

THE GOSPEL MONITOR



A LITTLE BOOK OF

MOTHER ANN'S WORD

To those who are placed as Instructors and Caretakers of children;

WRITTEN BY

MOTHER LUCY WRIGHT

AND BROUGHT BY HER TO THE ELDERS OF

THE FIRST ORDER

ON THE

HOLY MOUNT,

March 1, 1841.

**COPIED BY INSPIRATION ACCORDING TO MOTHER ANN'S DESIRE,
MARCH 2, 1841.**

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1843

**The United Society of Believers in
Christ's Second Appearing
(The Shakers)**

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INTRODUCTION

Mother Lucy's Word to the Elders

O beloved Elders, I have many times and for a long time, desired to make known my feelings and desires in regard to the order of children, pertaining to those set in order to take care of them.

But my blessed Mother Ann has sent you a little book of her own word, which perfectly satisfies me; and I do sincerely hope that it will be received and noticed as a word of some importance. For I see no other way for the babes in my Mother's house, to step forward in the increasing work, even according to their own order.

I remain your friend and Mother,
LUCY

Note: The first part of this book contains an interesting interview of the writer with Mother Ann on March 1, 1841. The second, is Mother's word to the caretakers; third, to the children and the fourth to the Elders. It is helpful to note that whenever Mother Ann speaks of the children coming together with the family, the reader should understand that Zion is a family of true Brethren and Sisters of all ages under our Gospel Parents Jesus Christ and Ann Lee.

THE GOSPEL MONITOR

PART 1

The inspired writer's interview with Mother Ann, March 1, 1841

1. As I entered my room, after my evening meal, I was met by Elder Sister Olive Spencer. She said to me: Come with me, child; for thy loving Mother, even thy blessed Mother Ann, waiteth for thee and she told me to conduct thee to her mansion this night.

2. She took me by the hand and soon placed me in the presence of Mother Ann. Mother bid me sit down by her side. She said, Olive, you may go now; you have done my will. I have much to say to this little one of mine and when I get through, I will sound my trumpet and you may come and conduct her home.

3. Mother then said to me: Little one, I wish you to sit patiently while I instruct you concerning the good, comfort and protection of the little ones, yea, even the very least and youngest in my house upon earth.

4. As a Mother and Parent indeed, I feel great concern for the young and tender lambs of my flock; and I can by no means give rest to my spirit or return to my mansions above in peace, until I can make known, more fully, my desires concerning them. I have much good counsel and a Mother's instruction to impart to such as are placed as caretakers of those numbered in the order of children in Zion.

5. I will now speak to you in the simple and tender feelings of a Mother and you must receive as such; will you? said Mother. I bowed and said; O my Mother, I am indeed unworthy to come into thy presence; but I will receive thankfully, anything that my blessed Mother has for me.

6. She then said, I have not been well pleased, nay not at all; my spirit has been sorely grieved, for a long time, in regard to the order of children, that have been gathered into the Zion of my God upon earth: I say, for a long time I have not been pleased. Truly it has been a long time, to be sure; for there has never been that order which my spirit could own, love and bless, in reality, since those that were children in Father Joseph's day on earth.

7. I have, times without number, within the last three years, walked to behold and passed to view the different classes, lots and orders of and among my children below. In almost all cases and at most of the time, my spirit was in a measure satisfied, except with the order of the children.

8. I could see that beauty was increasing and order of protection, in many points and places, was being established (which is ever inexpressibly pleasing to your Mother), except in the order of children; and this order of children is passed by and very much neglected; which is and ever has been a heavy grief and distressing displeasure to the feelings of a careful Parent, who feels much for her little ones, yea, those that in very deed, come the nearest to her spirit and demand her first love, notice and care.

9. Mother now bowed low, even to the floor of her mansion and wept in grief of spirit, saying, O my child, this is not the first time that I, your Mother, have wept for my little ones and O, that my Heavenly Father would open some way to relieve my burdened spirit, regarding this

one thing, that I may behold order and beauty among even the least and youngest in Zion, if it be only for a short season, before I am called home, no more to view them, as I now can.

10. Much has been done and much has been sent forth from the heavens, for the very purpose of renewing the beauty and re-establishing the order of the house of Israel, in all of its different branches, lots, orders and rooms, yea, all has in a great degree, been closely viewed and much respect paid thereto, except in the order of my babes and their caretakers.

11. This and this alone, is the sore grief and heavy burden of my spirit this night; for as it has been, I see no way for these little ones ever to learn the perfect law of their Mother's house, or to be protected, in any wise, from the destroying enemies and prowling wolves of time; which are their own carnal passions, natures, ways, wills, desires and inclinations, with their ungoverned and sordid propensities, which will inevitably grow and increase, if not subdued by suitable restrictions and orders, even in the least babe in my house.

12. Mother now covered her face and wept most bitterly, for some moments; then taking me by the hand, she led me to a pretty green and bid me sit down, saying, with heavy sighs: Indeed; when I was upon earth, I never suffered the parents of children to return home, when they had come to see me and get counsel, without giving them strict charge and many words of instruction, in regard to the care and protection of their little ones.

13. And whenever I visited the believers, whether those that lived near or afar off, I never passed by, or closed my visit, without noticing the babes of their families. The same was the truth when they came where I was and brought their infants with them.

14. Then how think ye, could I now suffer the little ones among my children, in this my visit, to be slightly noticed and even neglected, as though they were not and never would be worth the notice of a Parent and Mother? But this, know ye, I shall no longer bear; for I have prayed earnestly to my Heavenly Father and I do fully believe He will hear me; and that I shall be answered in full.

15. Mother now left me; but soon returned with Mother Lucy. She now commenced instructing me; her words being plain yet Motherly in truth. After a lengthy word of counsel, she asked me if I thought I could remember her word, so as to deliver it to my Elders; I said, nay Mother, that I can never do, to their satisfaction, nor my own.

16. Mother Ann then desired Mother Lucy to hasten to prepare a Book and to write her word correctly, even as she should speak it. Mother Lucy obeyed. I sat a few moments hearing Mother Ann speak and seeing Mother Lucy write.

17. But soon a little Angel entered and Mother Ann bid me make ready to return to my home, saying: You have now heard much good; go home and let it comfort you; for you will see the day that you will remember, with true thankfulness, this visit with me, your Mother.

18. When Mother Lucy has finished the word which I shall speak unto her, then she will give you the Little Book; and in union with your Elders you must copy it. But remember to write on the first pages, all that has passed this night; that I your Mother, may be sure that my sorrows are known on earth, as well as in heaven.

19. Mother now gave me her love and bade me be a good child; sounded her trumpet for Elder Sister Olive, who soon came; and I returned home with her, having been absent two hours and twenty five minutes.

20. I prepared me a Book and wrote thus far. I then went to rest. On the morrow, I received from the hand of my beloved Mother Lucy, the Little Book she had written. In obedience to my

blessed Mother and in union with my Elders, I copied the words of the book, which are as follows.

PART 2

A LITTLE BOOK OF MOTHER ANN'S OWN WORD

Mother Ann's word to those who are entrusted with the care of those in the order of children, in her house on earth.

SECTION 1

1. Come, gather near, O ye little ones, says Mother Ann! Gather near to me your Mother and listen to my word; for my spirit is sorely grieved and troubled, because of my babes, O yea, my innocent babes, even the little ones of my house.

2. My first word is to you and as a kind and careful Parent I shall instruct you regarding how to deal with my little ones, or all such as it is the will of the visible Lead to place in the order of children.

3. I will give you my word and let the same be the law of your ever loving Mother, so far as the Anointed and the Elders in Israel feel to sanction and support it. But remember, that the word which I now sound in your ears, is my sure law of protection for the order of children and their caretakers.

4. So now, my dear children, hearken to the word of your Mother; yea, you that are called and appointed to feel for, teach, guide and protect the youngest part, class or order in the fold of Zion.

5. Draw near and give attention, while I say that it is the real desire of your Mother, yea, know ye, one and all, that it is my earnest desire, that the rules and orders of this part of my house below, be remembered and considered as important to be kept and supported, conscientiously, as any part of the laws of Zion and Holy orders of the Church.

6. And I do believe that all who feel for the good of the rising generation, or desire to have rightful heirs to the inheritance of the faithful, or successors upon whom their blessings can flow freely, will feel as I do.

7. Although it is regarding *small things* and for *young minds*; yet I say it is of as much importance, in my view and understanding, as many other matters; and at this moment weighs down my spirit with grief.

8. I do not feel as though I could return to my mansion above and rest in peace, without handing unto you my written word, in union with your visible Lead, that you might know the will and desire of your Mother in these things.

9. For I do think that the flourishing prosperity of the rising generation, surely, in a measure, depends upon the tuition and management of the class or order of children. And again, I am confident to say, that the prosperity and welfare of the children, mostly depends upon the careful watch and wise dealings of those that have the particular charge of them.

10. So now, as a kind Mother, I speak: for although there are and have been, heavier matters daily beating upon my spirit, like the troubled waves of the ocean; yet I cannot feel perfectly at rest, without spending a few moments, at this time, to write unto you a short word, that may serve for a comfort, strength and guide, with the word of your beloved and visible Lead, when I am gone, or when you cannot receive my word immediately from me, your Mother, as you now can.

11. Firstly, you should always, in all serious labors or conversation with our children, speak well considered words of entire truth; such as will by no means vary, nay, not in the least, from the true meaning, or from that which you intend that they shall understand. Never deviate from this at any time.

12. Never, in any case whatsoever, presume to speak, or move to correct a child in passion; but ever let reason and gentleness of spirit, direct your movements.

13. Never, by any means, make known their failings and weaknesses to the members of the family, nor delight to make sport of their odd ways at any time.

14. At all times avoid speaking to anyone in a fractious or passionate manner, in the hearing or presence of the children. This sentence of my word is to every member of Zion that cares for the welfare of the young.

15. Never allow yourselves to speak diminutively or condescendingly of anyone, in presence of the children, let you think what you will, or have ever so much occasion. Neither make mention of the difficulties or failings of the Brethren and Sisters, in the hearing of children; and, as far as possible, avoid their having knowledge of that which transpires in the family, particularly in meeting.

16. Whenever they bring forward any trial or abuse, or anything that even seems like mismanagement of the Brethren or Sisters towards them, always take suitable means to learn the truth, reality and reason of the matter, before you say much to the child. If the person accused is to blame, then give the child such counsel as will be for their best good. And if you have to pass words with the Brother or Sister, let it be entirely outside and away from the child's hearing and presence.

SECTION 2

1. Again, I say, O ye goodly shepherds over my Little Lambs, listen yet a little longer to my word; truly you need a Mother's word and a true Mother's care. You need to be, at all times, clothed with Mother's love, patience, charity, meekness, forbearance, true knowledge and wisdom. For many are the devices of Satan, to destroy and overcome even the least babes in my house. Therefore ye must ever, in all cases, labor to understand and according to the magnitude of the case, deal wisely.

2. Always be very careful to learn, if possible, the whole truth, on both sides of a disagreement between them, before you attempt to settle it. Never let a disagreement of any importance, between them, go unsettled; but require an acknowledgment on both sides. Never allow them to bring it up again after that.

3. Always be impartial. Never let anything, either relation, friendship, pride, fancy, or whatever else you may feel towards others, or anyone of the children, or in yourself, in the least tempt you to show or use any partiality, in any respect, either in praise or reproof.

4. But if ill health, or any particular disease requires immediate attention, then regard it with care; but as much as possible without the knowledge of the child.

5. Never tell them, either in earnest, or in any other way, that you do not, or did not expect them to obey you, or to mind a word that you say [This has sometimes been done to cast a slur upon them, for their carelessness and want of attention to their duty; but it is not right].

6. Never call them by any names, besides their own proper ones, either for mortification or for any other reason; and by no means allow them to do so to each other.

7. In a case where one or more of the class is obstinate, disobedient and willful and exposing themselves to the rest by unbecoming behavior, ever be careful and talk not against them to all or any of the class when they are not present. But if to subdue them, you deem it necessary to make words with the rest, let it be before them and in their presence and hearing. But avoid public reproof as far as possible, when the nature of the case does not require it. Never keep a child on their knees for correction over fifteen minutes.

8. Children should never be allowed to have unreconciled and improper conversation together or make comments upon the doings of their instructors, in any case, especially concerning their admonitions or reproofs.

9. Always avoid holding conversation with those of the family, especially between your brethren and sisters in Zion in the hearing of the children, upon that which does not concern them and that which they cannot understand; be it what it may.

10. When grown people enter the rooms of the children, or go among them, to speak with their caretakers, or whatever their errand may be, or however lengthy their stay, the little ones should never be allowed to jump from their seats and run to get noticed, until you give them liberty.

11. Neither should anyone ever call a child from their employment, to notice them a little, or a great deal, without first learning of their instructors the degree of union in which they stand [making sure first that the caretaker approves of this].

12. Never send confidential errands of importance, by the children, to the members of the family in Zion; neither should the members of the family make any practice of sending errands by the children to their caretakers, either of that which relates to their own concerns, or anything else. ***Do it not when it can be avoided.***

13. By no means should there be any errands, or words of information sent from one instructor to another (either from school, or wherever the children are permitted to attend), by any child concerning the ill conduct of another; unless it be by writing and unknown to the one by whom it is sent. But let all such as have the care and charge of children, transact their own business and do it as much without the knowledge of the children as possible.

14. Never set the older class to govern and tutor the younger, in case they are stubborn; again I say not at all except in some sort of unique case.

15. No one, in the order of children, should ever go here or there for the sake of company for an adult Brother or Sister. Yea, let it ever be remembered, that this is a grievous trial to the spirit of your Mother. But if the help of some of the oldest of them is really needed in a job of business, then let some suitable person be set in order to take charge of them; and all others that may be present are to let them alone.

16. And ever let it be remembered, in all cases, when the children do go into jobs of business with the grown people, that there should be no improper conversation upon the transactions of the family, either of a spiritual or temporal nature. And when the children return to their little companions, they should not be allowed to converse together upon what they have seen or heard which is improper for them to know: they are to say nothing about it, except to their caretakers.

17. But O my beloved ones, know ye, that it is pleasing to the spirit of your Mother; yea, it is my desire and my will, that all the hand labor of my little ones, be performed, as much as possible, in the dwellings where they reside, or at least, within the bounds of their own order and under the instruction of their immediate caretakers, as respects the female class in particular.

18. If there be some, or many jobs of outside business that this class can assist in and their caretakers can attend with them, it is all well enough. Let this class learn and do their milking in the summer season; but have no access to the barns and stables, while in the order of children. This my word will extend to those in the male class, who are so young that they can be of no help. And none under the age of fourteen or fifteen are to go to washing.

19. It is many times expedient and for the best, to put some of the male class at different trades of business, while yet in the order of children. But there ought, at all times, to be great wisdom used in this case, that the children do not run over, or go beyond the bounds of their own order.

20. Never let any small, or even any common concern hinder the children from attending strictly to all their daily and weekly orders of protection, in every point, however many or small they may be, or wherever they are at work.

21. And it should always be enjoined on each and every one that has the least concern with any child, to see that they do strictly keep their rules and orders. And O! Never, by any means, hinder them, by speaking lightly of their regulations to them, or before them.

22. O my beloved ones, do ever remember this the word of your loving Mother Ann; ever keep children in their order and keep that order which they have not yet traveled to, out of their knowledge and you may rest assured they will be happy and contented in it and they will increase and flourish and in very deed will adorn and beautify the house of Israel, as much as any Branch or part of Zion.

SECTION 3

1. Listen yet longer and hear now the third section of my word and ever know that the young of the flock need the first watch and the most tender care of their parents and protectors. O then be most patient, wise and charitable. Be Parents of true love and perfect justice. Deal impartially with my little ones.

2. In all cases and at all times, do your duty in regard to them as doing good to your own souls; and always support a principle of conscience and act in obedience to your conscience in all your proceedings.

3. Never make abrupt facial expressions or speak to reprove or mortify children, for there is never any need of that; and it only teaches them to say the same words to each other.

4. Avoid calling them liars and thieves, or filthy nasty, stinking creatures and the like, in the presence of the class of children. But if you have occasion for such words, for mortification, let it be in your private labors.

5. Never make promises to little children that you cannot fulfill, according to your word. Make no practice of hiring any child over the age of four years, to obey you, by giving them presents of any kind.

6. But at all times, when they have done well and to your satisfaction and you feel to reward them, by giving them some extra privilege, or in any way you think will be for their good, do it freely; and at the same time, make sure that they understand that it is a reward for what they have **already** done.

7. This will encourage them to do well again; but it will not bring you under so many obligations, which many times, circumstances will not allow you to fulfill according to your promises to them.

8. Never accuse anyone of a crime, great or small, that you are not entirely confident, or have not a proof that you can rely on, that they are guilty or to blame. Never correct a child upon the word of another, unless you have some proof of your own.

9. Deal very carefully with all, especially the younger class, in regard to the habit of lying. If they are addicted to this wicked practice, they should never be asked if they have said or done so and so, without first giving them some words to prepare their minds to speak the truth. If you are satisfied that they are in the wrong, then ask them why they did so and so and take means to get round them and overcome them.

10. But if they still persist in this evil practice, they should be strictly followed up, by reasonable terms of correction, until they will fear to do it. And the younger a child is broken of this habit, the easier and better their life shall be. And the same I say of the wicked practice of meddling, pilfering and stealing.

11. O my beloved ones! Harken to the counsel of your Mother, this once and never think that any child that you have, or perhaps ever will have under your care, is too young to be corrected, until it reforms from whatever error, however great or small which it is capable of committing; and so suffer them to go on, flattering yourselves by believing that they will out-grow it, or leave it off by choice one day.

12. But ever remember that the earliest age is the best time to implant that which you wish to have thrive and take deep root in them. The present time is always the best time to correct the child for a fault, even while it is still fresh in their memory, so that the child can realize the justice of the correction.

13. Never let small, trifling or unnecessary concerns hinder you from attending to your labors with them once a week, or even as often as they desire, or you feel that their situation requires.

14. Never deny any child a privilege to confess a fault, that you can feel asks out of sincere motives, conviction of spirit, or honesty of heart, in any degree; I say, never put them off to wait over night, when you can avoid it, lest they lose what conviction they feel and cannot easily gain it at another time.

15. But if they have no desire to come to any degree of honesty, give yourselves no rest, until you know that they understand the danger they are in; and suffer them not to lie down at night, or to have an equal privilege in their hours of worship, when they are guilty of willful

transgressions of any kind without reminding them of their duty of honest confession and the order that is set for their protection.

16. If they are given to filthy and vicious practices, deal with them in private labors and correction, as far as possible; and do not require them to make a public acknowledgment of their faults; unless it is some very public crime, considerably wrong, that the whole class has knowledge of.

17. Never, by any means, punish a child for a fault which it has honestly confessed. If it be one which the child has committed many times before and you think it needs mortifying, very well; let it be mortified.

18. Use no words in your public or private labors that will excite the young mind to desire further knowledge of the influence of their own carnal passions; but as far as they are ignorant of those things, let them remain so; and be cautious in questioning them, unless you are sure that they understand you aright.

19. But at all times and in all cases, let your testimony against filthiness of every kind and description be plain and positive; and show no union or agreement with it in the least child. Never tell them that you do not expect them to take up a full cross, all at once, against acting according to the influence of their natures.

20. I say, give no toleration at all, for any carnal indulgences; but tell them that a full cross must be borne and all filthy works must be laid aside, or they cannot be the true children of their ever blessed Mother Ann, or rightful heirs to their privilege. Be faithful in this after the child that is seven years of age has had a privilege of two months of manifesting their nature.

21. In the hours and times that you attend to their confession and openings, they should never be allowed to have any noisy work; and by no means, any play going on; but they should always retire at a suitable time, according to their age and privilege, or according to that degree of labor which you may feel they need.

22. Always teach them that it is a very solemn and Sacred performance, even the most Sacred of any that is at any time enjoined upon them; and this you should do, by paying the same Sacred regard to the gift, yea, ever remember to prepare yourselves, in the fear of God and in a situation to teach them the same.

23. Never be heard by a child or a youth, to speak of confessing sin in a playful or light manner of spirit; and never allow the children to have conversation upon this gift, at any time, for they will not profit by it.

SECTION 4

1. Be not weary of the word of your Mother, O my little cross-bearers, but listen yet longer; and know ye, that the gain of the little ones, for whose concern you daily feel, is, at all times, your gain; their comfort is your comfort; their joy is your joy and their troubles and difficulties are ever yours.

2. O then carefully avoid all unnecessary crosses, trials and restrictions, by providing means whereby their young minds and tender spirits can be excited to that which will encourage and even cause them to obey you through love and with delight. But never do this by equalizing with them, or by breaking your word to please them, or flattering them to obey you.

3. They should never be left entirely alone, over half an hour, either at work, at play or at their studies, except when Sacred duties or important concerns require you to leave them for a longer period. And at such times they should have regulations, but not orders so binding, but that they can amuse themselves by singing or reading that which is profitable and interesting; but **ever** let it be that which is Sacred.

4. If there be those who are not in good union, leave them under such degrees of mortification as you may feel that they deserve; but keep all close and within doors, as much as possible, at all times and hours of Sacred worship. Never allow them to be walking the gardens and orchards on the Sabbath, nor to be around in the workshops, or standing on the outside steps and hanging on the handrails etc.

5. Give all a privilege to attend meeting with the family, once a week, that you can feel have prepared themselves by obedience and honesty; but none others; and never coax, flatter or hire a child, over four years of age, to prepare themselves, or to gain a privilege to go to meeting with you; for if any child cannot prize that privilege worth gaining by real goodness, then they are not to have it; for it will be no gain or blessing to them; and the sin of a child will in a measure, shut out a great blessing from the meeting.

6. And let it be known that I, your blessed Mother Ann, would, of myself, have the little ones of my flock come together once every two weeks, to attend their meetings. But they must never be left without all their caretakers being present that can attend. But this matter I leave to the wisdom of the Lead; but of myself I should do this.

7. Never leave one at home entirely alone, for correction, of any age, while they are in the children's order; for in that case their protection is at once gone.

8. In their own meetings, which should be three in a week, at least, except sickness or something extra prevents, there should always be a regard to all the Sacred orders of worship, teach them how to pray to God and their Heavenly Parents.

9. Teach them to labor for little simple gifts and for the true Power of God; but be very careful to give them an understanding between a Power that is, in reality, irresistible and the simple exercises of the body for freedom's sake, or to unite with the gift.

10. Teach them to retire in order and to respect their Sacred moments, however few. Let the older class, or those over ten years of age, retire fifteen minutes and the younger class, ten. This can be attended to, even if they retire together.

11. The younger class of children should have hours of recreation and simple amusement of their own, according to their various elements, notions and ideas, as far as they can; and have a degree of order in it as far as they may go and no further. In these hours, they should never be entirely out of the sight or hearing of their caretakers or instructors,

12. They should never be allowed to go forth in any religious exercises, in their times of play; but give them suitable times for this and be very watchful that they never mingle the least part of their Sacred devotion with their everyday concerns and above all, with their childish amusement. This is very grieving to the spirit of your Mother and sin in the sight of God.

13. Never deal out to them Sacred or Divine gifts that they cannot understand or comprehend; but spare no pains to enlighten their minds, as much as possible, in regard to the Sacred things of God, their Almighty Creator and concerning the first and second ministration of their heavenly Parents on earth; also that of the blessed Savior and of the Holy Anointed and visible Lead.

14. And of the older class, I say the same in substance. All should have certain stated requirements in their daily employment. These should be upon reasonable terms and according to their capacity, experience and privilege and not always according to age.

15. They should not be allowed to tip back in their chairs, slouch nor sit cross-legged when about their work, or in company.

16. Be careful to know that they have honestly fulfilled that which you have required of them, before you release them to enjoy their hour or time of amusement. Never, in any wise, tell a child that you did not expect them to come up to your word, or regard what you said, respecting their day's labor, or anything else you bid them to do.

17. Be considerate in all your requirements and promises to children of every age and class; and if you have occasion to alter your word to them, give them a suitable understanding why you did so. But further than this, the ***children should never have knowledge, or be concerned with transactions of their caretakers: nay in no wise.***

18. All should have hours of study allowed them and this should by no means be neglected in the season of the year when they do not attend school. They should be supplied with the New Testament and the words of the Sacred songs, which might be their duty to read on the Sabbath and at other times, if you feel so to direct. But in their times of study, in a general way, it should be strictly attended to, by their caretakers, or by some one of the older class, that will be trustworthy and responsible enough to teach them properly.

19. There is a sufficient assortment of books for the little ones of my flock to use, without fables, newsprints, novels, picture-books, primers and other books of this sort, which are injurious studies for Mother's little ones. Let not their studies be mixed up with their hand labors; but when they work, let them work and when they study let them attend to that. When you feel to give them time to learn to exercise in the Sacred worship, they should always respect the exercise and never make play or mock of it.

20. And in the hours of their amusement and recreation, let them lay aside all other employment and attend to that. Never allow them to go into the water to wash, swim or whatever, unless you or some trusted person is present, that has come to years of understanding.

21. Never allow them to play with stones, edged tools, nor with insects of any kind. Suffer them not to scuffle, wrestle or lay violent hands on each other, in any way. Allow them not to follow the various amusements of the children of this world; but rather choose for them those which are simple and becoming for Mother's little ones.

22. Suffer them not to use hard and harsh words, or to do anything that will cause strife among them. Yea, ever remember to keep peace and support order and harmony among my little ones. Never allow them to be out late at night, except at extra jobs; and not at all on Saturday night.

23. Require them to rise at the alarm in the morning and teach them to be lively and cheerful in the morning, especially the younger class. And these should not be kept up late at night. If you have little ones, under four years of age, they should be put to sleep in the fore part of the day.

24. If any of them incline to be wakeful in the morning and wish to rise early, do not hinder them, but teach them to be still and to stay in their own rooms, until the time for them to attend to their employment. Do this for their protection.

SECTION 5

1. The rooms where children reside should never be kept very warm and great care should be taken to have them in fresh air, especially morning and evening; and they ought never to go to rest in a very warm room.

2. Avoid dressing the little ones, that cannot be out so much, too warmly; but be careful to change their clothes with the weather. Dress them neat and comely; but put no superfluous and unnecessary garments upon them. Dress none over ten years old, in calico or multicolor of any kind, nor in garments of gay colors.

3. Let the Sabbath day dress of all my little ones be plain and modest and as near the color of the uniform dress of my faithful children as possible. In a case where they bring in fine and gay articles and garments which cannot be used to profit, return them to their parents or relatives and let them do what they feel with them. And never receive anything from a parent or connection, nor from anyone a present for a child, if that parent or individual is an apostate and disowned by me, your kind Mother. And suffer not my little babes to own and keep in their possession, that which I cannot bless them with, as they grow older.

4. The older members of the family should not hand presents immediately to the children; but if they have presents for them, the caretakers should be the receivers and deal out in their wisdom.

5. Teach them to be careful in the maintaining of their clothes; and above all, teach them to feel a care in regard to their being well mended in due season. Teach them to prize a garment that is well repaired and mended and not to be careless, wasteful and unthankful for it. Never allow a ragged garment to be worn by any child into the worship of God.

6. Never dress a child up in fine and nice clothes to please their fanciful notions and ideas; and never change their dress for this purpose; but set reasonable times and rules for them to change, according to their age and employ and then bring them strictly to your requirements.

7. Suffer no spirit of selfish interest and private property to rest among my little ones; but be faithful to teach them that they themselves and all they possess, more or less, does belong to the joint interest and is consecrated to God and His people.

8. If you take a child's valuable clothes provided by their parents or friends, that you feel to take for the less or younger class, ever be mindful to replace them with other clothes just as good, or see that the child you have taken them from is provided with such clothes as would be just as profitable to that one.

9. When children are visited by their relations or whoever, dress them neatly, but plain; and never leave them alone, nor suffer them to go here and there, with their unbelieving relatives that have come to see them. Never make lengthy visits with the children's relations or acquaintances; and avoid taking unbelievers or strangers into the children's rooms; unless extreme sickness, or some extra case requires you to suffer it.

10. Watch my little ones, closely and see that they are punctual to dress themselves neatly and tidily; and above all, to wash clean their faces and hands and they never ought to pass over a week, except in the coldest weather, without washing their bodies more or less, or having it done for them. This is greatly for their health's sake. Also, remember to never leave them alone at such times, lest they tempt each other in some way.

11. Now, O my beloved ones, I know not but you may be weary before this my little book is finished; but know ye, that the welfare of my little ones lies with a weight inexpressible upon my spirit, at this time; but I hope this my word, will not be a word in vain.

12. Be careful and mindful of these precepts in all points, because it relates to their peace, their comfort, their love one to another and their protection. They also assure the health of both soul and body. Let their food be prepared in a plain and simple manner. Give them no animal food; I say, suffer that not to come upon their table. Give them neither tea nor coffee, making no practice of giving them hot drinks of any kind.

13. O yea, know ye, my beloved ones, that it is the will of your Mother, that neither animal food, tea, coffee, cider, nor any kind of strong drink should be used or made mention of in the order of my little ones in Zion; except in sickness by order of the physicians.

14. It should always be allowed for all, in the children's order, to have their two meals of milk in a day, except in the short season, when it is rather scarce; and it is not so well for them to have a full portion of it at their evening meal.

15. But never deprive them of the right of having it when their cooks think proper to give it to them for dinner or whenever it is thought best. But in extreme cold weather it should be warmed a little for breakfast. Never give them butter and milk at the same time, or anything soured or pickled to eat with milk.

16. Never give them butter and cheese at the same meal. Never spread their butter thick on their bread; and for those under the age of ten or twelve, lay it upon or by the side of their dishes. Make no practice of giving them food between meals.

17. Never allow them to eat many sorts of food at the same meal. Three or four different kinds at their evening meal and four or five at their other meals is the extent that is needful for them. Deal it out in suitable portions, as you think they need; but never give them their wills, by taking away one thing and giving them another; unless you think they will be injured by eating it. Teach them to partake of their food with thankful hearts.

18. Children should be provided with fruit; but they ought always to have some order in regard to eating it. Be very careful about giving children much medicine, unless very necessary and if they are not dangerously sick, keep them under your own care and with their own company.

19. But if it is considered a case that needs the daily concern of the physicians, then place them away from the company, but keep a careful watch over them and let them not stray from their order.

20. If you desire the welfare of your little ones, do not stuff them with food. They had much better leave the table hungry, than to eat one mouthful more than is needful.

21. Now, O my dear children, yea, you that have the charge of my Little Babes, receive this Little Book as a token of your Mother's love and remembrance of you and your little ones.

22. In love I have repeated this, my word to your good Mother Lucy, that ye might fully know my will and desires; and in love has she written it. And now, if ye will obey it in love and help the little ones to do the same, so far as your visible Lead may think proper, then shall my blessing flow upon the Little Lambs of my fold upon earth, wherever this my word shall be sounded and received, as the kind instruction of a true Parent.

23. Ever remember that my word is the same, yesterday, today and tomorrow; and lest ye do not understand I will again repeat it.

24. Keep children in their own order; and keep that order which they have not yet traveled to, out of their knowledge; and you may rest assured that they will be happy and contented in their own order and will increase and flourish and will, in very deed, adorn Zion as much, according to their number, as any Branch thereof.

25. And I will now close this part of my Book of instruction to you; and I will turn my notice of a true Mother's love, will and words, particularly and immediately to the little ones; that they may know and ever remember that they are the real objects of the particular notice of their ever blessed Mother Ann.

26. And now my last word is this: Ever be careful to keep your concerns, as regards the little ones, within the bounds of good order; and that is, between you and your Elders and no farther; but ever be true to give your Elders a strict account of all your transactions, at all times.

27. Keep your little ones, however small, in their order and place and there will the blessings of heaven attend them; and so much correction and so many petty punishments will not be necessary, in the house of Israel on earth.

28. So beloved, press on in my love; persevere through all trials and you shall surely reap the reward of your faithful labors.

The end of Mother Ann's word to the caretakers of children for this time

Part 3

MOTHER ANN'S LAW OF PROTECTION FOR THE LITTLE LAMBS OF HER FOLD

SECTION 1

Draw near, ye little ones and receivers of a Mother's love, ye pretty little innocent lambs of a true shepherd's care! Come near unto me, your ever blessed Mother Ann. O yea, hearken this once and give attention to the voice of a Mother that ye know not, as yet; but a Mother whom ye will know and will delight to obey, if ye will hearken to the words of this Little Book which I have lovingly sent unto you.

MOTHER'S WORD AND LAW FOR ALL IN THE CHILDREN'S ORDER

O yea, says Mother Ann,
If ye would be my little ones,
Then hearken to my word;
Keep this my law and my command
And learn to fear your God.

1. You must be neat and clean, prudent and saving of everything that is given you to eat, to drink, to wear or to use at any time. You must be prudent in your work, your studies and your play.
2. Never call any ill names, nor contradict anyone, even if you think you know the best and are right in the matter.
3. Never tell any of your little mates that they are hateful, nasty, stinking, or saucy creatures, nor spit at them.
4. Never tell any of them that they lie, nor call them thieves.
5. Never tell any of your companions that you hate them, or wish them to hell, or any other bad place. Never make bad wishes at all.
6. Never use wicked nor vulgar words to express your ideas; and never have any filthy, nasty conversation at any time.
7. Never make great expressions, nor use big words when you are a little ashamed, or frightened, or put out a little in your feelings, such as, ***O torment! Vengeance! My gracious! Good Heavens! I shall die! I shall go to hell!*** and the like.
8. Never, at any time, allow yourselves to make use of the name of God, nor of any Eternal or Heavenly Power, to express your feelings of contempt, revenge or hatred, either in a jokingly and carnal manner, or in playful conversation.
9. Never make use of the least sentence of the Sacred writings that have been sent forth from Heaven, nor of that which your kind caretakers may feel to say to you to instruct you, in any common conversation and never by any means, make a mock of it, or laugh at it.
10. Never speak slightly, jokingly or in an unappreciative manner about your superiors and never make fun of nor hold anyone in derision, especially the aged and infirm.
11. Never speak against your caretakers and if you should ever give way to feeling ill against them, never lie down at night, nor go into meeting, until you honestly confess it.
12. Never tell your orders to anyone outside of your own class and company; and inquire not of others about their orders.
13. Never push, strike, kick, bite, scratch, pound or lay hands on each other, when in a passion or at play.
14. No scuffling, wrestling, whirling and jumping from high beams and other high places, ever looks pretty in the sight of your Mother and is not owned by her in the least.
15. Never throw stones or sticks at each other and never use any sharp edged tools to play with.

16. Never presume to carry on any play or sport that you learned while you lived with the children of sin; unless it is something innocent and simple, that your caretakers think to be suitable for Mother's little ones. But this will seldom be the case.

17. Never tell old, foolish or filthy stories at any time. Never question any of those that have lately come to live with you, about their former home, their parents, connections or friends. Never question new comers about their past studies, their employments or their plays and sports.

18. Never relate to them the past difficulties, punishments or orders that have been among you; and by no means speak of the failings of your little companions to them.

19. Never ask irrelevant and brash or unnecessary questions about that which does not concern you, either of your instructors or anyone else.

20. Never ask to be released from any punishment or mortification that you are under, until you have honestly confessed your fault.

21. Never walk at the right hand of your superiors, nor run by them, without asking their permission.

22. Never speak back, nor give an impudent answer to anyone that gives you good and honest counsel.

23. Never eat fruit of any kind before breakfast, or after supper; and never eat unripe fruit at any time.

24. Never throw anything into the fire or trash that has the least morsel of nourishment in it, or that is good for any creature to eat.

25. Never burn up the least bit of cloth or thread that would be useful, for anything, or that would make paper.

26. Never pass carelessly by a pin, needle, nail, bits of thread, cloth, pewter, tin, iron or anything of the like, without picking it up and saving it, or putting it in some suitable place to be used.

27. Never carry an open fire or light into any attic or upper floor, or over a box or basket of wood or shavings, nor over open chests or draws of garments or cloth.

28. Never leave the room with the stove door open; and never leave the spit-box on the stove or under it.

29. Never sweep the inside of a fire place nor of a stove with a broom, without examining it before you hang it up.

30. Never leave your rooms, or places of employ, without the knowledge of your caretakers, if they are in or nearby; and make no unnecessary errands out or away from your duty, when they are absent.

SECTION 2

1. Always rise when the general alarm is given in the morning, unless you are sick, or something serious is the matter.

2. Always be lively, cheerful and industrious in the morning; but if you get up before the common time, learn to be very still.

3. Always dress yourselves decently, wash your faces, necks, ears and hands, clean in the morning and attend to your chores in due season and do them well.

4. Always be ready to attend to your food in season and go in order, two and two, stepping your right feet together; not hanging on the rails of the stairs; except it be the very least, or someone that is lame.

5. Always go to your meals in the fear of God and partake of your food with as thankful of a heart as you are able. Sit straight at the table and when you have done eating, fold your hands in your lap; and when you kneel down, pray that you may be more thankful.

6. Always remember to kneel in order at the table, to lay your handkerchief on the bench, fold up your hands with the right thumb upon the other and shut up your eyes.

7. Always fold your hands and stand erect, when anyone is instructing you in your duty; and if you cannot promise to obey or to reform, then say nothing at all and thank your instructors kindly for their good counsel. You should **always** do this.

8. Always ask handsomely, even from the least child, if you want a kindness done, by calling the name and asking: Will you be so kind as to do this or that for me?

9. Always return your thanks in plain words and not by a kind of mutter. When you are thanked for any favor, always make the person welcome in the same manner; and learn to use the language of your Mother while you are young.

10. Always respect and reverence the aged and be thankful to do any kindness for them within your power to do.

11. Always take off your hats or bonnets, or cloak when you have the privilege of going into the Brethren or Sister's rooms and into your own retiring rooms.

12. Always ask if you may come into someone's room, loudly and plainly enough to be heard. Be careful not to slam the doors, but if you carelessly forget, you must open the door again and shut it still, this will make you remember. Never walk heavily and flat footed;

13. Always shut the gates closed and still and never leave them slamming and swinging after you, if you have to go back two or three times.

14. Always be still and attentive to your duties or studies, when your caretakers are absent; and never have any conversation at such times, that you would not have if they were present and none at all unless they give you permission.

15. Always own your faults and never by any means or at any time put the blame upon another, when you are as much or more to blame than the other.

16. Always be sure to honestly confess your own faults before you attempt to open and mention the faults of others; and never do this when you are in a passion, but wait until you feel a right spirit.

17. Always speak the truth, in every respect and never be sly or deceitful in any of your dealings with one another.

18. Always be free and open hearted; ask handsomely for what you want; and never meddle or take anything without permission; and if those you ask do not feel to grant your request, then be contented and think that they know best what is for your good and greatest gain.

19. Always kneel before and after you eat, whether you are alone or in company, let the time of day be what it may.

20. Always remember to be silent when anyone is at prayer; and if it be your superiors, kneel with them or leave the room.

21. Always shut your eyes, fold your hands and give your little hearts to God, as sincerely as you are able, when you kneel; and never be so wicked as to make a mock of the gift of prayer,

by laughing, talking and playing on your knees; nor kneeling in so careless a spirit, that you hardly think you are on your knees. If you do this, you ought to confess it as a sin and repent of it as such.

22. Always leave your work, your tools and your clothes in good order at night; and when you lie down to sleep, place yourselves straight, with your hands laid pretty near together not folded up, by the side of your head, but not under it. Never meddle with the one you sleep with, unless it is very necessary.

23. Always remember to give your last thoughts at night and your first in the morning to God, your Heavenly Father, or to the good spirits or little Angels that surround you; and never dare to pass one word after you have kneeled at night, until you have kneeled in the morning, unless it be very necessary for you to speak to your caretakers. And never have any play or whispering, if at times you have liberty to lie down to rest in the day time. Remember, this is the word of your loving Mother Ann.

24. Always be thankful to everyone that gives you any good counsel; and never speak saucy to the Brethren or Sisters, nor talk against them. If you do this you must confess it with shame, or you cannot be my little ones.

25. Always wash your hands clean, before you go to your meals and wipe your mouths before you drink at the table, or anywhere else. Learn also to use your knife, fork and spoon properly and never leave crumbs on your plates and remember, if you are filthy, messy and wasteful little ones, I cannot love you, nor own you for mine. If you drop your victuals on the floor, you must pick it up and eat it, if it is not spoiled.

26. Always eat what is given to you and be thankful for that, before you ask for more. But never be so wicked as to throw away the least crumb of that which is prepared for you to eat because you do not love it as much as you would something else. If you do this you will have to suffer for it in Eternity and I cannot meet you in peace.

27. Always be careful of your clothes and never let the least article be wasted through your neglect whether it is your clothing, food, tools or anything with which you are concerned.

28. Always cut your nails once a week and comb your heads once a day and as many more times as is needful. Always keep your combs clean and in their places; and also your shoes, keep them clean mended and greased and in their proper places.

29. Always be thankful to have your clothes mended and take good care of them and be careful not to rend and soil them more than is really unavoidable, And never change or dispatch any of your garments without permission; never think that you ought to share equal with the Brethren and Sisters in anything.

SECTION 3

1. O my little ones, you must never amuse yourselves in any kind of sport or childish play upon the Holy Sabbath. Never read story-books, almanacs, histories or anything of the like kind upon the Sabbath.

2. Never do any hand labor that can possibly be avoided on this Sacred day; but be sober and be solemn and think upon God.

3. Never cut your nails, nor your hair, nor grease your shoes, nor regulate your drawers and cupboards on the Sabbath.

4. Never pick flowers, nor crack nuts on the Sabbath, neither tell old stories, nor talk about foolish things. Never be at the windows on the Sabbath, looking out at those that are passing by.

5. Never idle away your time on the Sabbath; but improve it in reading, writing, or some useful employment or religious exercise in union with your caretakers.

6. Never be noisy and talkative when you return from your meetings, especially when you have the privilege to assemble with the older brethren and sisters; but be silent and labor to sense your blessed privilege and be thankful for it.

7. Never be gazing round in time of meeting, but be simple and zealous and learn to worship God aright.

8. Never go into meeting with your little consciences condemned with willful disobedience, or any known sin. Remember if you do, I shall know it; and if you go forth in the worship of God, with my faithful children, or with your little companions, with your hands, hearts or tongues defiled with filthy actions, feelings or words, remember the little Angels will write it down against you and you will have it to meet when you enter Eternity. This, my word, will even be to all that have had a privilege of being here for over six months.

9. Never laugh at nor make any derision of any operation that you see performed in meeting, nor of any religious exercise whatsoever and never imitate them in your play time.

10. Never have any conversation together about what you hear spoken in meeting. If you do not understand it, ask your caretakers for a further understanding.

11. Never have any talking, laughing or playing in retiring time before meeting; but retire in order, sitting erect and off from your chair backs, in one or two straight ranks with your hands folded upon your lap, as long, or as many minutes as your caretakers think proper.

12. Never enter the place of worship in a rough and noisy manner; but bow as you enter; and never allow yourselves to take one step upon your flat foot in the time of meeting; and leave the room in the same godly fear and respect.

13. Never have any laughing or talking after your evening meetings, but go still to your rest: this is the law of your Mother.

14. Never make any mock of the Sacred songs, or sing them when about your work nor in your hours of amusement without permission.

15. Never leave your morning chores undone before breakfast, except it be very necessary. And when you go to milking, do your duty and return; and remember, all ye my little ones, that the horse-sheds, stables, hovels, hog-pens, barns and barn-yards, machine-shops, mills and mill-ponds, milking-yards, wash-houses, cellars and kitchens, are not places for you to be in, unless sent there by your caretakers.

16. Never be cruel to dumb beasts, nor insects of any kind; make no sport of them and play not with them and handle them not, at any time, except some immediate duty requires it and you do it in obedience: and by no means handle cats and dogs.

17. Never wear your good clothes to do nasty jobs of work; and never murmur and complain of your clothes or your food.

18. Never go jumping, hopping, stringing one behind the other, talking, or laughing loud and so forth, when you are going to meeting, to victuals, to school, or to any other duty of the day, where you go in company together; but go two and two, stepping your right feet together and giving the right side to the oldest; and if you meet your superiors, step aside for them.

19. Never have any talking, laughing or play going on at the times you have allowed for you to retire before opening your minds, or confessing your faults; and when you enter the rooms of your caretakers, it ever should be in the greatest degree of godly fear; and when you speak to them, you should always speak as follows: *Brother or Sister* and speak their name. Never speak to them without any regard to their honorable title, gift and name.

SECTION 4

1. Listen, little ones, to this my fourth and last section of my word unto you at this time. Be very careful what use you make of these rules and commands which I, your loving Mother, have kindly sent unto you.

2. Well do I know that your kind caretakers are careful to teach you how to be honest, good and obedient children, such as I can own, love and bless; and such as the blessings of heaven will freely distill upon and the simple gifts of God will easily flow unto and if you love and obey them, you will love and obey me, your Mother.

3. You must always obey cheerfully and at the first bidding; if you do not, you need not think that you are good children. You need never call yourselves good believers, Mother's children, if you lie down at night, or go into meeting with any willful disobedience or deceitful faults that are not confessed; or if you have broken any one of these your good Mother's orders, willfully and knowingly and have not confessed it.

4. Now you that would be my prettiest, my loveliest and my best little ones, must always keep your little hands clean from every filthy action; use no bad words and keep your little consciences clear, always speak the truth and never deceive anyone on purpose: be willing to receive reproof and mortification; and be thankful for admonition, love one another and ever know that a complaining and fault-finding spirit does not belong among Mother's little ones.

5. Be kind to the younger ones and by no means ever teach them, or cause them to do wrong.

6. Never be so cruel to yourselves as to try to smother your consciences against confessing your faults, just as they are, great or small, more or less; and never lay them up until Saturday, or some time when you think you shall be called upon, thinking perhaps it will be easier or less cross to confess, or maybe they will be out of your mind by then.

7. O nay, my little babes, remember at all times, the words of your Mother in this Little Book; always to confess your faults when you are first sensible you have done wrong: and when you have asked for a privilege to do it, never leave the room till you have freed your minds and been truly honest, if your caretakers can attend with you so long; if not, then ask for another privilege.

8. If all this you do, you will have the love, union and blessing of your kind caretakers and instructors, at all times, by day and by night; and you will ever love them with the purest and sweetest of love; and you will have no occasion for finding fault, or complaining of each other.

9. Your beloved Elders, Brethren and Sisters, will love you and your very countenances will prove you to be good children. You will be lively, cheerful and happy; the things which you have left behind, in the wicked world, will seem nasty and hateful to you and you will be thankful that you have left them.

10. And now my last word to my little babes is this; always love your good home and prize your precious privilege in Zion, far better than your natural father's house; and cleave to your beloved caretakers, Brethren and Sisters, rather than to your natural relations. If you cannot do this, you cannot be worthy of your privilege, nor true children of your Mother.

11. Yet, ever remember and respect your natural parents and always behave to them as becomes dutiful children. This is the word and will of your ever blessed Mother Ann.

12. Now hear ye, O ye little lambs of my flock: Every child that will conscientiously keep these my rules and orders, as delighting to keep the law of their Mother, shall be entitled to my love and blessing and the peculiar notice of my protection, every day that they do it to the best of their knowledge, or to the satisfaction of those that have the charge of them, so long as they remain in the children's order.

13. And let it be remembered, that when any of you shall have the privilege to go and live with the Brethren and Sisters, you are not to say anything about this your Mother's little **ORDER BOOK**; but you are to keep what will then be given you for your protection.

So now farewell, my little ones, says
MOTHER ANN

Part 4

MOTHER ANN'S WORD TO THE ELDERS IN ZION

1. O ye my faithful watchmen! Marvel not that I your loving Mother and ever watchful Parent, have at this moment of heavy burdens and deep tribulation laid aside all things else and retired by myself, as it were, to lament the sorrowful situation that my little ones, yea, the very objects of a kind Mother and true Parent's first care, have long been in; for truly they're like young and tender lambs, wildly ranging upon the rocky mountains, through the dismal forest, or on the common, exposed by day and by night, to severity of the weather, to the raging winds that blow and to become a prey to ravenous wolves and wild beasts of the forest, knowing no shepherd's voice and feeling not their care, nay, not even that of their own Mother Parent who bore them.

2. O yea, indeed, sorely has the spirit of your Mother been grieved, to behold all this, instead of viewing the young of the flock placed in pleasant pastures, well fenced around for their protection, with careful shepherds close by their sides to watch and protect them; yea, such as would care for them and not leave them to suffer harm, cold or hunger, or to stray from their bounds and do injury to themselves and thereby cause them double care and trouble when they return.

3. O my beloved, marvel not, I say, that I have, of myself, even this day, sent this word unto you. Neither marvel at the doings of your Mother, in the means I have taken to convey my word to those whom you have chosen, to protect and teach the little ones of my flock and even my word unto them; for I have done this to relieve my burdened spirit and lessen the grief of your beloved Father Joseph and Mother Lucy.

4. And how think ye if I am, indeed and in truth a Mother, a friend, or a careful Parent, that I could do otherwise? For where are there any true parents, even in nature, that would not turn their first attention, at the risk of all things, yea, even of their own lives, to rescue their little ones from harm, or hide them from the enemy, if possible, when they saw him fast approaching to destroy them?

5. This is what I have done, at this time; and where are the wealthy and able parents that would not provide careful nurses to attend to the young of their family? And would not the parent daily instruct the nurses in every crisis of their concerns with their little ones? This and this only have I done, by sending my word to the caretakers of my babes in Zion.

6. And again, where are the parents that care about the upholding of the honorable character of their family, for the esteem and approval of those around them and desire to be considered as people of good government; and more than all this, simply because they delight in the present comfort and happiness of their offspring, day by day, wishing that their offspring might regard them with a dutiful respect and honor them in their old age. I say, where are the parents that would **ever** allow their offspring to have a full range of use of the whole of their possessions and have a complete knowledge of all their concerns, to go whenever and wherever they please and come when they choose, without any regard even to the principles of morality? I tell you, that these loving parents would never rest until the duty of administering and teaching the principles of morality and order to their offspring was completed.

7. O my beloved! Consider upon these things a moment, with me, your Mother; and then cast your eyes around and behold the distressed situation of my little ones; and I think you will not marvel at the grief of your Mother, nor wonder at my doings, at this time; for hath not your Heavenly Father sent forth His righteous, just and Holy laws, which are indeed to be kept through generations to come, in obedience to His word, by the inhabitants of His Zion on earth? Yea, indeed, in Mighty Mercy and Everlasting Love, hath He looked upon the present and rising generation.

8. And if the **Almighty Creator** and **God** of all, chooses to draw so near to mortals and show such Eternal loving kindness and Fatherly care for the despised few of His name among the innumerable race of His creation; then how can one think it to be strange that I, the kind, careful and most affectionate of Mothers, should feel greatly concerned for the present prosperity and future welfare of my little ones, yea, even the very babes of my Father's house?

9. O then my beloved, receive, I beseech you, this Little Book, from the hand of your Mother and hide it not from those to whom I have written it. And if there be any among the shepherds of my little lambs that cannot receive it thankfully, as a comforting and strengthening word of instruction to them, from a true and kind Parent and as a notice of Parental affection to their little ones, then, I say, I promise no further concern for them; I own them not as mine.

10. But as far as this shall circulate, in Union with the Holy Anointed and shall be thankfully received and readily obeyed, I will send from my own mansion, a guardian and protecting Angel, to remain with every class of little ones, in the house of Israel on earth.

11. But when this is set at nought and no longer received and obeyed, as the law of your Mother and the order of her house, then shall I call my little Angels home and bewail the destruction of my little ones, even as I have done this day.

12. And besides this, I will send a ball of my Purest Love, my Richest Blessing, my Everlasting Peace and my True Comfort, to every child of mine that shall be the keeper of this Little Book of

my law, in Union with their Elders. And every time they will read the first five sections for their own benefit and the four next to the little ones, I will add to their store yet another ball, or leave this permission with their guardian Angels. But O, never let it be perused as a common story book.

13. And as I have written it upon this, the first day that ye my children have kept as a Sacred day, [March 1, 1841] in remembrance of me your Mother, or of my birth; so I should be well pleased to have it ever read to my little ones, upon this day and again on the 6th of August, in remembrance of my landing in America.

14. If ye will do this to please me, then on these days, I will remember my little ones; and I will pray to my Heavenly Father for their protection and safe-going and for the comfort and prosperity of those that have the charge of them.

15. So now my word is nearly finished and my spirit will be greatly relieved, if you will receive this as the loving notice of a kind Mother. But listen a moment longer, O ye Elders in Zion, for I say and with the most earnest desire to be listened to, that if ye turn away from you and receive not the little ones that are brought unto you for protection, you will grieve the tenderest feelings of your Mother. And when you have taken them in, nurse, feed and clothe them; and gather such into the First Orders of Zion, as you think will make good and honorable members. Prove them well and ever remember to secure them lawfully.

16. When this you have done, never fear to act the part of true parents to them, as respects all management with them. Deal with them as though they were your own and you alone were to be responsible for their present and future welfare. Never place a child when first taken in that is over ten years old, in the class according to their age; but keep them back from two to six months, according to their age and understanding. Let them advance as they increase in honesty and obedience.

17. After a child has had two months privilege and still continues to cleave to their own will, is stubborn, thievish, or given to lying and being deceitful and seems not to fear the order that is given them; then fear not to use the rod of correction; and let this be faithfully done, yet with consideration. And never slack your hand for a child's screaming or kicking; but ever bring them to perfect obedience, before you show them any union.

18. Never do this in the presence of anyone of the class of the children; and ever let it be the caretakers of the children that use the rod, if they are able in body. This is the word of your Mother; and this you need not fear to rely upon; for no earthly power can in any justice, ever condemn you; and this you well know.

19. And more than all this, no parent in nature, that cared for the good of a child, would spare the rod when other means had failed to reform the child, until the child was, seemingly, entirely beyond reformation. And O how can I bear to see my little ones suffer so very many hours of mortification, or rather vexation and repeated petty punishments and get hardened simply because of a lack of true order and a true Parent's correction and I still be silent and withhold my word. This I will do no longer, beloved; for if this, my word can be listened to and thoroughly proved, you may rest assured that every babe, yea, even the least one in Zion, shall prove a blessing from this time forth.

20. So now listen to the last word of your Mother, in regard to my little ones. Ever let those that take care of them, deal impartially with them at all times. Never mind trifles, nor punish small offences; but let their word be a law to them and let not sin go unpunished.

21. Give them their hours of recreation, their times of study and a suitable privilege to learn, correctly, the Sacred exercise of worship. Teach them to do their work well, before they try to do it swiftly; to be prudent and saving and above all, to regard and respect the Sabbath and the hours of worship at any time it is occurring.

22. Lastly, teach them to love their little orders and to obey them with delight. And when you read my word unto them, remind them of my promise. If you will hearken to this my word, which I now submit into the hands of your beloved Lead, then you may remember that I remain your loving and ever blessed Mother.

To the Elders in Zion,
Mother Ann Lee

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PART IV

MOTHER ANN'S WORD TO ELDERS

END

To All True Shaker Caretakers

My Life I freely have laid down, to bear the cross and wear the crown!



**Father God, Mother Wisdom, Jesus Christ and Ann Lee
Bless Your Spirit**



Shaker Communities

THE PROPHECY

A Worldwide Kingdom of God and Zion of His Likeness on Earth (Daniel 2:44).

FOUNDER

Ann Lee, the Bride of Christ (1736-1784) of Manchester, England.

BASIC PRINCIPLES

Virgin Purity, Peace, Justice and Love

Expressed Through: Celibate Life, Complete Confession and Forsaking of all Sin,
Non Resistance, Community of Goods and Divine Order.

BELIEFS

Duality of the Deity, Father and Mother God (Power and Wisdom). The Mighty Dual Spirit, Creator of Life, Light, Truth and Love. Duality of the Christ Spirit, as manifested by Jesus Christ and Ann Lee, Immortal Life, Progress of the Soul, Faithfulness, Lawfulness, Equality of the Genders, Equality in Labor, Equality in Property, Temperance in all things, Justice and Kindness to all Living Beings.

GOVERNMENT

The Head of the Shaker Order is Christ.
Represented in a Dual Order of Leaders, Ministry Elders and Trustees.

COMMUNITY

Serious Minded and Competent individuals who vow to never deny the Father God, the Mother Wisdom, the Son Jesus Christ or the Daughter Ann Lee.

SHAKER MOTTO

Hands to work, and Hearts to God.—ANN LEE

Zion's Center Of Union

