

FORWARD

"We are all cosmic travelers through this physical plane called Life—the ultimate teacher. Try to experience this relatively short stay with an open heart and universal love.

"Also, we create the reality that we experience. So, relish the joys as well as the sorrows and learn your lessons well." Robert A. Bayt.

"Like other Southerners I have known from the start that the way is long, and that we live and leave what record we can of our hopes, of the cry in our hearts. We plow the water, and it is the spirit alone that is ever free, and it is only memory that has no time. How often do we picture the way ahead and dream of it and plan? But the actual road is never the dreamed one, and the sights that we start out to see are not the scenes that we remember. It is not the cathedral that lives. It is something else, the sudden and the unexpected. Not the great famed thing, but a mist, an expression on a face, a whisper. Often it is the fragile things of a moment that never die, that one remembers on and on through a life. The lines of a mountain lie in the mind, a sunset never fades, a peach blossom never shatters. The light of a star shines on, and there is the dim glimmer of distant lightning, and the good that one has done and the evil. It is regret that never dies.—Ben Robertson (Red Hills and Cotton)

.....little by little, we are more and more peopled by the dead...."The dead help the living." Not in a mystical sense, ...but simply by having existed and through a continuing influence that could at times seem almost uncanny, as some phrase or way of reacting came to the surface just when it was needed." —p. 92, A RECKONING, by May Sarton, W.W. Norton & Co. N.Y.

"We are all beneficiaries of those who have gone before us."

Understanding the past is a key to living in the present, and planning for a solid future. We may have matured before our time with responsibility as human beings. Our heritage and roots are elemental, and of significance in many respects—the way we look, the way we act, the way we transmit likenesses, the way we become ill, the way we die. In all of these ways, and more, as we pass through our own ebb and flow of life, we are impelled by those who have gone before us. Consequently, we can feel more firmly a part of the places in which we live, and in the work we perform, by knowing and understanding those who came before us, shaping the times that we now call history.

Rich and fascinating, history of the pioneers on these shores—rivers, forests, mosquito-infested underbrush, wolves, foxes, wild animals—all conquered and tamed in their process of living and spreading westward. The mid-west melting pot of Europeans, blending over generations, a rich tapestry that is our heritage of the midwest home. Stubborn forest land, building bridges, prolific mosquitoes, friendly and unfriendly Indians, severe cold, and heat, and the procurement of the basics of salt, sugar, and flour.

Conflict and adaptation the sources of progress and cultural dynamics.

Certain aspects of the past are useful as value markers in our lives—a link with the past.

One should know by now, "THE SPOKEN WORD IS LIKE THE AIR....BUT THE PRINTED WORD IS ALWAYS THERE". Put all the facts in black and white.