

THE MINISTRY OF DANCE

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(This is a portion of the above titled article published in the "Friends General Conference Quarterly", Vol 8, No. 4.)

Dance is a universal language, cutting across barriers of nation, race and culture. But it is a symbolic language that defies translation into ordinary terms. It speaks not to the mind, but rather to that sixth sense, the kinesthetic, which causes us to respond to movement we observe with active though invisible, participation of our own musculature. The dancer's message cannot be comprehended by the intellect; it speaks to the heart, not to the head. If it could be stated in words, there would be no need to dance it!

If you have enjoyed folk dancing or have known the satisfaction of expressing your own inner feelings in creative movement, you will be more receptive to what the dancer communicates. But even people who claim to have "two left feet" have been moving all their lives; they simply don't realize that the utilitarian motions of ordinary existence have prepared them to appreciate the movements of the dancer - the natural movements of the human body extended and expanded and endlessly varied in rhythm and shape. There are none among us so awkward or infirm that they cannot dance inwardly in response to the dynamic evocation of transcendent experience - of pain and torment no less than beauty and ecstasy - that is the dance.
