

FUNERAL OF ELDER MANNS

(Continued from last issue)

A solo was rendered by Miss Alma Johnson, entitled "No Burdens Up Yonder." Sermon by Elder J. B. Mosley, continued as follows:

The Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul. Gen. 2:7. From the foregoing Scripture it is quite obvious that ere the Lord breathed the life into man's nostrils, he was a dead soul and his entire being was lifeless even as our leader is now lying in the bier an inanimate body.

The breath of life animates or quickens the entire being, but as soon as one is dead, he becomes a dead or lifeless soul, even as man was before the Lord infused the breath of life into his nostrils. Man is mortal, and as soon as he gives up the ghost, the breath of life or his spirit goes back to God who gave it. Eccl. 12:7. Query: Where was man's spirit before the Lord God placed it in him? Without hesitation and beyond all reasonable doubts, we must conclude according to Holy Writ that man's spirit was in God, and at death he takes it back. Thus his thoughts perish—eth—he thinketh no more, for his memory is forgotten.

I turn to the 146th Psalm, verses 3 and 4. Put not your trust in princes, nor in the son of man, in whom there is no help. His breath goeth forth, he returneth to his earth; in that very day his thoughts perish. What about man's love and hatred after death? For the living know that they shall die; but the dead know not anything, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten. Also their love and their hatred, and their envy, is now perished; neither have they any more a portion forever in anything that is done under the sun. Eccl. 9:5-6. From these striking Scriptures we can clearly understand that the dead has no spirit to wonder about and that he knows not anything. Thus this sermon is not for the dead, but it is for us who are alive. Knowing that our lives are



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just as a vapour that appeareth for a little while than then vanisheth away. Jas. 4:4.

Elder Manns is not in heaven nor purgatory; neither is he at a prepared place of rest.

He is unconscious and cannot be seen under the sun for he goeth down to the grave. Says the Patriarch Job by the spirit of inspiration, The eye of him that hath seen me shall see me no more: thine eyes are upon me and I am not. As the cloud is consumed and vanisheth away, so he that goeth down to the grave shall come up no more. He shall return no more to his house, neither shall his place know him any more. Job. 7: 8-10.

The patriarch further gives a panoramic picture of the state of the dead as follows: For there

is hope of a tree, if it be cut down, that it will sprout again, and that the tender branch thereof will not cease. Though the root thereof wax old in the earth, and the stock thereof die in the ground; yet through the scent of water it will bud, and bring forth boughs like a plant. But man dieth, and wasteth away: yet, man giveth up the ghost, and where is he?

As the waters fail from the sea, and the flood decayeth and drieth up; so man lieth down, and riseth not: till the heavens be no more, they shall not wake, nor be raised out of their sleep. O, that thou wouldst hide me in the grave, that thou wouldst keep me secret, until thy wrath be past, that thou wouldst appoint me a set time, and remember me! Job 14:7-13. Hence

our beloved leader will soon be placed into the silent grave, where he will wait till his change comes. Then on the glorious resurrection morn the Lord will burst the fetters of the tomb and call his servant from his dusty bed to reward him for faithful service. Thus saith the Scripture, If a man die, shall he live again? all the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come. Thou shall call, and I will answer thee: thou wilt have a desire to the work of thine hands. Job 14th chapter, verses 14 and 15.

Therefore we can authoritatively conclude that Elder Manns is not in heaven nor purgatory, neither is he at a prepared place of rest. But in reality he is in the grave sleeping his long repose till that glad morn of morns. Isaah, the prophet, speaking by the inspiration of the spirit of God said, Thy dead men shall live, together with my dead body shall they arise. Awake and sing, ye shall dwell in dust; for thy dew is at the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the dead. Isa. 26:19. Thus we have the allegory of the sleep of death in connection with the resurrection of the dead.

A Mighty Man Has Fallen

Elder Manns, the greatest power among Free-Seventh-day Adventists, is fallen. Death has taken him captive. His eternal destiny is sealed. No more can his thrilling voice be heard. No more can the bells of melody ring from his lips, to echo the message of love. No more shall we greet him on earth's low sod. No more can he preach those soul-stirring sermons which drew the drunkards from the streets and lanes, and aroused the uninterested masses to action—pointing them to the lamb of God which taketh away the sins of the world.

He was a great worker and a man of great intellectual caliber. His views and visions of achievements were very broad; and most of all, he was a winner of souls. His determination and aims were to tear down the strong holds of satan, and lift humanity from this perishable plane of life to serve the living God. He had not the spirit of cowardice, and even when trials like sea-billows crowded his en-

vironment he surmounted them all with only a smile.

Alas! He is sleeping his blessed repose. Free from all the plots and slanders preferred against him by Seventh-Day Adventist conference officials and people. O, ye Seventh-Day Adventists! Ye rejoice because Elder Manns is dead. But remember there is an *All-Seeing Eye*, and withal there is a higher tribunal above, and on that dreadful judgment day ye will have to give account to the *judge of all the earth* for what ye have done to this man of God.

Ye have prophesied that since Mann is dead our work will come to naught. But let me retrograde your mem'ries back to the time of the reformation. When Rome burnt John Huss and Jerome at the stake, cast their ashes into the Rhyne, and deemed 'twas a token of demolishing the work of reformation; the tide turned to the reverse. That instead of retrogression, 'twas a symbol of spreading the reformatory work over land and sea, till untold blessings were bequeathed to the Christian world through the instrumentality of those beacons of reform. Consequently, Elder Manns' death is a token of spreading the work of Free Seventh-Day Adventists throughout earth's remotest bound. Yea, this work must go by leaps and bounds till the meridian of the consummation of all things.

The beauty of Israel is dead; how is the mighty fallen in the midst of the battle! Mourn ye daughters of Israel, but not as others who have no hope. This man of valor has fought a good fight, he has kept the faith, he has finished his course and died at his post of duty in a foreign land. Henceforth, in heaven above by faith I see, a crown of life laid up for him. Upon its crest the angels trace, made for a sinner saved by grace. And in that glad morn of morns, he shall wear that crown of life with many stars and jewels, to shine in the kingdom of God throughout the boundless cycles of eternity.

The Hope of a Resurrection

Elder Manns is only sleeping with the hope to be resurrected in the resurrection of the just. I turn to the fifteenth chapter of First Cor., verses 16-22, which

read as follows: For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised; and if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable. But now is Christ risen from the dead, and becomes the first fruits of them that slept. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

Jesus himself during his sojourn on earth's low sod, exclaimed, "Marvel not at this, for the hour is coming in the which all that are in the grave shall hear his voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil unto the resurrection of damnation." Jno. 5:28-29. Hence the resurrection is the only hope of the Christian. Yet, the only hope of meeting those who are gone before.

Elder Manns' eternal destiny is sealed, but what about us who are still alive? Are we ready to meet our Lord and Master if we should be immediately called into eternity? Brethren and sisters and kind friends, time is short and we do not know who among us in this congregation will be next taken away by the dreadful enemy death. Bitter will be the cry if we are unprepared. Yet, the pangs of consternation will be seen upon each countenance, and hence the bitter cry, "The harvest is past, the summer is ended and we are not saved."

As the days are swiftly going by, and even as we are at the brink of eternity, let us make the necessary preparatons and be faithful to God, so that we may meet our beloved leader on that glorious resurrection morn. Whereby on that glad day of days, we shall see the face of Him who bled and died upon the cruel cross, greet those who have long slept within the tomb and bask in the sunshine of the earth made new.

To the Bereaved Family

I wish to express my kind condolence to the bereaved family. Indeed it is regrettable to behold the head of your family lying inanimate in the bier. Not-



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withstanding, I wish to call your attention to the fact that when the believers at Thessalonica were weeping and mourning over their departed ones, the Great Apostle Paul reasoned with them thus: But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first. Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air; and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words. 1st Thes. 4:14-18. Trusting you will be consoled with those words of comfort.

Here you have the blessed assurance of a joyous resurrection. Therefore, be ye comforted and hope to meet your loved one on that glad morn when the Lord shall shout with the voice of the archangel and with the trump of God. Whose voice will burst the fetters of the tomb and the

sleeping saints shall be raised from their dusty beds, clothed with glorious immortality. Resplendent will be the glory of that blessed morn. The King shall shine in His beauty, and the constellation thereof will reflect upon the redeemed.

I turn to the fifteenth chapter of first Corinthians, verses 51-54, which read as follows: Behold, I show you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump; for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

After the resurrected saints shall have interrogated "O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?" Jesus and myriads of His angels will escort them to their promised home. Oh! What a happy meeting that will be! We shall know each other in that better land, and meet our loved ones who have long been parted; never more to part or moan.

There shall be no more funeral trains in that heavenly land of bliss. No more men with hoary locks tottering on the brink of

the grave. No more sickness, neither sighing nor crying. No more hearse to carry death's captive within the gloomy portal of the tomb. The great and last enemy death, will be eternally destroyed. And thus saith the Prophet John, "God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain; for the former things are passed away." Rev. 21:4.

At the close of the sermon a selection entitled "Sweet By Thy Rest" was sung by the choir, during which time the congregation took the last view of his face. The casket was then conveyed to the hearse, preparatory for the procession. After which all parties repaired to Laurel Grove Cemetery where his remains were laid to rest till the glorious resurrection morn.

JOHN WESLEY MANNS

In ever loving memory of our devoted Elder, who left us on April 1, 1929.

Today brings sad memories of a dear one gone to rest. His love is within our hearts entwined. We miss him now, and always will. He had kind and loving words for every one, and died beloved by all of God's people.

Servant of God well done, rest in thy Master's joy.

MRS. F. O. GOOD,
Rep. of Panama.