

# ***The Light of Life***

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I want to tell you a little story, and it's a true one. I learned it from a good friend.

My friend was returning from Europe on a steam ship. Quite a number of students had been over to Europe that particular summer. Some of them were just traveling, some of them were studying at various universities, and of course they were discussing various things that they had learned. The whole steam ship was just filled with students and teachers. Among them was a Japanese scholar who was professor of Oriental Philosophy at Columbia University here in the United States. He had been over to England for the summer at Oxford University studying western philosophies. So, in the course of the discussions on this steam ship as they were on their way home, the students began to talking with this Japanese professor. As they were discussing philosophies, they asked him what his philosophy was.

"Well..." he said "in order to be worth something, a religion or philosophy must have the light of life." "Oh" they said "and tell us what is the light of life?" He said "the light of life has the three "L"s:

**Love, Law, and Labor."**

This is the Japanese professor, you understand, who has the chair of Oriental Philosophy at Columbia University. "A religion or philosophy that is worth something must have the light of life and that's the three "L"s:

**Love, Law, and Labor."**

And he said "they must be combined and blended or they're worthless" Then he went on to show why anyone of these "L's" alone would be worthless. He said "love without law is mere sentiment and love without labor is only a dream." "Law without love" he said "is tyranny, and law without labor is only a scrap of paper labor. Labor without love is drudgery and labor without law is confusion."

"I have been looking for a religion which combines all three of these:

**Love, Law, and Labor**

When I find it that is what my philosophy, my religion will be."

Oh, my dear friends could you show him that combination? And you notice that my question is "could you *show* him that combination?" I don't mean just tell him about it, could you *show* him the light of life in which love and law and labor are all blended in one experience?