

Governed by Law

The main lesson of life is wrapped up in one sentence, namely:

The universe is governed by law.

Why does God permit your child to fall down stairs? Why does he not interfere? The answer is clear, your child has been born into the universe of law. If God reversed the law of gravitation in order to save your child the whole universe would go to pieces. The law that hurts you, is the law which will help you if you will simply obey it.

The fire which burns your building, cooks your food, warms your house, melts your iron, molds your steel, lights your buildings, speeds your train, and illuminates your city

Would you vote to give up electricity, because the lightning strikes the earth occasionally? Would man ever have discovered electricity if it had not been for the lightning flash?

To Subdue and Conquer

Another thought—The vital thing in the mind of God, is evidently not the protection of the individual but the protection of the race. God has placed the human race in this world to subdue and conquer. The victory of the race is of vastly more importance than the life and pleasure of the individual. The universe exists for humanity and not for any individual unit.

The mother passes into the child, the child into the individual, the individual into the clan, the clan into the tribe, the tribe into the nation, the nation into the civilization and civilization into history. The civilizations of the past have lived for us.

You live and suffer for the race. Your present loss will mean a future gain. Your reward will be an eternal character. This is the meaning of martyrdom. Ingersoll affirmed that the martyrs were fools. From which we infer that even though he was the incarnation of good nature, he did not possess one ounce of the heroism which produces a martyr. The individual must live for the race. The present must be sacrificed to the future. The lower must bend to the higher. For your present loss there is an eternal gain. "Our light affliction which is but for a moment, worketh out for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory."

Conflict and Character

And then again—character must be developed by struggle and conflict. Congenial circumstances never develop a strong character. Guarantee a man a long life and no pain, with every pleasure and satisfaction of life as sure as the law of gravitation, and