



## #125 *An Ancient Visits a Modern*



*Somehow - I don't know how - an ancient man has appeared in our modern world. He has started to observe the way we work and play. Luckily, he can speak our language. He has begun to understand our way of life, but he has a lot of questions. Let's listen in on a conversation between this ancient man and a modern man.*

*Ancient: I have noticed that you do not speak of everything in terms of how 'wonderful' or 'beautiful' they are. You also do not seem to attribute anything to being made by beings from the spiritual world.*

*Modern: No, you're right. In our time, we have realized that we can think on our own and take care of ourselves. Many of us have outgrown superstitions about deities.*

*Ancient: Then, who do you think provides your ideas - your inspiration?*

*Modern: We do.*

*Ancient: And who provides the life energy in your body?*

*Modern: That comes from whatever we eat.*

*Ancient: And who provides wisdom for you to know what you know?*

*Modern: We have a theory of everything.*

*Ancient: Everything?*

*Modern: Well, if we need to know more, we use our science.*

*Ancient: I see ... so, therefore, you do not have to ask for advice, nor thank any higher beings for their help. ... And I have also noticed that you do not ask permission to use the resources of the Earth.*

*Modern: No, if the Earth produces something, we are automatically entitled to it.*

*Ancient: Is there any resource you do not deserve?*

*Modern: No. We deserve any land, food, water, or air we can conquer and defend. But, to keep it, we have to use our rugged individualism to earn it.*

*Ancient: What do you mean earn it?*

*Modern: Well, take farming. To earn a farm, we first make boundary lines in the dirt, then build fences to keep out animals and sub-species like weeds and rocks. Next, we divert the nearby stream. Then we blockade our plot of land with walls and gates and spray poisons to protect our crops. It takes hard work and rugged determinism to conquer and fend off all of those undeserving others.*

*Ancient: My, my. Do you want me to tell you how your ancestors did it?*

*Modern: No, thanks. It doesn't matter. They knew very little compared to us. We are the crowning achievement of humankind and the most important species. With our science we can figure out how to control just about everything around.*

*Ancient: While that may be true, though I'm not sure it is, I guess that I would rather live in wonder than live to conquer. And I would rather praise and thank higher powers than believe in a story about control. I have to go home, now. As you moderns say, bye, bye.*

*SHOULD WE REALLY CONTINUE THIS WAY?*