

EZRA

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Ezra by Perlita Wolff

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PERLITA WOLFF

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BY
PERLITA WOLFF



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DEDICATION

WITH a whole heart full of appreciative love, this book is given to my sainted mother. Its intention and dedication are her justification in all that seemed difficult for me to grasp of her exalted thought and lofty ideals, while she walked the earth with me.

To E. M. J. K. the friend who first said to me: "You must write," thus planting the seed of endeavor in my consciousness; and to G. S. G. the friend who watered that seed, and urged it on to growth and fruition, the loving thanks of the author are hereby given, with the sincere hope that they may not feel disappointed at the outcome.

PERLITA WOLFF.

PREFACE

EZRA in no way aims at the explication of the teachings of Christian Science, but only to tell in simple fashion, of possible and actual experiences in the lives of those who endeavor to regulate them in accordance with the principles of its teachings.

That such do rise above the discords and diseases of the man material, is a fact too well established for cavil; so not to argue, but with the hope that it may reach one weary heart seeking surcease, and turn it to the contemplation of divine possibilities, the author sends forth this volume, grateful if its heart-message reach even one, struggling out of the darkness of belief, into the light of understanding, as was she herself when *The Messiah* found her.

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EZRA

I

MOTHER AND SON

MOTHER'S keen eyes scanned the face of her big boy wistfully, as they said good-morning to each other. Ezra, big handsome and clean, had been the light shining in this mother's darkness for many years. Today outward darkness has disappeared, but the touch of hero worship, born and bred in adversity, is slower to disappear. The happiness of her boy would once have been more to her than her newly restored vision, had not this restoration been accomplished by an awakening, a spiritual dawn of light, without which now, earth would seem most drear.

This mother had never seen her boy until four and twenty summers had passed over his head. She had felt the touch of baby fingers on her face, and baby lips pressed to her own; and as the years, so grew the boy and man with them. A manly boyhood, and a true manhood, retaining with increasing strength, the tenderness born of her dependence.

For she was blind, this dear mother, even when first he knew her, and in his grief at the full discovery of her affliction when a very small boy, all the chivalry of his nature arose in a vow worthy of a grown man, and kept as one, to be her "knight and shield" all the days of his life.

The full import of the fact that her beautiful eyes were sightless, came suddenly to him when, as a boy of seven, he stood with her at a window and saw his gallant father ride away to The War. Julius Halevi stood in his stirrups and waved his plumed hat toward his wife and child. The little Ezra, looking up at her with a world of pride and ambition in his baby face, saw the tears flooding his mother's eyes as they looked in the opposite direction to the one taken by the brilliant figure of the soldier.

"Oh, mother, are you not watching father?" he exclaimed. "See, he waves his hat to you," putting up his hand and gently turning her face toward the fast disappearing rider.

"Yes, son, mother watches," she made answer in heartbroken tones. Then all at once the long pent up wells of her sorrow were loosened, and with tears and sobs, she gathered the now frightened child to her breast, and told him how in the year in which the greatest blessing of her life, her young lover, had come,