

Swami Omkarananda

NEW ASCETICISM FOR DAILY LIFE



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The Timeless Treasures

An Interpretation of the New Testament Asceticism for Our Times:

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where it grows rusty and moth-eaten, and thieves break in to steal it. Store up treasures in heaven, where there is no moth and no rust to spoil it, no thieves to break in and steal."

Matth. 6:19-20

A tree which seeks to gather restlessly leaves from the other trees, and struggles hard to acquire fruits externally, is laying up treasures upon earth, and will soon wither up. But a tree which seeks to turn its gaze into the Kingdom of Life within itself, and draws its sustenance from the earth, the air and the space, is laying up treasures in Heaven. It grows; it endures. It is being enriched, and it will yield year after year, thousands of fruits and flowers, and be a blessing to itself and to others. It is a treasure in itself, and is a treasure to others. It is a heaven unto itself, it is a heaven to others.

From within, we grow. In the scheme of daily life, action and pursuits, put the Kingdom of Heaven always first. Let God come first, and then the outer life will be full of devotion, faith, goodness, sweetness, intelligence, and all the higher capacities and talents will unfold themselves, and grant you an inner oneness with the inexhaustible treasures of the infinite Consciousness, the divine Presence within.

