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ABIDING PRESENCE

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by

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* Abiding Presence

We are here today to pay loving homage and not to grieve, to express gratitude and not to sorrow, and to acknowledge with deep and profound appreciation the great privilege bestowed on us of association with this wonderful woman, Be Huber.

All who loved her and all whom she loved have found in her a miraculous channel of spiritual enrichment, an eternal procession of benefaction radiating into a world of time. She represents an eternal mansion prepared and being prepared in time and space. Her abiding presence, her truly wonderful and timeless self, redeems

*Panegyric for Be Huber
March 27, 1957

all aspects of temporality, past, present, and future.

She is prophetically pictured and pre-figured from the past in the 31st chapter of Proverbs. In the searching light of spiritual scrutiny she is revealed.

*Who can find a virtuous woman?
for her price is far above rubies.

The heart of her husband doth safely
trust in her . . .

She will do him good and not evil all
the days of her life . . .

She perceiveth that her merchandise
is good: her candle goeth not out by
night . . .

She stretcheth out her hand to the
poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hand
to the needy . . .

Strength and honor are her clothing;
and she shall rejoice in time to come.
She openeth her mouth with wisdom;
and in her tongue is the law of kind-
ness.

She looketh well to the ways of her

*Proverbs 31

household, and eateth not the bread
of idleness.

Her children arise up, and call her
blessed . . .

Many [children] have done virtuous-
ly, but [she, the mother] excellest
them all.

Favor is deceitful, and beauty is vain:
but a woman that feareth the Lord,
she shall be praised.

Give her of the fruit of her hands;
and let her own works praise her in
the gates.

"How wonderful it all is!" These were the words Be Huber kept repeating to me last Saturday morning when she came to see me. She told me all about her "wonderful" family and all the "wonderful" perceptions that kept coming to her about everyone and everything. Certainly her great sense of wonderment was praising her in the Gates. Her Abiding Mansions were present and were transfiguring every

experience of her life.

Our Lord's own words confirm the wonder of present and future wonders.

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, if a man keep my words, he shall never see death."

And then again:

"Even though he were dead, yet shall he live."

What is the significance of these wonderful words that Be Huber kept in her heart? What does it really mean at a time like this when death seems to be overshadowing life?

Let us consider the same words according to the Greek translation.

In the light of two translations, what may seem obscure in one may be illumined by the other without eliminating any of the correct meaning.

"If a man observe My Word, he shall

not *notice* death unto eternity." Our Lord is not promising exemption from the physical incident called death; actually, He is bestowing a greater wonder in the promise that when a person's mind is turned toward Eternity and observes in all situations the Word of God, death in the physical sense must be irrelevant to perception; that is, one will not notice death in the sense that one who had never perceived the true and eternal significance of life would.

It is to be observed that the Lord's promise is, a positive immunity in the midst of all the physical incidents that obscure the reality of our abiding life in the Eternal Mansions.

The Lord Himself did not seek exemption from the physical incident of death. He went through the experience, trium-

phant every step of the way. Actually to go through death and emerge glorified, is more wonderful than merely to escape from the physical incident. Therefore the promise is given with authority that one who keeps the Word of God and is turned toward the eternal Presence, shall not see nor notice death at all; not because of heedlessness or blindness, but because of attention and true vision. Death will be entirely irrelevant to such a one. And such a one is Be Huber. Even if to you she may seem dead, yet does she live. She would not have you ignorant concerning this truth.

Eternal Life is not mere endless continuance. It is a revelation of a new quality of being, a fullness, a complete and perfect participation in the Divine Mansions prepared and being prepared for

our enjoyment. Eternal Life is not in terms of future, but is in terms of God.

In the Gospel of St. John, Chapter 14, we have these words of our Lord recorded for us:

*In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

What are these mansions, and how are they prepared if they are already provided? These mansions are the eternal abiding places predestined for us by God Himself. In one sense they already are, as having been from all eternity; yet from another, they are being prepared for our actual realization of them. Saint Augustine explains that these mansions are being prepared, in a certain sense, by pre-

*St. John 14:2

paring occupants for them. That inner preparation becomes the actual realization through keeping our mind and heart turned toward the wonderful Word of God. Be Huber is the actual realization of such preparation. Because she is this to all whom she loved and to all who loved her, we pay homage today with our gratitude. We rejoice and are not sad, for we know she prepared a place for us, not in future life, but in God.

*So then this house of God, this temple of God, this kingdom of God and kingdom of heaven, is still in building, still in fashioning, still in preparation, still in gathering. In it there will be mansions, even as the Lord is now preparing them; in it there are already mansions as the Lord hath foreordained them.

*Cf. St. Augustine Homily LXVIII on St. John XIV

. . . for Thou art preparing us for Thyself, and Thyself for us, inasmuch as Thou art preparing a place both for Thyself in us, and for us in Thee. For Thou hast said, "Abide in Me, and I in you." . . . What meaneth it that Thou goest? What, that Thou comest? If I understand Thee aright, Thou withdrawest not Thyself either from the place Thou goest from, or from the place Thou comest from. Thou goest by concealing, and comest by revealing Thyself. . . .

TWENTY-THIRD PSALM

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in

the presence of mine enemies: thou
anointest my head with oil; my cup
runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall fol-
low me all the days of my life: and I
will dwell in the house of the Lord
for ever.

THE LORD'S PRAYER .

Our Father who art in heaven, Hal-
lowed by Thy name.

Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done
on earth, as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our supersubstantial
bread.

And forgive us our debts, as we for-
give our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but
deliver us from evil. Amen.

BENEDICTION

*All the Presence there is,
All the Power there is,
All the Consciousness there is,
Is *Love*, the *Living Spirit Almighty*.

*AXIOMS: Book of Health
by George Edwin Burnell, page 80.



