

Power Affirmations

Affirm the Good You Desire



The Spirit of Opulence by Thomas Troward

Notes by Bill Marshall - September 8, 2012

Introduction

I have been generally aware of Judge Thomas Troward's writings for some time, but I didn't pay much attention to his works for one reason or another. Then I came across this short essay and I realized why he has had such a strong impact on so many people over the years. It's a brilliant piece of work. It's short, but deep and profound. It's given me a greater understanding of the power of giving and receiving.

Because it is so short, and in the public domain, I thought I'd share it with you along with my notes.

Enjoy it and feel free to share this PDF with others you think may benefit from it's message.

Do something nice for someone today. Be a center of distribution.

Cheers,

Bill Marshall

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Suggested Method of Study

- ▶ Read the full text of the essay. This is available as a separate document.
- ▶ I suggest that you create an audio recording of the essay. The easiest way I know to do that is using a text-to-speech software program called TextAloud. You can download a trial version of this program by clicking on the link below. I have personally used this software for about 10 years and it is a **great** way to create custom audio files in a matter of minutes:
<http://www.poweraffirmations.com/text-to-speech-software/>.
- ▶ Review this slide presentation comparing Troward's original text with my notes. Troward's original text is in the first panel of each page/slide. My notes are in the second panel.
- ▶ Review the Questions and Answers at the end.
- ▶ Do something nice for someone everyday. Begin applying the "Spirit of Opulence" with everything you do in thought, attitude, and action.
- ▶ Measure your results. Look for opportunities to continue to raise your level of giving.

The Spirit of Opulence

It is quite a mistake to suppose that we must restrict and stint ourselves in order to develop greater power or usefulness.

This is to form the conception of the Divine Power as so limited that the best use we can make of it is by a policy of self-starvation, whether material or mental.

Of course, if we believe that some form of self-starvation is necessary to our producing good work, then so long as we entertain this belief the fact actually is so for us.

"Whatsoever is not of faith"--that is, not in accordance with our honest belief--"is sin"; and by acting contrary to what we really believe we bring in a suggestion of opposition to the Divine Spirit, which must necessarily paralyze our efforts, and surround us with a murky atmosphere of distrust and want of joy.

- ▶ What does it mean to "restrict?" It means to put limitations on something. For example, to restrict the flow of blood to your hand, you squeeze your wrist. That reduces the flow.
- ▶ The Divine Power within us is unlimited.
- ▶ If we believe that self-starvation is necessary, this will become our reality.
- ▶ Our only true limitations are those we set up in our own minds through our limiting beliefs.
- ▶ Our actions and beliefs should be in harmony with Universal Law. Otherwise we paralyze our efforts.

The Spirit of Opulence

But all this exists in, and is produced by, our belief; and when we come to examine the grounds of this belief we shall find that it rests upon an entire misapprehension of the nature of our own power.

If we clearly realize that the creative power in ourselves is unlimited, then there is no reason for limiting the extent to which we may enjoy what we can create by means of it.

Where we are drawing from the infinite we need never be afraid of taking more than our share. That is not where the danger lies.

The danger is in not sufficiently realizing our own richness, and in looking upon the externalized products of our creative power as being the true riches instead of the creative power of spirit itself.

- ▶ Our beliefs--our true beliefs—create our reality.
- ▶ The belief he is speaking of here is a belief of limitation. Any limiting belief “rests upon an entire misapprehension of the nature of our own power.”
- ▶ Because our creative power is unlimited, there is no reason to limit what we can create with it. And it is our right to enjoy the fruits of our creation.
- ▶ There is more than enough abundance in this world. There is no danger of “taking more than our share.” This is one of the mistakes implied by many of our leaders and the media: that there is a limited supply so we need to “share it fairly.”
- ▶ Sharing is a wonderful thing. I believe in giving. But not at the expense of adopting a limiting belief. We should not feel compelled to share because we mistakenly think there is a limited supply.
- ▶ The true DANGER is not recognizing how rich we really are.
- ▶ The other DANGER is thinking that our material riches are the true riches of life. True wealth is the creative power of spirit.

The Spirit of Opulence

If we avoid this error, there is no need to limit ourselves in taking what we will from the infinite storehouse: "All things are yours."

And the way to avoid this error is by realizing that the true wealth is in identifying ourselves with the spirit of opulence.

We must be opulent in our thought.

Do not "think money," as such, for it is only one means of opulence; but think opulence, that is, largely, generously, liberally, and you will find that the means of realizing this thought will flow to you from all quarters, whether as money or as a hundred other things not to be reckoned in cash.

- ▶ There is no need to limit what we take from the **infinite** storehouse. No matter how much we take, an infinite amount remains.
- ▶ True wealth is spiritual. It is identifying ourselves with the spirit of opulence.
- ▶ True opulence begins with our thoughts.
- ▶ Money is **only one** means of opulence. There are other forms of wealth that are far more valuable. We should allow opulence to flow into our lives from as many of types of abundance as possible:
 - ▶ Love, health, happiness, relationships, non-cash material possessions, and, of course," money.

The Spirit of Opulence

We must not make ourselves dependent on any particular form of wealth, or insist on its coming to us through some particular channel--that is at once to impose a limitation, and to shut out other forms of wealth and to close other channels; but we must enter into the spirit of it.

Now the spirit is Life, and throughout the universe Life ultimately consists in circulation, whether within the physical body of the individual or on the scale of the entire solar system; and circulation means a continual flowing around, and the spirit of opulence is no exception to this universal law of all life.

- ▶ There are **MANY** forms of wealth.
- ▶ There are many channels of wealth. We should let opulence flow into our lives from many different streams.
- ▶ Everything in the universe circulates. Blood circulates. Air circulates in our lungs when we breathe.
- ▶ The planets circulate around the sun.
- ▶ Money circulates within the economy
- ▶ Think about what happens when things stop circulating? All kinds of problems.
- ▶ When money stops circulating, the economy locks up.
- ▶ When we circulate what we have to give (non-material and material), opulence flows in our lives.
- ▶ The more we give of ourselves the more we will receive.

The Spirit of Opulence

When once this principle becomes clear to us we shall see that our attention should be directed rather to the giving than the receiving.

We must look upon ourselves, not as misers' chests to be kept locked for our own benefit, but as centers of distribution; and the better we fulfill our function as such centers the greater will be the corresponding inflow.

If we choke the outlet the current must slacken, and a full and free flow can be obtained only by keeping it open.

The spirit of opulence--the opulent mode of thought, that is--consists in cultivating the feeling that we possess all sorts of riches which we can bestow upon others, and which we can bestow liberally because by this very action we open the way for still greater supplies to flow in.

- ▶ Our attention and focus is on the giving, because that is what we can actively do. That is our role.
- ▶ You can't force receiving. That happens automatically. You allow receiving through belief, expectation, and GRATITUDE. Gratitude keeps you connected to the source of your supply.
- ▶ We are centers of distribution of opulence.
- ▶ Again, the more we give, the more opulence flows into us and through us.
- ▶ If we choke the flow, or restrict it, the flow stops.
- ▶ We must cultivate an opulent mode of thought.
- ▶ The opulent mode of thought is a feeling. It is energy. It is a vibration.
- ▶ Specifically, it is a feeling that we are **ALREADY WEALTHY**.
- ▶ The action of cultivating the feeling of opulence, opens the way for greater supplies to flow in. Remember: the Source of our supply is infinite.

The Spirit of Opulence

But you say, "I am short of money, I hardly know how to pay for necessities. What have I to give?"

The answer is that we must always start from the point where we are; and if your wealth at the present moment is not abundant on the material plane, you need not trouble to start on that plane.

There are other sorts of wealth, still more valuable, on the spiritual and intellectual planes, which you can give; and you can start from this point and practice the spirit of opulence, even though your balance at the bank may be nil.

And then the universal law of attraction will begin to assert itself. You will not only begin to experience an inflow on the spiritual and intellectual planes, but it will extend itself to the material plane also.

- ▶ We start giving where we are right now. If we don't have material riches to give, we give of our non-material riches.
- ▶ As we give out of our wealth—whether material or non-material—we can start to practice the spirit of opulence immediately.
- ▶ When we start to practice the spirit of opulence through giving, the law of attraction will increase the inflow of **BOTH** non-material **AND** material abundance into our lives.

The Spirit of Opulence

If you have realized the spirit of opulence you cannot help drawing to yourself material good, as well as that higher wealth which is not to be measured by a money standard;

and because you truly understand the spirit of opulence you will neither affect to despise this form of good, nor will you attribute to it a value that does not belong to it;

but you will co-ordinate it with your other more interior forms of wealth so as to make it the material instrument in smoothing the way for their more perfect expression.

Used thus, with understanding of the relation which it bears to spiritual and intellectual wealth, material wealth becomes one with them, and is no more to be shunned and feared than it is to be sought for its own sake.

- ▶ When we practice the spirit of opulence to the point where it becomes a habit, we will attract all kinds of wealth.
- ▶ When we practice the spirit of opulence, we have the correct perspective of non-material and material abundance.
- ▶ When we practice the spirit of opulence, we realize there is no real difference between non-material and material wealth.

The Spirit of Opulence

It is not money, but the love of money, that is the root of evil; and the spirit of opulence is precisely the attitude of mind which is furthest removed from the love of money for its own sake. It does not believe in money.

What it does believe in is the generous feeling which is the intuitive recognition of the great law of circulation, which does not in any undertaking make its first question, “How much am I going to get by it?”

But, “How much am I going to do by it?” And making this the first question, the getting will flow in with a generous profusion, and with a spontaneousness and rightness of direction that are absent when our first thought is of receiving only.

- ▶ When we practice the spirit of opulence, we learn to use material riches without “loving” them.
- ▶ We, humankind, created money as a means to **facilitate** transactions. We created money as a way to reward service.
- ▶ Money is a symbol. And as a symbol, it only represents the thing symbolized. It is not the thing itself. The map is not the territory.
- ▶ The question is not how much am I going to receive, but how much I choose to give.
- ▶ When we focus on giving, the flow will come with generous profusion.
- ▶ The only way our thinking on the subject of material wealth is correct is when we practice the spirit of opulence.

The Spirit of Opulence

We are not called upon to give what we have not yet got and to run into debt; but we are to give liberally of what we have, with the knowledge that by so doing we are setting the law of circulation to work, and as this law brings us greater and greater inflows of every kind of good, so our out-giving will increase, not by depriving ourselves of any expansion of our own life that we may desire, but by finding that every expansion makes us the more powerful instruments for expanding the life of others. "Live and let live" is the motto of the true opulence.

- ▶ We give out of the abundance we already have, not out of what we don't have.
- ▶ Going into debt is to receive before we give—that is the reversal of the spirit of opulence formula. Give first, receive later. Sow then reap. You cannot reap what you have not sown.
- ▶ Going into debt is a form of procrastination.
- ▶ Giving of anything with the right attitude or feeling--the feeling of opulence—starts the law of circulation.
- ▶ The law of circulation will bring us greater and greater inflows of every kind of good—non-material and material.
- ▶ Every expansion of our own life makes us a more powerful instrument for expanding the lives of others.

Review Questions

- ▶ Q: What are our true limitations?
- ▶ A: Our true limitations are our limiting beliefs. We set our own limits in our minds. Who we really are is internal, not external.

- ▶ Q: What happens if our actions are contrary to Universal Law?
- ▶ A: We paralyze our efforts.

- ▶ Q: Is there a reason to limit our enjoyment of what we create?
- ▶ A: No. Because we are unlimited in our true essence, it is our privilege to enjoy the fruits or results of our creation.

- ▶ Q: Is there a danger of taking more than our “fair” share?
- ▶ A: No. The source of our supply is infinite. Creating/Taking what we want does not reduce what is available to others.

- ▶ Q: What is our true danger?
- ▶ A: Not sufficiently realizing our true richness. Thinking that our true riches are the externalized products of our creative power. Our true riches lie in the creative power of spirit itself.

- ▶ Q: How do we avoid this danger?
- ▶ A: By identifying with the Spirit of Opulence.

- ▶ Q: What is the benefit of identifying with the Spirit of Opulence?
- ▶ A: Being able to take all we desire from the Infinite Storehouse.

- ▶ Q: Is money the only means of opulence?
- ▶ A: No. Money is only one means of opulence. And it is one of the least forms of opulence. If you define opulence only in terms of money, you impose a limitation. When you expand your thinking, you see that opulence can flow to you from multiple sources—some material, some non-material.

Review Questions

- ▶ Q: What does life ultimately consist of?
- ▶ A: Circulation. Circulation exists at every level, from the smallest particle to the solar system—the universe. Everything is moving. Everything is vibrating.

- ▶ Q: What is Circulation?
- ▶ A: A continual flowing around.

- ▶ Q: If Circulation is primary, on what should our attention be given?
- ▶ A: Giving rather than receiving. Serving rather than being served.

- ▶ Q: What does Troward mean by “centers of distribution?”
- ▶ A: We are a channel of distribution through which the Spirit of Opulence flows.

- ▶ Q: How do we increase the flow of the Spirit of Opulence in our lives?
- ▶ A: By giving liberally, both non-material and material riches.

- ▶ Q: What happens if we stop giving?
- ▶ A: We choke the current and stop the flow of abundance and opulence into our lives.

- ▶ Q: What happens when we give liberally?
- ▶ A: We open the way for still greater supplies to flow in.

- ▶ Q: If you currently lack material wealth, do you still have wealth to give?
- ▶ A: Yes! All of us were born with an abundant supply of non-material riches. All of us have to start at the point where we are right now.

Review Questions

- ▶ Q: What happens when you start giving right where you are?
- ▶ A: The universal law of attraction begins to assert itself. You begin to receive BOTH non-material AND material riches.

- ▶ Q: How do you keep the proper perspective regarding material riches?
- ▶ A: By understanding and practicing the Spirit of Opulence.

- ▶ Q: Should material wealth be shunned? Should material wealth be sought for its own sake?
- ▶ A: No. It should be neither shunned nor sought for its own sake. The real goal is to increase our level of consciousness and awareness. Our riches--non-material and material--are a reflection of that.

- ▶ Q: What is the root of evil?
- ▶ A: The love of money for the sake of the money.

- ▶ Q: What attitude of mind is the furthest from the love of money?
- ▶ A: The true spirit of opulence.

Review Questions

- ▶ Q: What is the first question we should ask ourselves in any undertaking?
- ▶ A: “How much am I going to DO by it?” In other words, how much am I going to give? How will achieving this result allow me to give more? How will this raise my level of consciousness and awareness?

- ▶ Q: What happens when our focus is on how much we can give?
- ▶ A: The “getting” or receiving will flow with generous profusion. And, we will have a spontaneous rightness of direction.

- ▶ Q: Are we called upon to give which we do not have? To go into debt?
- ▶ A: No. We are only called upon to give liberally of what we have. If we have to start on the non-material plane, then so be it. If we give cheerfully and liberally of what we have, the law of circulation will bring us greater and greater inflows of every kind of wealth—non-material and material.

- ▶ Q: How do we increase our level of giving?
- ▶ A: By finding that every expansion makes us more powerful for expanding the lives of others. As we grow, and grow with the right attitude (the Spirit of Opulence), we will naturally give more. And the more we give, the more we will have to give.

Increase Your Capacity to Give

- ▶ Start where you are right now. If your material riches are limited, give generously of your non-material riches.
- ▶ Expect that the receiving will happen automatically by law.
- ▶ Focus on raising your level of consciousness and awareness. I believe we do this by right living (to the best of our ability) and by filling our minds with positive thoughts and ideas.
- ▶ Filling our minds with positive thoughts and ideas from sources outside of ourselves, stimulates our minds to really think. DEEP thinking stimulates growth.
- ▶ Set DEFINITE and BIG goals. Set goals that are so big that they make you uncomfortable. Set goals that move you out of your comfort zone. Create plans to achieve them and take action.
- ▶ As a mental exercises, take your current results and multiply them by a factor of 10 or more. Think of how you can turn your annual income into a monthly income by providing 12 times as much service as you do now (or more).
- ▶ The purpose of goal setting and achieving is NOT achievement. The purpose of achieving goals is to grow—to increase our level of consciousness and awareness. That's why we set BIG goals. BIG goals stimulate growth.
- ▶ If you have any questions or comments, email me at whmarshall@earthlink.net. I will respond personally.