



**SWEDENBORG ASSOCIATION
of Australia Inc**

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Membership of the Swedenborg Association of Australia Inc. is open to anyone who wishes to pursue an interest in Swedenborg, the man, his science and his spiritual teachings.

For details on how to join, call (02) 9416 2812 or browse <https://swedenborg.com.au/contact/>

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And he illustrated all this with an interesting square with tassels hanging off every side which he held in his hand and showed us. The square was black, the long tassels were black on two adjacent sides and gold on the other two. (Like the picture but much longer tassels...)



Then he pulled just one black tassel slowly and a line of gold appeared on the black square. Then he pulled another black tassel from the adjoining side and a second line of gold

appeared at right angles to the first. He kept going and spoke above his leisurely tugs revealing more gold lines, helping us see that personal decisions and wiser words and actions are daily affairs for us. He said that Swedenborg really emphasises self-examining, self-observation, catching the thought, daily repentance, and building up a practice of abstaining from our habitual

lower natures (Swedenborg puts it graphically as "Shunning evils as sins against God.")

Like all illustrations and many explanations, while they work very well, they can be short of the whole truth reality. We do not end up with a beautiful sparkling gold square at the end of regeneration, because the truth is that regeneration is an eternally continuing process. We can have end-of-regeneration states which feel great, but then another area in our mosaic presents and needs to be addressed.

So perhaps imagine that the square needs to be a cylinder. The tassels need to be loops. The gold will be there but may at some point revert to black to be brought to gold a second time. But I believe that behind the scenes of black and gold there is a development of real abiding growth where we, unknown to ourselves, can actually be purer and surer in our soul which only the Lord God knows the state and quality of. It is, you see, essential that we do not know anything about that for reasons which I'll let you ponder on.

My all-time favourite passage from Swedenborg is the Contents page in the Doctrine of Life. Sections like the following are listed (based on the Ten Commandments): "So far as anyone shuns all kinds of theft as sins against God, the more they come to love sincerity."

Go well with everything,

Julian

Welcome to our new members

Welcome to our association.

Teresa Melody (Port Macquarie NSW)

Claudette Vaughan (Lewisham NSW)

We hope you enjoy being a member, receiving emails and can join in some of our on-line activities.