hope of any degree of understanding of the divine. But if you are to have worship there can be no outside interruption or distraction, real worship requires silence and solitude. The longer I live the more convinced I have become that when I first laid hold of the relation of silence to genuine communion with the divine, I struck a great spiritual truth.

Miss Best in her stimulating and illuminating stories of "Rebel Saints" as she characterizes certain early Quakers, quotes Thomas Lurting's comment that "as silence is the first word of command in martial discipline so it is in spiritual; for until that is come unto, the will and mind of God concerning us cannot be known, much less done."

Even primitive religions provided for silent meditation - solitary communion. It has not always been easy for would-be saints to command silence - freedom from disturbance; and so we have had monks, hermits, anchorites, withdrawing from the world even going for long periods without food, sleep, human presence. If there were to be a pure inner flame lit and spreading in their souls it could only be done by continued silent contemplation.

But this class has always been small. It came into conflict with one of the strongest instincts of man, also one of his necessities, if he was to live on the earth, and that was the need, the duty of remaining with his kind, sharing its

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