

**ANGELIC WISDOM
CONCERNING THE
DIVINE LOVE AND
THE DIVINE WISDOM**

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Angelic wisdom concerning the divine love and the divine wisdom by Emanuel Swedenborg

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EMANUEL SWEDENBORG

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The Lord Mount Temple
with Kindest Wishes from
L. J. Garth Wilkinson
Oct. 26 1883

ANGELIC WISDOM CONCERNING THE
DIVINE LOVE AND THE DIVINE WISDOM

By J. Smith - 1845

ANGELIC WISDOM
CONCERNING
THE DIVINE LOVE
AND CONCERNING
THE DIVINE WISDOM

TRANSLATED FROM THE LATIN

OF

EMANUEL SWEDENBORG



SWEDENBORG SOCIETY, BRITISH AND FOREIGN

(INSTITUTED 1810)

36 BLOOMSBURY STREET, LONDON

1883



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1883

PREFATORY NOTE.

THE present Translation is based upon the recommendations of THE REVISION COMMITTEE OF THE SWEDENBORG SOCIETY; and it is believed that in technical respects those recommendations have been fully carried out. In addition to this, fidelity to the matter and manner of Swedenborg has governed the translation. More remains to be done in the same direction even with this small work. There are phrases which are still to be solved into English idioms by the painstaking translators of the future. But at present it has not seemed advisable to put idiomatic English in the first place, and Swedenborg's forms of speech in the second. There is temptation to do so. But whenever the process has been attempted, the immediate result has shown that some pregnant meaning has escaped in the altered phrase.

Swedenborg is ever clear and definite, and employs unusual forms of speech only for unusual purposes. To convert these forms into current English would void their intrinsic meaning. A great part of the present work is of this unusual significance; being an expression of hitherto unknown spiritual things in the imperfect vehicle of natural language; and therefore, to correspond to the occasion, the phraseology is unusual. The Latin however is always felicitous and express, and the attempt has been made to emulate it in this respect, and yet to carry it over into an English as idiomatic as possible.

The apparent repetitions of Swedenborg are inevitable subjects of a translator's thought. There is a temptation to

abbreviate these, and to leave some of them out. But the work would lose in importance, and not gain in currency, by such elimination. The iterations are a necessity and power of the author. He is a heaven-enlightened teacher. He goes over the new and old lesson again and again to those who will hear him. It is not an easy lesson to learn, though the reader may think he takes it in at once. For it is impossible to exhaust its significance. And each time it is repeated, some seed of it may germinate, or some willing and affectionate part of the mind may be opened to living perception in place of a literal acquiescence.

In the present work, however, the reader may bear in mind, that the propositions from beginning to end stand in a sequence in the Divine order, and are put demonstratively so as to depend upon each other. Hence as in mathematical series there is constant reference to former propositions, which are the quarry out of which the later propositions are built. The re-occurrence of principles, their constant statement in such case, is not repetition, but the required food of demonstration. There is no sameness in it, for the truth comes back on each occasion with a distinct purpose to be built into a new and extending spiritual edifice.

It is difficult to speak of language alone in introducing to some new readers, and to many old ones, so important a work of the Lord's New Church as the ANGELIC WISDOM CONCERNING THE DIVINE LOVE AND CONCERNING THE DIVINE WISDOM of Swedenborg. Yet it can be said that Swedenborg as a mere writer, taken on his own ground of use and purpose, is unsurpassed in literature. Unimpaired in his simple statements lie powers of righteousness for the regeneration of men, and sublimities of spiritual revelation for opening the understanding. The measured tread of the Writings, unheard by the world, and perhaps only noticed by some readers as a mannerism, is the march and discipline of the very truths of heaven. No writer

is so suggestive and edifying for those who can enter into the affection of his works; and no writer is so distasteful for those who are averse to spiritual things. Each attitude of the will and understanding is implied in the other.

The progressive adequate translation of Swedenborg's works is a colossal undertaking, to be executed piece by piece in the two countries where the English language prevails. Experience shows that those works will repay any amount of capacity and labour that is bestowed upon their rendering. It is a high task, a task of great privilege, to contribute to usher them gradually into our mother tongue. May the Lord fill them with their own meaning for many minds in England and her Dependencies, and in America.

J. J. GARTH WILKINSON.
RUDOLPH L. TAFEL.

October 4, 1883.