

An aerial photograph of a wide, calm river flowing through a vast, dense tropical rainforest. The river's surface is a deep blue, reflecting the sky and the surrounding greenery. The forest is a rich, vibrant green, with the canopy appearing as a textured sea of leaves. The river starts from the top center of the frame and winds its way down towards the bottom, creating a clear path through the wilderness. The overall atmosphere is serene and majestic.

The Way
of
Sophia

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Preface

What makes people wise? The answer is, they perceive life as it is. They trained their intuitive sense to notice the threads of truth within all human systems and in life as a whole. They are open-minded people who never let their minds closed by sectionalized ideas and beliefs. *They drink the water of life wherever it is flowing.*

The problems of the world will persist unless people become wise. This booklet is a summary of how you should approach some crucial aspects of life.

The ideas contained in this booklet support your desire to be happy. Your happiness will be more blissful if you did not have to be sad over the ills of this world caused by the divisions which religious, political, and racial ideologies have fostered. You will be happier if you can enjoy the journey of life with someone totally unlike you without fear of being secretly hated against. You will be happier to know that people are no longer being oppressed or bombed for not following the religion of another. You will be happier if you can reach your goals without the obstacles that come from people not liking you on account of your background and personality.

The Way of Sophia offers counsel to make your life happier and more dignified. This is what The Sophia Club lives for. It will be beautiful if you join us in spreading wisdom to those close to you. It is a worthy purpose to live for. Though happiness is not the purpose of life, you will find happiness when you are living a purpose for your life and also enjoying a healthy relationship with others based on the inspirations of wisdom.

May your happiness never run out. May you constantly stay wise.

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1.

The Way of Wisdom

Have you ever wondered about where you were before you showed up on the scene of material life? Where were you before you were born on Earth? Did you just show up at birth or were you somewhere else before then?

Different cultures around the world have different beliefs about pre-birth existence. Some say heaven is the natural home of every person from where they came to earth. Others say distant worlds are home to some of us and we came to earth for a mission or visit and would return home when we have accomplished our work. A large portion of the scientific community thinks we were nowhere and that material existence is all that we have and at death, each person ceases to exist.

Before material birth, there was Consciousness. You existed as a conscious and self-aware being in a realm of consciousness where other conscious beings populate; a realm different from, but the same with, this material realm. There, you had no label of race, nationality, tribe, or religious affiliation. There, you were not even a human being.

The consequence of taking on a human form is the labelling that you and every other person on Earth have had to take on by the place of birth where Life assigned a body for you. The unspoken test of life is how you will see through the labels on others to freely enjoy life with them because, as it is, we are all from the same Ocean of Oneness.

On the way of wisdom, all labels are non-existent. There, no one is Christian, no one is Muslim, no one is Buddhist, or Hinduist, or any identity of the many *religious lenses* through which life is viewed and experienced. All these beliefs and ideologies are simply what they are – *lenses*. They are not the person; they are frames through which the person interprets the mysteries of life.

So, a lot of people have come, and many more coming, to the realisation that *there is no single book that is in itself the word of God but the words of God are in every book*, even in the nursery rhymes of the toddler. It takes coming to this realisation to walk on the way of wisdom.

On the way of wisdom, you overlook the errors within all religious and political ideas and embrace the truths in them so that you can love your neighbour as yourself through whatever labels they cream on themselves.

On the way of wisdom, *humanity is the only religion*. It is for humanity that we sing, it is for humanity that we write, it is for humanity that we go on the adventures of the soul, and not for any label.

2.

The Way of Love

Most people misinterpret the admonition to love others as themselves. They imagine too much of a responsibility in expressing genuine love to those who are not family or friends to them, especially to those who they do not like and those who are not attractive or welcoming to them. The ultimate test of genuine love is in how you express it to people who are very different from you, who do not share common interests and beliefs with you and who do not fit into your ideal of beauty or attraction. It is easy to express love to your friends and members of your family because the connection is already there with them. But it is not the same as loving your enemies, not the same as loving those who think you are inferior to them as a result of your race, religious or educational backgrounds, or your ideology.

Humane love is not romantic and it does not consist of forced affection for the other person. True love is compassion for the shared life you have with the other, for the fact that you are members with them in the family of humanity.

Humane love is considering that the other has a right to be and that your right to be and to become whatever you want to be should in no way hurt the right of the other to be and to become.

Humane love understands human weaknesses and the influence of various experiences of life as causes for some people being hateful, resentful, bitter, and suspicious of other people. It is about choosing to see the beauty of the person in their condition.

Love is not a feeling; love is a state of being. Stripped of all labels, everyone is the same with everyone, glued together by the same love upon which all of Creation came into being. Hate is not the opposite of love. Hate is an anomaly. Lovelessness is the opposite of love and it takes being dead at the level of consciousness to be loveless. At the heart of hearts of all of human beings, no one is an enemy to another because, at the most basic level of life, the labels which cause hate and division are nonexistent. On the way of wisdom, by genuine love, we break through the screens of prejudice and see the other for who they are, beyond their labels. On the way of wisdom, all the different races of humanity are one family with a variety of cultural expressions because it pleases Nature that in the garden of humanity, there should be varieties of flowers, each flower adding beauty to the garden as a whole.

On the way of wisdom, by genuine love, you can sit with a Christian, a Muslim, a Hinduist, an Atheist, and a Pagan, and share the heat of the campfire, chewing on berries and telling one another the learnings and victories along the journey of life.

On the way of love, we do not merely *tolerate* the other for having different ideas from ours. Toleration may mean that we agree that they are wrong but let us overlook them so that we may keep conflict away. On the way of love, we *understand* others. We understand that they are beautiful humans with labels and we are seeing through these labels so that if they have the same mind as us, we may dine together and give adoration to God for the opportunity to experience this life together as human beings.

3.

The Way of Nobility

You are worthy. It pleased all the forces of life to usher and welcome you into consciousness, and into being human. The hardship of life, the toiling at the mill, the drudgery to make bread, and all the blemishes that result from labour and illness do not take away the fact that you are a wonderful being of the Universe.

You are not born sinful. You are born innocent and beautiful, born as a seed with the potential to grow into a source of beauty and strength.

You are royalty and within you the stars take habitation; within you, God has a temple. You have to keep this in mind about your awesomeness. How you lead your life will come from your acceptance and alignment to the truth of your being. If you fall off the way, the first cause is that you did not know yourself or forgot who you were. *He that is lost on the way will find a way back home if he but finds a way back to who he is.*

People go about with a sense of unworthiness because they have been made to think and feel that they are so. They are labelled subhuman, outcasts, and placed outside of the community of God's *chosen* people.

Not knowing that they are creatures of beauty, people go about as *soiled diamonds*, their dignity buried by layers of lies and deceit and their daily experiences characterized by self-hate, rage and malice towards others. They go on surviving and waiting for the time when they will escape their lives of misery through death. Blessed are they who reach for the truth of their being and come out of the mire of ignominy and slavery to lies and deception. They will stand as victors on the way of wisdom and be a light to those wading out of the mire.

There are no special people on Earth. God has no favourite, chosen people. All of humanity are the citizens of Earth. There is essentially no class. There is only Oneness in Variety, and it pleases us that it is so.

Will you continue to look at yourself through false eyes? How a man sees himself determines how he treats himself. What you seek out for, what you demand, and what comes to you will reflect how you hold yourself at the subconscious level of your being.

You are of noble birth, because your origin is in God, and God is Noble. Why then should you, or anyone, live below dignity, graciousness, decency, and righteousness?

Unpleasant physical environments are not the reality but are the images of the wrongness of the definition that people have about themselves. Deserts have been transformed into fruitful lands and slums into havens because people decided to make their physical environments fit the beauty of their souls.

You deserve good things in life. You deserve to live right, eat right, rest right, and express the beauty of your soul. You deserve a dignified life, the noble life. You have it because you deserved it.

Now, polish your diamond. Brush off every dross, every false idea about yourself and your place in life. Destroy every thought of you being low, inferior, insufficient, and incapable of great deeds. Water the truth of your being: you are worthy, beautiful, creative, and free to become what is from with your soul.

Ennoble your physical life to reflect the beauty that you are inside. Within your means, seek to live a good and respectable life. Cultivate righteousness. Discipline yourself with high values and ideals and superior goals. Avoid substances that poison your soul, and shun a lifestyle that enforces the lie that you are unworthy of a dignified life.

4.

The Way of Seeking and Learning

There is no manual to life. And the reason is simple. Humans unfold themselves on the journey to explore and understand the dynamics of life. The life-goal, then, is to crown the effort of seeking and learning with the bodies of knowledge and wisdom that consequently result in a community of strong, wise, and powerful individuals.

Life is an adventure and too many discoveries are placed on the way of adventure for those daring enough to go on the journey. The thrills in life are in the game of hide and seek. Nature hides; we seek and find. What we seek to know is here with us but you have to wade through the unknown to find the known.

It is arrogance and a symptom of close-mindedness to think that all that can be known in life are all contained within one religion. A simple study into the religions of the world shows that all of them have precious guidance for the human soul, despite their inadequacies.

And to think that humanity has known all that can be known, or that, by revelation, all that can be known has been known, is an equally grave error. This kind of thinking is anti-progress.

Knowledge is not complete within one religion, but knowledge can be found within all religions. On the way of wisdom, you embrace all the flickering lights within all religions to illuminate your path. That you cannot find a term in your religion for a truthful realisation as it exists in another religion doesn't mean you should throw it off. Truth comes to us through different tongues and hearts. It makes the experience all the more fun and worthwhile.

Seeking is not for the grand truths of life alone. It is not about only understanding what spirit is or how atoms come into being; it is not about understanding abstract concepts alone. Seeking is about understanding yourself because within you is a world of wonder, and certain places you reach within you will point you to certain places in life.

On the way of wisdom, seeking and learning are rewarding and the wise clings on to every opportunity to learn and grow.

5.

The Way of Growing

Too many people live mediocre lives because they find comfort in the faulty perception they have of themselves. Real growth entails changing perceptions and this is something many people run away from. They do not want their world, which stands upon their erroneous self-perception, to be destroyed. Since they are not willing to be or do anything outside of such perception, they do not grow.

A plant that is not exposed to lots of water and sunlight will not grow; it becomes unattractive, withers and dies. The person also who doesn't expose him or herself to opportunities for growth will not grow but wither and kill their potential. No matter the adornment they wear on themselves if they are uninteresting to be with they can sour your relationship with them. What you know makes you interesting to be with. What you know should come about through intentional learning and the wisdom from experiences.

Your personality is enhanced from constant learning because learning brings enlightenment. Enlightenment reveals your flaws and weaknesses and empowers you to correct them or to build on your strengths in place of them.

Enlightenment is letting go of beliefs that are not beneficial to you. Because certain things are true for others doesn't mean they are true for you. Wisdom will reveal this to you.

Diversify your learning. Learn outside your field of training. Learn outside your religion. Learn outside your culture. Take note of information that comes your way and squeeze out learning from them. Apply what you learn in understanding yourself and the world better. Do yourself the favour of expunging from your mind those deep-seated errors and beliefs from decades of cultural education. Sometimes, some wished-for breakthroughs of certain people only come when they break through the rigid walls of past learning and beliefs.

Self-awareness reveals the weeds around the beautiful garden of some people's lives, but many are too stuck in their ways to care about uprooting the weeds. Sadly, they are smart at watering the weeds, rather than nourishing the garden of their lives. On the way of wisdom, you uproot weeds and water your garden.

6.

The Way of Creativity

There are some basic features of the human experience that we all agree are *natural*. Examples of these are sleeping and waking, eating, drinking, excretion, having sex, working, and earning. Then we take it further to talking and laughing, dancing, and crying. To many people, these are their only natural experiences of being humans. It sounds strange telling some people that also *being creative* is as natural as everything humans do naturally.

What is creativity? Broadly speaking, it is the natural artistic expression of the human soul. We are all artists at the core of our being. No time is this truth most demonstrated than during childhood. Children express artistry through what they find around them. Children use objects, words, and themselves, to express the creative wiring of their souls. Many people have parents who were not being creative when they were born. But, as they experienced childhood, they freely played with creativity while their parents watched, reminded of how they too *used to be so*. So, we cannot say people are creative as a result of hereditary. You sure have part of your parents in you and can do like they did creatively. But, you can do yours uniquely because you have your natural constitution for creativity.

Like the gift of breath, creativity is a gift of life. Every human has it embedded in their being. You have the talent to be creative. You are good at something and can be good at many things.

Being creative makes your life beautiful; creativity gives your life meaning. Creativity fuels purpose and strengthens your mind. Creativity is not only about creating material things but also in transforming your life and finding innovative ways to improve your environment. Life did not begin with all the technologies readymade for our use. We came, we create, and we recreate so that material life can be enjoyable.

On the way of wisdom, you express creativity. You invent, you innovate, you recreate, and you destroy what no longer serves the order and then you bring up a new form or forms from it. You make things happen because you happened.

7.

The Way of Service

The greatness of every human being is not in how smart he or she is at amassing material things for personal enjoyment, but in how wise he or she is in serving others with these things.

Everyone can be great because everyone can serve. Greatness is in service. People of history who have the most impact on our lives were men and women of service. Consult the history books and you will find this to be true. They gave from themselves; some gave all that they had, even their lives, so that the life of at least one person could be made better.

At the heart of all humanitarian works is the understanding that we are all One Family co-experiencing life and are responsible for one another. Standing with this understanding is the truth that our lives matter more than all material things we possess and that true richness is the deposit of kindness into the heart of others.

Charity is an expression of genuine love. Genuine love seeks the betterment and happiness of the other. Charity is the offering we pay to Nature for the grace of life, the lessons, blessings, and wisdom of the human experience, and the beauty of existence as a whole. The more we have, the more we are to give. Charity is dignifying.

Money is not the only thing you can give as a charitable gesture, though money makes many things possible and you should give more of it to charity according to your purse. There are other things you can give that make you happy and the other fellow too. You can share knowledge by helping others learn from what you know. You can pay to support others sharing knowledge to help their work go very far. You can give cheerfully from your possession: those unused items, clothes, shoes, books, and the unused household furniture. Whatever that can leave your hand without reducing you, give!

On the way of wisdom, we are humanitarians, philanthropists. We take it as an obligation to perform charity through the varied expressions of it. We show love by serving others and we are loved by how we serve. We get replenished with strength and abundant resources to do more.

You should give of yourself as much as you can and see how there shall be more flowing to you to make you do more. You may start with ordering more copies of *The Way of Sophia* to be distributed to more people. Through the words of this booklet, they can learn and renew their minds on the truths of love, humanity, and wisdom. As their hearts become renewed with the waters of Sophia, they see clearly the bonds of love connecting all peoples and their hearts become sold out to the genuine expressions of love and to charity.

8.

The Oil of Sophia

(A prayer for more wisdom on the path of life)

Can the blind see? Can they without legs walk? Can a soul drink from the bosom of Sophia if it has no mouth to suck her breasts? Can a soul suck without energy? Can a soul see without light?

How do we come up into your most honoured Throne of Wisdom if our paths are fraught with darkness and the shadow of lies? Can our lamp shine without oil?

We beseech you, oh Wisdom, Open down your fountain and bath us. Let your waters cleanse us of all impurities that weaken our humility for your guidance. Let the residue of ill-education in our minds be driven away like chaff in the wind.

Fill me, oh Sophia, with oil. Fill my lamp. Renew my spirituality. Make my weakness my strength and my strength my glory.

I plead for more oil. Let me come to full knowledge as much as my well can contain. I am not satisfied with a cup of knowledge. Fill my well, for no man can comprehend Your ocean, oh Wisdom.

I plead for more oil, to power up my lamp, to make me see in me what I am not yet seeing. To make me see the world as You made it, to keep the beauty of my brethren before my eyes so that I do not devalue the one you value.

I plead for more oil, to strengthen my bones, and increase my years more than I ask for.

I plead for more oil to embolden my resolve to confront the gatekeepers, the slave masters, and all of them who set chains on people's neck and deny them light and life.

I plead for more oil to love you more, oh Sophia. I am wise because I know that I know not. Make me wiser and I will evangelise your glory to all the Earth.

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