

SUN STUDIES INSPIRE LOVE

By Hugh J. Pruett

Many of the greatest blessings to which the human race is heir seems so common to us that we simply take them for granted and never feel a sense of gratitude or even think about them. But should we deprive of them our condition would be woeful.

Life on our earth would not be possible without the light and heat of the sun. Should this flow of energy across interplanetary space suddenly cease, our terror would surely be equal to that depicted in Lord Byron's tragic poem "Darkness." This starts: "I had a dream . . . the bright sun was extinguished . . . and the icy earth swung blind and blackening the moonless air." The poet's dream had "palces of crowned kings, the huts . . . burnt for beacons . . .". When everything was consumed, "all was black." Even "war . . . was no more."

The worship of primitive man humbly bowing before the glory of the rising sun can hardly seem a useless form of praise. We still have our all-powerful sun, and surely it cannot be extremely sinful to accord to it a certain degree of adoration.

A peculiar experience came to this writer a few years ago. For two sunlit weeks, each afternoon was spent at the observatory directing solar study for various small groups from the university astronomy class. The spring weather was inspiring and the sky blue. The students were eager and interested. The sun was furnishing abundant light for study through various instruments.

In the telescope and on the projection screen every day the warm face of old Sol greeted us. Interesting dark sun spots and the intensely hot, white faculae were changing daily. The all-enveloping "rice - grain" effect was momentarily rearranging itself.

And through the spectroscope

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the solar light was spread out into a long ribbon of most exquisitely beautiful colors, ranging from deep red at one end on through orange, yellow, green and blue to rich violet at the other end. Dark lines crossing this rainbow band indicated the various substances in the sun's atmosphere.

After several days of this, there developed an unusual love for our sun, a feeling almost of worshipful adoration. Whether this was due to continued exposure to the sun's genial warmth and health-giving properties, or to the contact with eager and surprised youthful minds—or to all combined—was not certain. But as never before, it seemed almost fitting to join in the devotions of the ancient sun worshippers and exclaim:

"Almighty and glorious! Ruler of the earth! Thy simle brings the vapors from the sea and bids all things to grow. Without Thee darkness and death would come to all life. Resplendent and wonderful Thou Ara!"

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from the Secretary, Board of U. S. Civil Service Examiners, at any first or second-class post office, or from the Director, Eleventh U. S. Civil Service Region, 302 Federal Office Building, Seattle 4, Washington.

Applications must be on file with the Director, Eleventh U. S. Civil Service Region, 302 Federal Office Building, Seattle 4, Washington not later than June 1, 1953.

CHICAGOAN VISITOR HERE
Miss Dolores Cullen of Chicago, Ill., is visiting her girl friend, Mrs. Joe Kassa, of Marion Heights. Miss Cullen has been an active member of the C.Y.O. in Chicago and now is advisor for the Nobility Silver Plate Service for Empire Craft Corporation of Newark, NY Her territory goes all the way up to Portland. She has a sister, Mrs. Lyle Wimer of Albany, Ore., with whom she makes her home.

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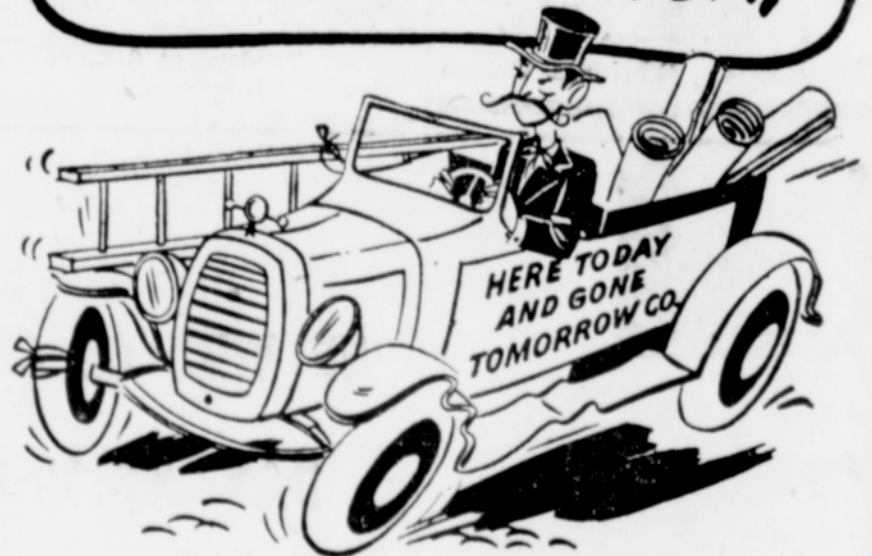
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