

KINDERGARTEN OF GOD

Elbert Hubbard, FRC

Elbert and Alice Hubbard were progressive philosophers and leaders of the influential Roycroft Arts and Crafts movement of East Aurora, New York that began in 1895. Elbert Hubbard was a prolific writer, publisher, and artist. He and H. Spencer Lewis were close personal friends. Elbert Hubbard served on the first Supreme Council of AMORC. In 1915, he wrote to H. Spencer Lewis promising further support upon his return from a lecture tour of Europe, however, he and Alice died aboard the torpedoed ship, the Lusitania.



Dear Playmate in the Kindergarten of God:

Please do not take life quite so seriously — you surely will never get out of it alive. And as for your buying and selling, your churches and banks, your newspapers and books, they are really at the last of no more importance than the child's paper houses, red and blue wafers and funny scissors things. Why you grown-ups! all your possessions are only just to keep you out of mischief, until Death, the good old nurse, comes and rocks you to sleep. Am I not right?

The child's paper doll lasts a day and a copy of a daily paper lasts only half a day or until the next edition appears; and as for a church edifice it only endures for two days, if made of wood, and three if of stone. In Egypt I saw men unearthing stone temples, and no one really knows what god these temples were dedicated to, much less why. The god they sought to serve is as dead as the folks who invented him.

Take my word for it, Dear Playmate, this life is only a big joke. But we are here, and so let 's have all the fun we can. And in order to get along best

we should cut our scissors things as well as we can, and model only pretty toys out of the mud that is given us. It 's all Kindergarten business though: the object is to teach us. I really believe we are learning things, and if we are ever called to a Higher Grade we shall be prepared to manage more difficult lessons than when we began here.

We are all children in the Kindergarten of God. Take my word for it, Playmate, and I know as much about God and his plans as any man who ever trod this green earth. I know as much as you, and you know as much as I, and we are both Sons of God and it doth not yet appear what we shall be.

Systems of Guesswork, facetiously called "Theology," do not introduce us to God...

"Do unto others as you would be done by" — you understand that, do you not? But what does a man mean when he talks of Predestination, Vicarious Atonement, Redemption by Faith, and Hell and Damnation ?

Please take my word for it when I say these schemes of salvation are as idle vapors; for I am a Son of God. ...

I am a thought of God; I was loved into being, therefore my life in the beginning was holy. Of course I am slightly be-smirched by contact with fools, but in the main my life and deeds are right, for being a Child of God I could not stray very far afield, even if I wished; God, who is my mother, would call me back, for has He not protected me, sustained me and cared for me all these years? Take my word for it, we are in the Kindergarten of God, and all there is of life is to do our work (which is only play) as well as we can and be kind. That 's all there is of wisdom — do your work as well as you can and be kind.

I know as much about it as any man who ever lived, for I am a Child of God, and the best man who ever lived was nothing more. Do your work as well as you can and be kind — that 's the best way to get along here, and it is the best preparation for a Life to Come, if there is one. This is no new Truth, for there is no such thing as a new Truth. Truth is as old as Fate. There is no plural Truth — there is only the one Truth, and this is very old and very simple. All wise men have known it. No one knows any more about Absolute Truth than I do, and I know as much about it as anyone who ever lived, and I know nothing.

Do your work as well as you can and be kind.

