

and lazy quiet, but a PEACE that comes from the love of God, leading one to renounce need for seeking of self, and to busy oneself in the search for God. God can be found ONLY after self has been put away. The world seeks self! In so doing the self-seeker becomes inevitably entangled with the heavy chains of tension and breakdown. In the Monastery the Monk works to destroy self, and in so doing he enjoys A FREEDOM that the worldling fails to comprehend. The very absence of everything calculated to please self in the senses, leaves the soul free to enjoy itself more largely. In the Monastery little concession is made to the body. The Monastery is the setting for the soul! It is not of that which benefits the body, but of that which benefits the soul that all men and women stand in need. If it is for the benefits of the body that men and women are in need of, how then, can misery and unhappiness be found in the very midst of opulence and plenty? In his seemingly pointless and fruitless existence, the Monk is in the very best place on earth to obtain the highest meaning of life, and achieve the highest possible values given to man — THE LOVE OF GOD. Therefore, in order to seek after God — the highest possible value — the Monk gives away all things of lesser value. IS IT RIGHT, THEREFORE, TO CLASSIFY THIS A POINTLESS EXISTENCE?

The Monastery is a SCHOOL OF THE LORD'S SERVICE, not a type of reform school where everything has to be done under the FORCE of obedience. Everything that is done in the Monastery should be done out of the LOVE of obedience. One loves to do what is right simply because it is the right thing and because right things are pleasing to God. The right thing done is done to please God rather than to please the Superior.

When a correction is made by the Superior, a good and valiant Monk is often times disturbed and confused, but his disturbance comes not so much because he suffered correction at the hands of the Superior, but that he failed to see that he was in error before God, and that it took someone outside of himself to notice his deficiency. Someone other than himself had to think of it. Embarrassment before God, rather than before man!

The life of a Monk is quite simple. It is never, as some suppose, monotonous. It is an austere life, but it is not rigid. It is close to the earth and the labor of the Monk keeps monastic living closely bound up with nature. THE LIFE OF THE MONK HAS TO BE GENUINE.