

TRIADS

RA Gillmann

October 2016

© RA Gillmann 2016

TRIADS

Written on the blackboard of the one-room schoolhouse in the Landis Valley Village and Farm Museum, Lancaster, Pa., is this:

If you've any task to do,
Let me whisper unto you,
Do it.

If you've anything to say,
True and needed, yea or nay,
Say it.

If you've anything to give,
That another's joy may live,
Give it.

It was part of a longer recitation taught in 19th century primary schools. The excerpt shows a poetry of simple injunction. Stripped down to its core, what recitations for the centuries might emerge? Whatever is here, let's find it.

WISDOM

If it's true, believe it. If it's good,
hope it. If it's holy, love it.

LIFE

If it's new, plant it. If it's ready,
grow it. If it's old, share it.

TREASURE

If it's there, seek it. If it's hidden,
find it. If it's found, give it.

OUTSIDE

If it leads, hike it. If it swims, fish it.
If it hides, hunt it.

DIVINE

If it's Word, speak it. If it's Spirit,
breathe it. If it's God, do it.

ART

If it's flat, scratch it. If it's blank,
color it. If it's square, shape it.

FOOD

If it's breakfast, grab it. If it's lunch,
munch it. If it's dinner, savor it.

NEWS

If it's past, repeat it. If it's present,
update it. If it's future, imagine it.

DAY

If it's morning, wake it. If it's noon,
make it. If it's evening, take it.

BREAD

If it's solid, grind it. If it's liquid, add
it. If it's gas, bake it.

COUNT

If it's one, divide it. If it's two, tell it.
If it's three, unite it.

MORE

If it's four, assemble it. If it's five,
build it. If it's six, finish it.

AND MORE

If it's seven, repeat it. If it's eight,
renew it. If it's nine, release it.

EVEN MORE

If it's ten, count it. If it's eleven,
redeem it. If it's twelve, send it.

CHILD

If it crawls, encourage it. If it walks,
applaud it. If it runs, rescue it.

INVESTING

If it's low, buy it. If it's high, sell it.
If it's not, keep it.

TRIAD

If it's land, launch it. If it's sea,
shoot it. If it's air, bomb it.

COMPARE

If it's good, befriend it. If it's better,
romance it. If it's best, marry it.

SENTENCE

If it's possible, state it. If it's
contingent, ask it. If it's necessary
command it.

DEATH

If it stops, hear it. If it leaves, miss
it. If it lowers, remember it.

