURTAIN OF PROVIDENCE. / ^{SO THEY SAY} ~~THAT~~
~~WORD LITERALLY MEANS, / 'TO SEE FORWARD.'~~')

I AM GOING TO SUGGEST TO YOU TODAY / THAT YOU HOLD
A PERSPECTIVE / JUST A LITTLE DIFFERENT FROM / THE
NORMAL. / .. THAT YOU THINK / -- NOT JUST OF THE YEAR
WITH ITS BEGINNING AND ITS END. / .. BUT THAT YOU
THINK OF AN ERA / IN ITS TIMELESS SENSE. / IT IS A
NEW PHASE OF LIVING, / A NEW LEVEL OF CONSCIOUSNESS.
/ IT MAY BE A FORTNIGHT, / OR A YEAR, / OR YOUR WHOLE
LIFE BEFORE YOU. / SO THAT AS THE YEAR WINDS DOWN /
AND PEOPLE EXCITEDLY CRY / 'HAPPY NEW YEAR! / .. YOU
CAN ADD A DIMENSION OF CONSCIOUSNESS BY DECLARING,
/ 'HAPPY NEW ERA!' / ~~AND OF COURSE, / HAPPY NEW YOU!~~

▶ ALSO I AM GOING TO SUGGEST / THAT YOU MAKE A CONTRACT FOR YOURSELF, / COMMITTING YOURSELF / TO ~~THE~~ KIND OF ATTITUDES / THAT WILL BE MOST LIKELY / TO LEAD TO A NEW ERA / IN YOUR SPIRITUAL UNFOLDMENT.

▶ AT THE CLOSE OF THE HOUR / WE WILL GIVE YOU A CONTRACT / ALL FORMULATED FOR YOU SIMPLY TO SIGN, / OR YOU MAY PREFER TO CREATE ~~FOR~~ YOUR OWN. / AT ANY RATE LET'S CONSIDER / SOME OF THE THINGS / THAT MIGHT GO INTO / OUR CONTRACT FOR 1986.

▶ FIRST OF ALL, / KEEP OUT OF THE PAST. / YOU WILL NEED TO BE ALERT / TO THE COMMON HUMAN TENDENCY / TO LOOK BACKWARD IN FEELINGS OF NOSTALGIA, / LONGING FOR A RETURN TO THE PEACE / AND JOY OF OTHER YEARS - / AND AN ASSUMPTION / THAT PAST SOLUTIONS / ARE THE ONLY ANSWERS / TO THE PROBLEMS OF TODAY, / ... AND, IN FEELING OF GRIEF, / REGRET, / GUILT, / ANGER, / AND RESISTANCE TO CHANGE. / SOMETIMES THERE IS AN ATTEMPT / TO CHANGE

SOMETHING / THAT HAPPENED IN THE PAST. / ..AN UNCONSCIOUS
ATTEMPT TO UNHAPPEN THINGS. / THIS MAY WELL BE THE
MAJOR CAUSE OF UNHAPPINESS. / BUT IT HAS HAPPENED.
LET IT BE! SO YOU MADE A MISTAKE / OR FAILED / OR
CAME UP SHORT OF YOUR GOAL. / AND YOU ARE EMBARR-
ASSED OR CHAGRINED? / IT IS DONE. / THERE IS NO
REASON TO REGRET / THAT YOU ACTED AS YOU DID THEN, /
FOR THAT IS WHERE / YOU WERE IN CONSCIOUSNESS THEN / -
AND THAT SHOULD BE THE END OF IT. / IF YOU CAN NOW
SEE THAT WHAT YOU DID THEN / IS NOT AS YOU WOULD
LIKE IT TO BE, / IT PROVES THAT YOU HAVE GROWN / AND
THE LESSON HAS BEEN LEARNED / - SO LET IT GO. / AS
THE CHINESE SAYING PUTS IT, / 'THE FAULT IS NOT IN
FALLING DOWN. / IT IS ^{IN} LYING THERE.'

AND THE OTHER SIDE OF THAT COIN, / AVOID TRYING TO
LIVE IN THE FUTURE. / MAKE A COVENANT WITH YOURSELF /
THAT YOU WILL KEEP OUT OF / THE 'SOMEDAY' CONSCIOUS-
NESS. / 'MAYBE THIS WILL BE THE YEAR MY SHIP COMES IN

IT IS LIFE ON THE DEFERMENT PLAN. / 'WHEN SATURDAY
 COMES, / I WILL BE ABLE TO RELAX, / GET OUT FROM UNDER
 / ENJOY LIFE.' / THE NATIONAL SLOGAN FOR SOME PERSONS
 / IS ~~XXXXXX~~ 'I.G.I.F.' (THANK GOODNESS ITS FRIDAY)
 THESE PEOPLE LIVE / ONLY TWO DAYS A WEEK. /..THE OTHER
 DAYS THEY ARE JUST LOOK'G FORWARD / TO LIVING ~~IN~~ 'WHEN'
 BUT THERE CAN BE NO 'WHEN' / IN THE NEW ERA. / ONLY
 THE ETERNAL NOW!

CERVANTES SAYS, / "BY THE STREETS OF BY-AND-BY/
 ONE ARRIVES AT THE HOUSE OF NEVER." / MANY OF US
 FREQUENT THAT STREET / AND DEAL WITH MANY 'NEVER-
 NEVER-LANDS' OF "TOMORROW", / "LATER", / "SOMEDAY", / "WHEN
I HAVE MORE TIME", / "WE'LL SEE", / "MAYBE IT WILL WORK
OUT." / IT MAY BE A JOB THAT NEEDS TO BE DONE...
 BUT THE 'BY-AND-BY' CONSCIOUSNESS / GIVES RISE TO
 PROCRASTINATION. / IT MAY BE THE FEAR TO ATTEMPT
 / DUE TO AN EXPECTATION OF FAILURE.

SO...THE BEST WAY TO SHIELD YOURSELF/FROM THAT
POSSIBILITY/IS TO COME UP WITH APPARENTLY/ LOGICAL
REASONS FOR NOT LAUNCHING OUT...

TIREDNESS OR SLEEP ARE MARVELOUS REASONS./ DID
YOU EVER NOTICE HOW TIRED YOU GET/WHEN YOU ARE
CLOSE TO ACTUALLY DOING/SOMETHING DIFFICULT?/

ILLNESS WORKS WELL TOO./ HOW CAN YOU POSSIBLY
DO IT NOW/WHEN YOU FEEL SO HORRIBLE?/

AND WHEN ALL ELSE FAILS,/ THERE IS ALWAYS THE/'YOU
SEE I REALLY DON'T HAVE THE TIME.'^{EXCUSE}/ OF COURSE YOU
ALWAYS ~~SEEM~~ TO FIND TIME/TO DO DHE THINGS YOU
REALLY WANT TO DO.

AND THE FINAL PRONOUNCEMENT./..'IT'S REALLY IM-
POSSIBLE,/~~NOT~~ YOU KNOW.'/ AND HOW CAN ANYONE
ARGUE WITH THAT? /

▶IN THE NEW ERA WE NEED TO LISTEN TO GOETHE/AS HE
SINGS./ 'WHATEVER YOU CAN DO OR DREAM YOU CAN,/ BEGIN
IT../.BOLDNESS HAS GENIUS,/ POWER,/AND MAGIC IN IT.'

YOU MAY EXPRESS GREAT CONFIDENCE/ IN THE BELIEF
THAT SOMEDAY/ YOU ARE GOING TO BE HEALED./ YOU MAY
EVEN SAY, /'WHEN I RECOVER FROM THIS ILLNESS./..'
IMPLYING THAT/ THEN YOU WILL BEGIN TO LIVE./ IF
SOMEONE WERE TO ASK YOU/ IF YOU WOULD NOT LIKE TO
BE HEALED RIGHT NOW./.. YOU MIGHT REPLY, /'WELL, OF
COURSE, BUT...' / AND IN THAT LITTLE WORD 'BUT'/ WE
CAN SEE YOUR BELIEF IN RESTRICTION./ WHAT YOU WANT
FOR YOURSELF,/ YOU MUST ACCEPT NOW/ OR POSSIBLY
NEVER HAVE IT.

THERE IS NO FUTURE/ IN THE ETERNAL NOW/ OF INFINITE
MIND./ THE ONLY DEMONSTRATION/ THERE IS OR EVER
WAS,/ IS IN GOD'S KINGDOM ~~RIGHT~~ WITHIN YOU,/ AND
THAT IS IN THE ETERNAL NOW.

ONE OF THE WEAKNESSES/ OF THE TYPICAL PRAYER OR
TREATMENT/ IS THAT IT IS DIRECTLY OR SUBTLY DEALING
WITH FUTURITY./ IF YOU THINK OF A PROBLEM AS SOME-
^{THING} TO BE SOLVED IN TIME./.. YOU WILL BE PRAYING THAT GOD

WILL HEAL YOU, / OR THAT A DEMONSTRATION OF SUPPLY
WILL BE MADE. / ..SO UNCONSCIOUSLY YOU RELEGATE IT
/ TO ~~THE~~ STREETS OF BY-AND-BY. / PEOPLE OFTEN ASK WHY
THEIR PRAYER IS NOT ANSWERED. / THIS IS ~~M~~OST OFTEN
THE ^{REASON} ~~CASE~~.

DON'T PRAY TO GET BETTER. / ..~~PRAY FOR~~ ^{AFFIRM} YOUR WHOLENESS

NOW. / DON'T PRAY THAT YOU / WILL FIND A JOB...

AFFIRM THAT YOU ARE / IN YOUR RIGHT PLACE NOW.

DON'T PRAY THAT YOU MAY BECOME / A BETTER PERSON.

. / ..AFFIRM THAT YOU ARE NOW / GOD'S PERFECT EX-
PRESSION, / THAT YOU KNOW IT, / AND SHOW IT..

AND REMEMBER, / THE AMEN AT THE END OF YOUR

PRAYER / DOES NOT MEAN 'MAYBE', / 'I CERTAINLY

HOPE / SO', / 'IT WILL SURE BE WONDERFUL WHEN. / ..'

AMEN MEANS 'SO BE IT', / 'IT IS DONE.'

A BEAUTIFUL REALIZATION OF TRUTH IS, / 'WHEREVER I
AM, / GOD IS.' / IN THE NE^W ERA BEFORE YOU, / WHEREVER
YOU MAY BE / IN TIME OR SPACE, / GOD IS WITH YOU AND

WITHIN YOU. / YOU CANNOT GET OUTSIDE OF THE PRE-
SENCE. / EVEN MORE IMPORTANT / IS THE REALIZATION, /
'WHEREVER I AM, I AM.' IN JANUARY OR JUNE, OR
IN APRIL OR DECEMBER, / I AM. / IT IS THE ONE SURE
THING / ABOUT THE YEAR FOR YOU. / .. I AM. IF YOU WOULD
BE IN THE CREATIVE FLOW / IN FACING ANY SITUATION /
THAT COMES TO YOU, / START WHAT YOU DO WITH 'I AM'.
YOU MAY WANT TO HOLD THIS REALIZATION, / 'I CAN DO
WHAT I WANT TO DO / AND BE WHAT I WANT TO BE, / IF
I KNOW THAT I AM.' / THIS SIMPLY SAYS / THAT THE ~~SO~~
SOURCE, / THE SUBSTANCE, / THE FOUNTAIN IS WITHIN, /
AND IT IS EVER-PRESENT.

IN THE NEW ERA THAT YOU ARE ENTERING, / IT IS IM-
PORTANT TO AVOID THE COMPARISON GAME. / .. 'SMARTER
THAN' / 'NOT AS SMART AS' / 'PRETTIER THAN' / 'NOT
AS PRETTY AS' / YOU ARE YOU! USE YOUR OWN STAND-
ARDS. / YOU ARE INTELLIGENT BECAUSE YOU CAN DO THAT
THING YOU WANT TO DO. / YOU KNOW YOU ARE ATTRACTIVE

BECAUSE YOU ARE BEING/AND EXPRESSING/WHO YOU ARE.
/WHY ^{Accept} ~~SEE~~ SOMEONE ELSE'S/STANDARD OF ATTRACTIVENESS
AS YOUR OWN. / IT IS ABSURD TO RUN YOUR LIFE/ON THE
BASIS/OF COMPARISON WITH OTHERS. / YOU ARE INCOMPA-
RABLE/UNIQUE AND WONDERFUL./..AND GROWING. / OF
COURSE KEEP REACHING FOR THE HEIGHTS,/NOT SO YOU
MAY BE BETTER/THAN SOMEONE ELSE,/BUT SO THAT YOU
WILL BE ~~BETTER~~/THAN YOUR FORMER SELF.

▶ REACH FOR THE HIGHEST,/BUT BE GREATFUL FOR HOW FAR
YOU HAVE COME./ BE PATIENT WITH YOURSELF./ GIVE
YOURSELF THE PRIVILEGE OF/OCCASIONALLY MISSING
THE MARK/WITHOUT SELF-CONDEMNATION.

▶ KEEP YOURSELF CENTRED/IN THE CREATIVE FLOW./THERE
WILL BE NO PRESSURE/OR ANXIETY/IF YOU ARE AT
PEACE. / WHEN YOU ARE CENTERED WITHIN,/YOU WILL
BE ABLE TO/KEEP UP A BUSY SCHEDULE,/AND CARRY
HEAVY LOADS,/AND PRODUCE GREAT AMOUNTS/OF WORK
WITHOUT STRAIN OR PRESSURE. YOU WILL WALK EASILY

THROUGH

THINGS, / FOR YOU ARE IN CHARGE / -- NOT THE CLOCK
/ OR ^{the} CALENDAR / OR ^{THE} ECONOMY / OR WORLD CONDITIONS / OR
FEAR OF THE FUTURE / OR WORRY OVER THE PAST. / OUT
THERE IN THE WORLD / THERE MAY BE A VARIETY / OF
THINGS / THAT MIGHT NORMALLY GIVE RISE / TO PRESSURE
... BUT YOU CAN COPE.

A FEW YEARS / AGO IN THE CITY OF DETROIT / THERE WAS
A NEWSPAPER STORY / OF A MAN WHO WENT BLIND / ON HIS
WAY TO WORK. / WHAT A TRAGEDY! / WHAT A CRUEL STROKE
OF FATE! / JUST LIKE THAT. / ^{GAVE THE BUS} THE 'LIGHTS WENT OUT'.
HE COULD HAVE CURSED HIS FATE / AND ~~STOPPED~~ EVERY-
THING RIGHT THERE, / AND NO ONE WOULD HAVE BLAMED
HIM. / BUT THE THING THAT MADE THIS STORY SPECIAL /
IS THAT HE CONTINUED RIGHT ON TO WORK, / AND TOOK
HIS PLACE AT HIS STENOTYPE MACHINE / AND DID HIS
NORMAL WORK / AS A COURT REPORTER. / HE HAD BEEN
TOLD / SIX MONTHS PRIOR TO THIS DAY / THAT THIS WOULD
HAPPEN. / HE HAD MADE A CONTRACT WITH LIFE. / .. HE

WOULD CONTINUE ON/WITH HIS PRODUCTIVE LIFE./..
EXPECTING AND ACCEPTING LIFE/TO CONTINUE TO FLOW
THROUGH HIM.

NOW YOU MAY WONDER,/' IF LIFE IS WHOLE,/AND IF
PRAYER WORKS,/WHY COULDN'T HE BE HEALED?'/ BUT
YOU SEE HE COULD ONLY DEAL/WITH THIS EXPERIENCE
AT THE LEVEL OF HIS CONSCIOUSNESS./ HIS DEMON-
STRATION CAME/AT THE POINT OF AWARENESS WHERE HE
WAS./ HE CHOSE TO GROW THROUGH IT/ INSTEAD OF
BEING DESTROYED BY IT./ ~~LIKE THE BLIND PLOWMAN~~
~~HE COULD SING, /'GOD WHO TOOK AWAY MY EYES, THAT~~
~~MY SOUL MIGHT SING.~~ ^{??} ~~OF COURSE GOD DOESN'T~~
~~TAKE AWAY EYES, /BUT HE WAS IDENTIFYING WITH~~
~~GROWTH.~~

THIS RECALL'S WALD WHITMAN'S GREAT CONTRADICT..

'OH, WHILE I LIVE,/TO BE THE/RULER OF LIFE./ TO
MEET LIFE AS A POWERFUL CONQUEROR./..AND
NOTHING EXTERIOR TO ME SHALL EVER TAKE COMMAND
OF ME!'

MY MOTHER HAD A FAVORITE EXPRESSION, / 'IF A THING
IS WORTH DOING, / IT IS WORTH DOING WELL.' / ^{PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE} AND I
PARAPHRASE IT BY SAYING, / 'IF A DAY IS WORTH LIVING
AT ALL, / IT IS WORTH LIVING / IN A HIGH STATE OF
CONSCIOUSNESS.' / LET THIS BE PART OF YOUR
CONTRACT WITH LIFE. / OF COURSE THERE IS A NEED
FOR DISCIPLINE / TO KEEP THIS HIGH WATCH.

THERE IS A WIDESPREAD BELIEF / THAT 'DISCIPLINE'
MEANS REPRESSION OR SUPPRESSION. / BUT YOU DO NOT
BECOME A STUDENT OF TRUTH / BY SUPPRESSING CONTRA-
DICTORY THOUGHTS / AND SUPER-IMPOSING ON THEM NEW
INSIGHTS OF TRUTH. (PROGRAMMING THE MIND!!!)
THE NEED IS FOR A DISCIPLINED / COMMITMENT TO A
GREAT IDEA. / LOVE OF TRUTH, / NOT RESISTANCE TO
ERROR. / COMMITMENT TO THE IDEA / OF ~~THE~~ GREATER
POSSIBILITIES OF YOUR NATURE. / ..AND TOWARD POSITIVE
RESPONSES / TO ALL LIFE'S SITUATIONS.

~~MARY~~ YEARS AGO

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ONE WOMAN ENROLLED IN THE UNITY CORRESPONDENCE COURSE/OF METAPHYSICAL STUDIES./ I HAD LOST TRACK OF HER WHEN I HAD A CHANCE MEETING./ I ASKED, 'HOW ARE YOU DOING WITH THE COURSE?'/ 'GREAT,'/SHE SAID IT IS REALLY WONDERFUL.'/ 'WHAT LESSON ARE YOU ON?'/ 'OH,' SHE SAID,/ 'I AM STILL ON LESSON ONE.'/ 'BUT YOU HAVE BEEN ENROLLED FOR FIVE YEARS.'/ 'YOU SEE, I WANT TO/LIVE EACH LESSON AND REALLY MASTER IT BEFORE I MOVE ON.'/ THIS IS ADMIRABLE, BUT AT THE RATE SHE IS GOING, IT WILL TAKE HER 200 YEARS TO COMPLETE THE COURSE.

'SHOULD A SWINER TEACH?'
"NOT TEACH HIS SINS."
(MARCY HALL)

I SUSPECT THAT IN BACK OF HER LOVELY RATIONALI- ZATION/THERE IS A TINGE OF PROCRASTINATION./ SO OFTEN WE START OUT/WITH SUCH HIGH HOPES/...BUT SO MANY THINGS INTERFERE,/ AND WE FINALLY LAPSE INTO THE FILE CALLED 'UNFINISHED BUSINESS.'/ BOOK WE START TO READ,/ AND THEN, INTERRUPTED,/ WE NEVER RETURN TO? / PROJECTS STARTED AND LEFT UNFINISHED

HOW MANY UNFINISHED PROJECTS/IN DESKS AND CLOSETS?

WHY DO WE STOP BEFORE COMPLETION?/ WHY THIS

CONSTANT PATTERN OF UNFINISHED BUSINESS?/

BASICALLY IT IS THAT WE FORGET/THAT ~~THE~~ KING-

DOM~~E~~ OF GOD IS WITHIN,/ THAT WE HAVE AN EVER-

PRESENT RESOURCE WITHIN/ BY WHICH TO DO AND DO

WELL/WHATEVER NEEDS TO BE DONE./ 'FOR A WEB

BEGUN GOD SENDS THE THREAD.'/ (NATIONAL LIBRARY^{DC})

WE STA~~R~~T THINGS/BUT WE ARE NOT CENTERED,/ THUS WE

SCATTER OUR FORCES./ IN OUR COMPLEX SOCIETY/THERE

ARE HUNDREDS OF ATTRACTIONS/VYING FOR OUR ATTEN-

TION AND INVOLVEMENT./ ADS APPEAL TO US TO ENROL

IN THIS COURSE,/TO GET INTO THAT PROGRAM/OF BODY

BUILDING AND WEIGHT CONTROL/- READ TH~~I~~S BOOK,/

LEARN TO WRITE,/TO PAINT,/TO KNIT OR SEW./ SO THE

AVERAGE PERSON BECOMES A HOUSE DIVIDED./..HE BECOME

INVOLVED IN ^{MANY} MORE THINGS/THAN ~~ONE~~ ^{HE} CAN REALLY PUT

HIS HEART AND SOUL INTO./ ONE MAN WAS BEING HONORED

FOR HIS GREAT ACHIEVEMENTS.// HE SAID, 'I SEEM TO HAVE BEEN BORN/UTTERLY WITHOUT THE FACULTY/OF DOING MORE/THAN ONE THING AT A TIME.

MAKE A CONTRACT WITH LIFE/THAT YOU WILL BECOME A FINISHER. / ^{IT WAS SAID OF} HEZEKIAH, 'AND IN EVERY WORK ~~HE~~ ^HHE BEGAN, HE DID IT WITH ALL ~~H~~ ^HIS HEART, AND PROSPERED

// AS A SYMBOLIC GESTURE OF YOUR CONTRACT,
SELECT ONE UNFINISHED PROJECT, AND COMPLETE IT.

FINALLY, I AM SUGGESTING THAT YOU/MAKE A CONTRACT WITH LIFE/IN WHICH YOU WILL LIVE IN CREATIVE ALTRUISM. / ONE CAN NEVER BE FULLY ALIVE/IF HE IS ENGAGING IN RESENTMENT/OR BITTERNESS/OR DOWNRIGHT HATRED. / IT IS A TERRIBLE BURDEN TO DISLIKE PEOPLE, / EVEN TO BE CRITICAL. / ALL IT DOES/IS COVER UP A PERPETUAL PAIN/IN THE HEART. / IT IS SO MUCH EASIER TO LOVE PEOPLE, / TO BE PATIENT WITH THEM, / EVEN TO FORGIVE THEIR ERRANT WAYS. / REMEMBER, BY THE FOCUS OF YOUR CONSCIOUSNESS/ YOU BECOME EITHER

A PART OF THE SOLUTION/OF THE WORLD'S PROBLEMS,/ OR
YOU ARE PART OF THE PROBLEM./ SO, IF YOU DISCOVER
SOME KIND OF RESISTANCE,/ ENMITY,/ PREJUDICE,/ OR
EVEN PETTY ANNOYANCE,/ IT IS TIME TO GO WITHIN,/ TO
REALIZE THAT IT IS/AN OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN LOVE,/ AND
THUS TO AWAKEN/TO A NEW LEVEL OF LIFE./

IN DESCRIBING THE WORK OF JESUS/PAUL SAYS THAT
'HE WENT ABOUT DOING GOOD.' / YOU MIGHT WANT TO
MAKE THIS/A PART OF YOUR CONTRACT WITH LIFE./ WE
NORMALLY PUT SUCH EMPHASIS/ON MAKING DEMONSTRATION
OF PROSPERITY/AND PERSONAL FULFILLMENT/OF SO MANY
KINDS. / IT MIGHT BE GOOD/ IF WE MADE A COMMITMENT/
TO A NEW ERA OF ALTRUISM,/ OF JUST DOING GOOD.

ACTUALLY IT COULD BE SAID/THAT ALL SOUND POLICY
IN BUSINESS/AND ALL SOUND PRACTICE IN SOCIAL LIFE
/ARE BASED ON THIS DEDICATION/TO DOING GOOD.

I CAN'T ACCUMULATE MUCH EXPERIENCE IN LIFE/WITHOUT

LEARNING / THAT MOST OF THE THINGS I DO / MUST BE DONE
FOR OTHERS, / EVEN WHEN MY PRIMARY PURPOSE / IS TO
ACCOMPLISH SOMETHING FOR MYSELF. / TO EARN A WAGE /
I MUST DO GOOD FOR MY EMPLOYER. / TO WORK ~~XXXXXX~~
EFFECTIVELY FOR MY EMPLOYER, / I MUST SEE MY OPPOR-
TUNITIES TO SERVE HIM. / TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN A
BUSINESS OF MY OWN / I MUST SEE OPPORTUNITIES TO
SERVE MY CUSTOMERS, / AND TO ATTRACT MORE CUSTOMERS.
I MUST LEARN AND REMEMBER / THE WAYS OF MY PUBLIC /
ITS LIKES AND DISLIKES, / ITS HABITS. / I MUST OBSERVE
// ► NEWSPAPER PEOPLE SPEAK / OF A REPORTER'S DEVELOP-
ING A 'NOSE FOR NEWS.' / WE NEED TO DEVELOP / A
NOSE FOR OPPORTUNITIES / TO BE HELPFUL / AND INSPI-
RING / AND CONSTRUCTIVE / IN OUR LIFE WITH OTHERS.
/ IT IS ~~THE~~ HELPFUL, / INSPIRING, / CONSTRUCTIVE
PEOPLE / WHO ARE GOING TO HEAL / THE HURTS OF THIS
SELF-WOUNDED OLD WORLD, / AND IT IS TO THEM / THAT
THE WORLD WILL BRING ULTIMATELY / A GRATEFUL REWARD

Now

YOU MAY WANT TO DO GOOD, / TO RADIATE LOVE, / TO
ENTER A NEW ERA OF CREATIVE ALTRUISM. / ..BUT YOU
DO NOT SEE THE OPPORTUNITIES. / ^{"you"} ~~HAVE~~ EYES BUT
YOU SEE NOT.

HERE IS A VERY HOMELY ILLUSTRATION. / WITHOUT
LOOKING AT YOUR WATCH. / ..IS THE FIGURE SIX ON
THE DIAL A ROMAN OR ARABIC NUMERAL? / NOW THE
FACE OF YOUR WATCH / IS ONE OF THE MOST FAMILIAR
OBJECTS IN YOUR ENVIRONMENT. / YOU MAY LOOK AT
IT TWENTY TIMES A DAY. / ALL RIGHT, LOOK AT IT.

SURPRISED? / A FEW OF YOU MAY HAVE BEEN CORRECT
/ BUT FOR MOST OF US. / ..WE DISCOVER THAT OUR
WATCH MAY HAVE NO FIGURE SIX AT ALL...THE
SECOND DIAL IS RIGHT WHERE THE SIX SHOULD BE.
AND IF THERE IS NO SECOND HAND, / YOUR WATCH
MIGHT HAVE SIMPLY A SERIES OF MARKS WITHOUT
NUMBERS. / EVEN IF THERE IS A SIX / IT MIGHT BE
ARABIC OR ROMAN. / SO THE LIKELIHOOD OF YOUR
BEING CORRECT / WAS STATISTICALLY VERY ~~SLIM~~ SLIM.

THIS IS SIMPLY TO INDICATE/HOW LIMITED ARE OUR
POWERS OF OBSERVATION./ LET US MAKE A CONTRACT
WITH LIFE/TO LOOK FOR WAYS/IN WHICH WE CAN GIVE
OURSELF AWAY.

SOMEONE ONCE SAID THAT/GOD WATCHES OVER ~~KIND~~
IN THE CREATIVE FLOW
PEOPLE./ NOT THE PRETENTIOUS OR OSTENTATIVELY
KIND/THAT PARADE THEIR KINDNESS./..BUT THE REALLY
KIND,/GENUINELY KIND,/SECRETLY ~~KIND~~./ KINDNESS
IS LOVE IN ACTION,/ AND GOD IS LOVE./ ~~WE WANT TO~~
LOOK FOR/OPPORTUNITIES TO DO GOOD./ ~~WE CAN~~ MAKE
IT A HABIT./..AND DEVELOP IT AS A POWER./ IT WILL
ENRICH YOUR ~~LIFE~~ ^{LIFE} MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE/~~WE~~ ^{YOU} ~~SHALL~~ ^{WILL}
EVER DO./ IT WILL KEEP ~~US~~ ^{YOU} YOUNG,/ FILL YOUR DAYS WITH
HAPPINESS/AND YOUR NIGHTS WITH PEACE./ ~~IT~~ ^{IT} WILL
ENDOW YOUR ~~LIFE~~ WITH MEANING./

2000 YEARS AGO HORACE WROTE,/ 'HE WILL THROUGH LIFE
BE MASTER OF HIMSELF/AND A HAPPY PERSON,/ WHO FROM
DAY ~~TO~~ DAY/CAN HAVE SAID./..I HAVE LIVED.'

MAKE A COVENANT WITH LIFE / THAT YOU WILL SO
COMPORT YOURSELF / IN MIND AND EXPRESSION / THAT YOU
WILL COME TO THE END OF THE YEAR / AND BE ABLE TO
SAY... 'I HAVE LIVED.'

WE HAVE TOUCHED UPON A NUMBER OF THINGS / THAT
MIGHT INSPIRE YOU / TO WRITE YOUR OWN CONTRACT FOR
1986. / OLGA AND I HAVE PREPARED A SYMBOLIC CONTRACT
WHICH WE WILL PRESENT TO YOU / AS YOU DEPART TODAY.
WE HAVE ESPECIALLY BLESSED THIS CONTRACT. / IF YOU
CREATE ONE OF YOUR OWN, / AND WE HOPE YOU WILL DO SO
/ THIS MAY BE AN ADDITIONAL PRAYER / OF COMMITMENT, /
YOU MAY WANT TO PUT IT / IN A PLACE WHERE YOU WILL
SEE IT OFTEN. / TO CONTINUOUSLY RENEW YOUR CONTRACT

THESE ARE VERY PERSONAL, AND ONLY FOR YOU WHO ARE HERE. SO YOU WILL
UNDERSTAND WHEN WE SAY, YOU MAY NOT HAVE ONE / FOR SOMEONE NOT HERE.

WE HAVE MANY LETTERS IN WHICH PEOPLE HAVE TOLD US OF THE BLESSINGS
FROM THEIR USE OF LAST YEAR'S COVENANT.

"My Contract for 1986"
A contract for my new era

Q

Celebration of a NEW ERA. Opportunities for growth. We have just gone through the celebration of Christ-mass, which gives rise to the experience of standing on the threshold of the new era before us, and the confidence to go forward beyond the horizon.

So often we think of a year as a package that we draw blindly out of a hat, hoping we will be lucky and get a good year. Wondering what the year will bring, we say 'when this or that happens it will be so good.' But there can be no "when" in the new era." Only the eternal NOW!

Many of us experience life on the deferment plan. "When Saturday comes..." The national slogan for many persons is T.G.I.F. These people live only two days a week...the other days they are just looking forward to living.

Cervantes: "By the streets of by-and-by, one arrives at the house of never." Many of us frequent that street and spend many "never-never lands" of tomorrow, later, someday, when I have more time, we'll see, maybe it will work out.

2000 years ago Horace wrote, "He will through life be master of himself and a happy person, who from day to day can have said...I have lived." This is the challenge for the New Era, to be able to come to the close of the day or the era, and say: "I have lived!"

expect and wait until right / forever.

Make a covenant with yourself that in the new era you will keep out of the "someday" attitude. A lot of creative art is languishing in the streets of by and by. There may be a job to be done...but the "by-and-by" consciousness gives rise to procrastination. It may be the fear to attempt due to the expectation of failure. So...the best way to shield yourself from that possibility is to come up with all kinds of apparently logical reasons for not launching out.

Tiredness or sleep are marvelous reasons. Did you ever notice how tired you get when you are close to actually doing something difficult? Illness works well too. How can you possibly do it now when you feel so horrible??

And when all else fails, there is always the "You see I really don't have the time."

Of course you always somehow find time to do the things you really want to do.

And the final pronouncement: "It is really impossible, you know." And how can anyone argue with that? In the new era let's listen to Goethe who sings: "Whatever you can do or dream you can, begin it...Boldness has genius, power, and magic in it."

Talking to woman who had enrolled in the course on metaphysics that used to be given by Unity School by correspondence. "How are you doing?" "Great, it is wonderful?" "What lesson are you on?" "Oh, I am still on lesson one." "But you have been enrolled for five years!" "But I want to live each lesson and really master it before I move on." This is admirable, but it will take her 200 years to complete the course at that rate.

This reminds me of the student who asked the Truth teacher, "Should a sinner teach?" The answer, "Of course a sinner should teach, but he should not teach his sins." If we waited for perfect people, there would be no teachers.

Many Truth students have been subtly trapped in the "when" habit, saying about very sticky or even painful situations, "Everything will be all right." "At the right and perfect time, the way will open up, and things will be beautiful." But you see very subtly this is tied to the "When my luck changes...when my ship comes in...when I win the lottery" syndrome. But everything will not be all right, until you begin to positively tune in on the divine power of all-rightness, and this requires a change of consciousness, of habit patterns of thought and behaviour.

In other words, if you have faced an overwhelming reverse which has left you in the gutter of despair...you may be deluded into thinking that positive thinking is simply saying over and over, "Everything will be all right." Everything will not be all right until you begin thinking out-of-the-gutter-thoughts.

You may express great confidence in the belief that someday you are going to be healed. You may even say, "When I recover from this illness..." ~~xxxxxxx~~ implying that then you will begin to live. If someone were to ask you if you would not like to be healed right now, you might reply, "Well of course, but..." And with that little word "but" you have witnessed your belief in restriction. What you want for yourself, you must accept now or possibly never have it.

THERE IS NO FUTURE IN THE ETERNAL NOW OF INFINITE MIND. THE ONLY DEMONSTRATION THERE IS OR EVER WAS, IS IN GOD'S KINGDOM WITHIN YOU, AND THAT IS IN THE ETERNAL NOW.

One of the problems with the typical prayer or treatment is that it directly or subtly deals with futurity. You see, if you think of a problem as something to be solved in time...you will be praying that God will heal you, or that a new demonstration of supply will be made... so unconsciously you relegate it to the street of 'by and by'. People often ask why prayer is not answered. This is most often the reason.

Don't pray to get better...pray for wholeness now. Don't pray that you will find a job... affirm that you are in your right place now. Don't treat that you may become a better person... affirm that you are now God's perfect expression, that you know it, and show it.

And remember, the Amen at the end of your prayer does not mean "maybe", or "I certainly hope so", or "It will surely be wonderful when..." Amen means "so be it", "it is done."

What is a year? We know about the earth's rotation around the sun. Yet in an age of space-consciousness, it is not too much to imagine being out in space, away from the solar system with no sun to rotate around, no sunset and no sunrise. Now, what is a year? Obviously, it is more psychological than astronomical. A year is a convenient means of keeping track of footprints in the sands, but the winds of change soon blow them away, leaving only the allness of eternity.

A year may be an important slide-rule for fiscal accounting, it may encompass a season for a sports team, or a unit of work for a student. But it has little relevance as a measurement of life. We say "This is my tenth year on this job...or this is the year of my 50th birthday.... or this is the year 1986." But what does all that mean? It is like labeling the waves of the ocean. Here comes wave number 6527934596231. Silly, isn't it? For a wave is a wave, no matter how many have gone before or how many will come after.

Time is not a passing phenomena, but the unfoldment of an infinite potential. I love the thought of Carlyle: "Every day that is born into the world comes like a burst of music, and rings itself all the day through; and thou shalt make of it a dance, a dirge, or a life-march, as thou wilt."

A beautiful realization of Truth is: "WHEREVER I AM, GOD IS." In the coming year, wherever you may be in time or space, God is with you and within you. You cannot get outside of the presence. Even more important is the realization, "Wherever I am, I AM." In January or June, or in April or December, I AM. It is the one sure thing about the year for you: I AM. If you would be in the creative flow in facing any situation that comes to you, start what you do with I AM. Hold this realization: "I can do what I want to do and be what I want to be, if I know that I AM." This simply says, that the source, the substance, the fountain is within, and ever present.

A year for most of us is a microcosm of our life. We set out with high hopes, but so many things interfere, and we finally reveal a constant pattern of unfinished business. How many plans do we make and give up on after barely starting. How many books do we set out to read and then, interrupted, never return to? How many projects in and around home can you find that have been left unfinished.

The question is...Why do we stop before completion? Why this constant pattern of unfinished business? Basically it is that we forget that the Kingdom of God is within, that we have an ever-present resource within by which to do what needs to be done. "FOR A WEB BEGUN, GOD SENDS THE THREAD.." (National Library, D.C. We start things but we are not centered. We look forward to having things, but we do not look forward from the awareness of the Presence, the present supply of life and guidance.

And because we are not centered, we scatter our forces. In our complex society there are hundreds of attractions vying for our attention and involvement. Ads appeal to us to enroll in this course, to get into that program of body building and weight reduction, read this book, learn to write, to paint, to sew. So the average person is a house divided. And many persons have two jobs, most persons have a number of "irons in the fire," and everyone is interested in more things than one can really put his heart and soul into.

One man was being honored for his great achievements.. He said, "I seem to have been born utterly without the faculty of doing more than one thing at a time.

3 The thing that counts more than anything in planning the journey into the new era of growth, is that you are a spiritual being with the power to think and assess and plan. Thus history is in your hands. All that has happened in the past year, even in the past 5,000 years, has simply been provisional and preparatory. The ball has now been passed to you and me. We can make out of the time ahead what we will.

now There never has been and -there never can be an abrogation of the law of consciousness:

"AS YOU THINK YOU TRAVEL. YOU ARE TODAY WHERE YOUR THOUGHTS HAVE BROUGHT YOU. YOU WILL BE TOMORROW WHERE YOUR THOUGHTS TAKE YOU. YOU CANNOT ESCAPE THE RESULTS OF YOUR THOUGHTS. IN YOUR HANDS WILL BE PLACED THE EXACT RESULT OF YOUR THINKING. YOU WILL RECEIVE THAT WHICH YOU EARN: NO MORE AND NO LESS."

intro Often in essays about the coming new year, we are treated to a lot of flattery about the marvels of science and technology that have come from the intellect of man. We will feel that "if we can put a man on the moon we can find answers to war and human relations, poverty, pollution, and the hunger in the world.

Thought has not solved our problems and never will. We have relied on the intellect to show us the way out of our complexity. The more cunning, the more subtle the intellect is, the greater the variety of systems and theories and ideas. But the way of thought is not the way out. The more we think about a problem, the more complex and uncertain it becomes - unless and until the light comes. And where does that light come from?

It could well be that the great problem in the world today is that we have tried to deal with life without a valid insight into our own nature. We may have based our lives on inadequate premises, inadequate values, and inadequate goals. Thus we compound the problems of the world by dealing with things in this same limited view. In the past 50 years we have taken a step upward in human evolution beyond the limitations of materialism and determinism. But now we are enmeshed in the problem of intellectualism. But we may be on the verge of a new breakthrough. The day of intellectualism is passing, and the dawning of the era of transcendence, of intuition, of the wisdom that comes from the heart - is upon us.

As we come closer to the threshold of the new year 1986, we are about to enter a new era. Look forward in faith in a whole new direction for your life and a whole new unfoldment for our world. And as the year winds down and people excitedly cry "Happy New Year!" -- you can add a dimension of consciousness by declaring, "HAPPY NEW ERA!" and of course, the blessing, "HAPPY NEW YOU."

intro A year is too much for the human mind to comprehend. It is like trying to comprehend a trillion dollars that congress is always talking about referring to the national debt. It is too much, but we can comprehend a dollar...and a day.

A day is the experience framed between waking up in the morning and dropping off to sleep at night. It is "new" only to the extent that with new vigor and fresh enthusiasm we can launch into the activity of living. The only difference between this day and yesterday is the state of your mind. Today I may feel good, so this is a good day. Perhaps yesterday you were depressed, so it was a terrible day.

now In every day we unfold many of the infinite possibilities of life. Only a few of them do you see, and a small percentage of them are actually realized. But a possibility can never be less than a possibility. Thus in tomorrow and tomorrow and tomorrow it continues to unfold. This means that a new day is really a fresh opportunity to move in the field of possibilities which are constant. A year is a convenient device for keeping track of things historically and economically, and it is an amazingly helpful device for self-evaluation. But a year is not a thing...and 1986 most certainly will make no automatic collection of toll on life and living. You will really be no older in 1986 than you were in 1985,, but you will be a little wiser, or you should be.

Poem by an unknown author:

"I knew his face the moment that he passed
Triumphant in the thoughtless, cruel throng -
I gently touched his arm - he smiled at me -
He was the person that once I meant to be!

Where I had failed, He'd won from life, success;
Where I had stumbled, with sure feet he stood;
Alike - yet unlike, - we faced the world,
And through the stress he found that life was good.
And I? The bitter wormwood in the glass,
The shadowed way along which failures pass!

Yet as I saw him thus, joy came to me -
He was the person that once I meant to be!

We did not speak. But in his sapient eyes
I saw the spirit that had urged him on,
The courage that had held him through the flight
Had once been mine. I thought, "Can it be gone?"
He felt that unasked question - felt it so
His pale lips formed the one-word answer, "No!"

Too late to win? No! Not too late for me -
He is the person that still I mean to be!"

As you make your contract, may you find and follow that person...and may you become that person in 1986.

This is a very special year for me...one in which you have played a very important part. It is the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Unit- Center in New York, and it is the 25th Anniversary of my ministry in New York. Silver and gold. We will be celebrating these milestones in several ways through the year...and we want you to be a part of it.

In describing the work of Jesus, Paul says that "He went about doing good." It could be said that all sound policy in business and all sound practice in social life are based on this principle.

I cannot accumulate much experience in life without learning that most of the things I do must be done for others, even when my primary purpose is to accomplish something for myself. To earn a wage I must work for an employer. To work effectively for an employer I must see my opportunities to serve him. To be successful in a business of my own I must see opportunities to serve my customers, to attract more customers. I must learn and remember the ways of my public, its likes and dislikes, its habits. I must observe.

Newspaper people speak of a reporter developing a "nose for news". We need to develop a nose for opportunity to be helpful and inspiring and constructive in our life with others. It is the helpful, inspiring, constructive people who are going to heal the hurts of this self-wounded old world, and it is to them that the world will bring ultimately a grateful reward.

God watches over kind people. They are His special concern. Not the pretentious or ostentatiously kind that parade their kindness...but the really kind, genuinely kind, the secretly kind. Kindness is love in action, and God is love. We want to look for opportunity to do good. We will always see it if we look carefully. We can develop the habit, the power. It will enrich our life more than anything else we shall ever do. It will help us to enjoy ourselves more than anything else. It will keep us young, fill our days with happiness and our nights with peace. It will turn our world into heaven-

Perhaps you think you do not know how to begin living a new life, making each new day begin a new era of growth. Often we want to do good, but we do not see the opportunity. We have even

Pressure

Need to keep centered in the creative flow. There can be no pressure if you are at peace. When you are centered within, you walk easily through things, for you are in charge -- not the clock or calendar or economy or world conditions or fear of the future or worry over the past. Out there in the world there may be a variety of things that might normally give rise to pressure...but you can cope.

Growth

Reach for the highest, but be grateful for how far you have come. Be patient with yourself/ Give yourself the privilege of occasionally missing the mark without self-condemnation.

When you are centered you will be able to keep up a busy schedule, and carry heavy loads, and produce great amounts of work without strain or pressure. For there is a place of central calm at the eye of every storm, so there is always a center of repose within any arena of work

Love: One can never be fully alive if he is engaging in resentment, or bitterness, or downright hatred. -It is a terrible burden to dislike people, even to be critical. All it does is cover up a perpetual pain in our own heart. It is so much easier to love people, to be patient with them, even to forgive their errant ways.

Henry Drummond says: "Life is full of opportunities for learning love. The world is not a playground, it is a schoolroom. Life is not a holiday but an education, and the one eternal lesson for all of us is how better we can love."

If you discover some kind of resistance, enmity, prejudice, or even petty annoyance, it is time to go within, to realize that it is an opportunity to learn love, and thus awaken to a new level of life. Stir up the gift of God (love) within you, get yourself centered in the love flow, and as Teilhard says, You may "rediscover fire."

Discipline: There is a widespread belief that "discipline" means repression or suppression. You do not become a student of Truth by suppressing contradictory thoughts and superimposing on them new insights of Truth (program the mind with Truth ideas). The need is for a disciplined commitment - commitment to a great idea. Love of Truth, not resistance to error. Commitment to the idea of the deeper possibilities of your nature...and toward positive responses to all life's situations.

Now

Keep out of the past: Common human tendency to look backward in feelings of nostalgia, grief, regret, guilt, anger, and resistance to change. Tendency to assume that past solutions are the only answers to the problems of today. Common human mistake of trying to change something that happened in the past. Unconscious attempt to unhappen them. Major cause of unhappiness. But it has happened. Let it be! So you made a mistake, failed, or come up short of your goal? And you are embarrassed or chagrined? It is done. There is no reason to regret that you acted as you did then, for that is where you were in consciousness then - and that should be the end of it. Now, if you can see that what you did then is not as you would like it to be, it proves that you have grown and the lesson has been learned - so let it go. As the Chinese saying puts it: "The fault is not in falling down. It is lying there."

IF A DAY IS WORTH LIVING AT ALL, IT IS WORTH LIVING IN A HIGH STATE OF CONSCIOUSNESS.

So at the beginning of every day, make a firm resolution that you will stir up within you a new daring, a new boldness to launch out in truth. Resolve that you will think in terms of possibilities instead of difficulties. Set a goal for yourself to think of the end-result as a present possibility. You do this when you worry, turn it around and do it in faith.

Growth

AVOID THE COMPARISON GAME: "Smarter than" "Not as smart as" "prettier than" "not as pretty as" You are you! Use your own standards. You are intelligent because you can do that thing you want to do. You know you are attractive, because you are being and expressing who you are. Why set someone else's standard of attractiveness. It is absurd to run your life on the basis of comparison with others. You are incomparable, unique and wonderful...and growing. Of course keep reaching for the heights, not so you may be better than someone else, but so that you will be better than your former self.

~~6~~

Here is an experiment that may prove startling: Without looking at your watch....s the figure six on the dial a Roman or an Aragic numeral - VI or 6? The face of your watch is one of the most familiar objects in your environment. You may be perfectly sure thatl you know exactly how the figure lsix looks. You probably look at it twenty times a day. All ight, now look at it.

Surprised? There may be a few of you that were correct. But for most of us...we discover that our -watch may have no figurelsix at all...the second dial with a second hand is right where the six ought to be. And if there is no second hand, your watch might have simplyl a series of marks without numbels. lOr evenl if there is a lsix it might be arabic or Roman. The likelihood of ur being correct was pretty small.

We are simply interested in indicating how limited are our powers of observation. So wen we look for opportunities we may see none, where they may be all around us.

⑦

The word contract comes from the root words meaning "to draw together." To make a contract with God is to get a sense of oneness, which is the perfect contract. You can make a contract with a person, which will draw you together in a common activity.

N Psalm 37: 5 "Commit your way to the Lord" = to make a contract with divine law an experience a continuity of action. Problem of unfinished business.

3 Quitting jobs before completion, procrastination, accumulation of unfinished projects in desks and closets.

Select one as a symbolic gesture and finish it. 1 Become a finisher.

Hezekiah, "And in every work he began he did it with all his heart, and prospered."

6 A few years ago in Detroit there was a newspaper story of a man who went blind on his way to work. Just like that and the "lights went out." What a tragedy! What a cruel stroke of fate! He could have cursed fate and stopped everything right there. and no one would have blamed him. But...he continued right on to work and took his place as his typewriter machine and did his work as a court reporter. He had been told six months before that this would happen. He had made a contract with life...He would continue with his productive life...and life would ceaselessly flow through him.

You may wonder, "But if life is whole, and if prayer works, why couldn't he be healed. The important thing is he could sing with the blind ploughman, "God who took away my eyes that my soul should see."

Walt Whitman's great contract:

"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."

I, _____, BEING OF SOUND MIND, AND EAGER TO PROGRESS IN SPIRITUAL GROWTH IN THE YEAR 1986, DO HEREBY COMMIT MYSELF TO A NEW ERA OF DISCIPLINED PRACTICE OF TRUTH

AS I TAKE INVENTORY OF MY LIFE, AND THE MANY THINGS THAT SHOULD BE DONE BY ME, I RESOLVE NO LONGER TO POSTPONE ACTION IN PROCRASTINATION. RECEPTIVELY I LISTEN TO THE POET AS HE SINGS, "WHATEVER YOU CAN DO OR DREAM YOU CAN, BEGIN IT... BOLDNESS HAS GENIUS, POWER, AND MAGIC IN IT."

KNOWING THAT THERE IS NO FUTURE IN THE ETERNAL NOW OF INFINITE MIND... I DO NOT PRAY TO BE HEALED... I AFFIRM WHOLENESS NOW. I DO NOT PRAY THAT I WILL FIND A JOB... I AFFIRM THAT I AM IN MY RIGHT PLACE NOW. I DO NOT PRAY THAT I MAY BECOME A BETTER PERSON... I AFFIRM THAT I AM NOW GOD'S PERFECT ~~SELF~~ EXPRESSION. I ~~KNOW~~ IT, AND I SHOW IT.

I RESOLVE TO RENEW MY COMMITMENT EVERY DAY TO THE REALIZATION, "WHEREVER I AM, GOD IS." WHEREVER I MAY BE IN TIME OR SPACE, GOD IS WITH ME AND WITHIN ME. AND I PERSONALIZE THIS PRINCIPLE BY KNOWING, "WHEREVER I AM, I AM." IN JANUARY OR JUNE, IN APRIL OR DECEMBER, I AM. IT IS THE ONE SURE THING ABOUT THE YEAR 1986 FORMER I AM. I AFFIRM "I CAN DO WHAT I WANT TO DO, AND BE WHAT I WANT TO BE, BECAUSE I KNOW THAT I AM."

I RESOLVE TO HAVE GLORIOUS SPACES IN EACH DAY, LIKE PARKS IN A CROWDED CITY, WHERE I CAN GET IN TUNE WITH MYSELF, AND WITH THE ORDER AND ENERGY OF THE UNIVERSE. AND I WILL REMEMBER TO TURN TO THESE SPACES WHENEVER I EXPERIENCE TENSION OR FATIGUE OR DISCOURAGEMENT.

I KNOW THAT A YEAR IS NOT ATHING, AND CERTAINLY WILL NOT COLLECT A TOLL ON LIFE AND LIVING, THUS I WILL BE NO OLDER IN 1986 THAN IN 1985. BUT I WILL BE WISER AND HAPPIER. AND AS I COME TO THE END OF THE YEAR, I WILL BE ABLE TO SAY: "I HAVE LIVED."

AS I KEEP THE HIGH WATCH OF TRUTH IN EVERY DAY OF THIS NEW ERA OF MY LIFE, I FULLY EXPECT AND ACCEPT AN OUTFORMATION OF HEALTH IN MY BODY, SECURITY IN MY AFFAIRS, AND LOVE AND HARMONY ~~IN~~ ALL MY RELATIONSHIPS. AND... AS I REACH OUTWARD INTO THE WORLD OUT THERE, I ACCEPT AND ~~AND~~ EXPECT THE REALIZATION OF PEACE FOR THE WHOLE HUMAN FAMILY.

IN DEDICATION AND FAITH I MAKE THIS COMMITMENT.

my SIGNATURE OF COMMITMENT

WITNESSED AND PRAYERFULLY SUPPORTED BY:

OPB

EP

Contract For A Happy New Era

I, _____, being of sound mind, and eager to progress in spiritual growth in the year 1986, do hereby commit myself to a new era of disciplined practice of Truth.

As I take inventory of my life and the many things that should be done by me, I resolve no longer to postpone action in procrastination. Receptively I listen to the poet as he sings, "Whatever you can do or dream you can, begin it. Boldness has genius, power, and magic in it."

Knowing that there is no future in the eternal now of Infinite Mind, I do not pray to be healed. I affirm wholeness now. I do not pray that I will find a job. I affirm that I am in my right place now. I do not pray that I may become a better person. I affirm that I am now God's perfect expression. I know it, and I show it.

I resolve to renew my commitment every day to the realization, "Wherever I am, God is." Wherever I may be in time or space, God is with me and within me. And I personalize this principle by knowing, "Wherever I am, I AM." In January or June, in April or December, I AM. It is the one sure thing about the year 1986 for me: I AM. I affirm, "I can do what I want to do and be what I want to be, because I know that I AM."

I resolve to have glorious spaces in each day, like parks in a crowded city, where I can get in tune with myself and with the order and energy of the Universe. And I will remember to turn to these spaces whenever I experience tension or fatigue or discouragement.

I know that a year is not a thing, and certainly will not collect a toll on life and living, thus I will be no older in 1986 than in 1985. But I will be wiser and happier. And as I come to the end of the year, I will be able to say, "I have lived."

As I keep the high watch of Truth in every day of this new era of my life, I fully expect and accept an outflow of health in my body, security in my affairs, and love and harmony in all my relationships. And...as I reach outward into the world out there, I accept and expect the realization of peace for the whole human family.

In dedication and faith I make this commitment.

(my signature of commitment)

Witnessed and prayerfully supported by:

Olga Butterworth Eric Butterworth