

#110 THE DREAM.....

I see three rivers before me. One proceeds down from the north, and another up from the south. They meet and join to form a third river. I know the names of the rivers---the northern is called "Book," the southern "Flower," and the river formed by their joining is named "New Table."

Awakening from this dream I immediately understand the symbolism of these rivers. The Book River comes from the north which speaks of the area where God symbolically dwells. Thus the name Book refers to God's Book, His Word or the Bible. His words come down to us from heaven and are bread for us---the bread of life. The Flower River symbolizes ourselves as believers. We have life in us from God yet we grow up out of the earthly plane. Thus this river represents us as believers who are filled with God's spiritual life.

Our life appears for a season. God's Word is life to us. The flower is pretty and gives off a sweet, pleasant smell, yet does not exist for its own end. One day the flower must give up its own life in order that fruit may take its place on the stem. Yes, cherry and apple blossoms are beautiful, yet in themselves incomplete. God's aim for us is not pretty blossoms, stalks and leaves. They have their time and season yet must live to produce fruit---as we live to produce fruit that bears the likeness of Christ. When God bestows spiritual life, it causes change in us. His Word by His Spirit transforms our natural life into spiritual life. The flower must consent to death of self in order that the transformation can take place. It can not produce fruit if it remains a flower; it can not feed the hungry---only fruit can do this. The fruit will not replace the flower by force but only by consent.

The transformation only comes when that flower joins to the Word of God and submits to its Master---then it will cease from its own beauty and life. Each time a blossom drops from the stem of those fruit trees, a piece of fruit takes its place and grows. Only by death or the cross does life come forth. When the flower (the believer) and the Word merge, new life is brought forth. This is union of the divine and human. The two rivers, Book and Flower, merge to form the river "New Table." Table to me symbolizes a level: thus that river is newer, better, and of another level in the spiritual realm. God will then bring forth beauty for ashes, a new man for the old. It is the new man in Christ that is spiritual and fruitful. The same Holy Spirit who works death and the cross in us will also work life and spiritual fruit in us.

For God to use, God must bruise;
For God to fill, God must kill;
For God to make, God must take
To be made into instruments of gold.
Down I must go this I am told.
Then He reaches down into the ditch,
Up He pulls a vessel rich.
I must not fear sorrow or pain---
From its ashes a new life is gained.
Let Him use the staff and rod,
For they can bring us close to God.
One day I shall look back without remorse.
Treasures we'll find when we finish our course.

R.F.H.P.