

LETTER 1

65, 10th Street
Johannesburg, South Africa
July 17th 1945

My dear Ones:

Since our group came into being and quickly consolidated itself, I have had abundant evidence that it has won the blessing of the Master. I have incorporated in it an older group which I have had for some years in England, and also a small number of American members. The group does not meet regularly upon the physical plane. It is a soul group, and quite often, not always, and not necessarily all of us, we meet upon the other side. There are no pledges or bonds to bind this group together beyond the one of mutual love and trust which already binds it. Every single member of it is utterly free to leave it, if he will, or to bind himself to another allegiance. Some of you here in South Africa are very attached to Bishop John Cordes. He knows all about my group and is heartily in accord with it. His work and mine mutually support each other and never in any way conflict.

The purpose of this group is, and has always been, to mutually help us to work wisely for our Masters and to steadily do all we can to approach Their Blessed Feet. Whatever I can individually do for each one of you -and I think I am stronger and wiser upon the other side - I will unfailingly do.

Every day and very often more than once a day, I think of each of you, and pray the blessing of the Master upon you all and upon your growth and work.

What is that work? Let us consider it a little. At the early stages of aspiration, whatever may come later, the Master does not ask any one of us to do otherwise than live ordinary life as beautifully and in as dedicated a spirit as we can. As H. P. B. once told us discipleship, in its beginning stages at least, is not a question of exterior circumstances or special privileges. It is simply and solely an attitude of soul, an orientation of the spirit. I long that each of you shall slowly acquire the spirit of discipleship. This is the spirit of utter dedication, of "putting ourselves out of the centre of our own circle and putting the Master and God there instead," as Bishop Leadbeater said. Once we have truly given our hearts and lives to Him, we give Him the karmic right to re-arrange our lives. He will do this, not that He can ever abrogate karma, but in such a way as brings each one of us nearer to the work we can do for Him. Watch, not for special signs or dreams, but daily circumstances. They will gradually indicate to each one of us the Master's will. And His work is all life, for He is a Master of that great science of Life and Art of Living which is true Occultism. Put Him behind your employer, your husband and children, and however much you love them realize that He loves them more still and that you are His little aspiring agent to bring something of His love and strength to all others, to those you love, and to those you meet in business or pleasure. Says an ancient Indian scripture: "The Master loves every son of man better than mothers love their first-born sons."

So He wants us to set an example of beautiful living, to be lovely mothers, splendid business men, etc., because we are to be His one day, nay, if we will it in our own heart, now this minute, He cannot, and will not, say you nay, if you purely offer your lives to Him. But we must offer purely, not with half a thought as to what advancement or benefit we shall obtain. Never think such thoughts as wondering when you will arrive, or whether anybody else has already done so. That betokens a quite natural but mean spirit

of heavenly bargaining. We must give the beautiful and adorable Master the best, nay, all of our lives, whatever they may be, and never, never allow ourselves to think how we in our silly little personalities will benefit thereby.

Help the Theosophical work all you can, because He founded it and He meant it for the comforting and enlightening of this sad and blind world, but remember that just as important and as blessed in His eyes is the little daily duties and loving-kindnesses, and sacrifices of every-day living. There is our training ground, and as the Master K. H., Himself said to Mr. Sinnett: "What better cause for reward, what better discipline, than the daily and hourly performance of duty? Believe me, my 'pupil' the man or woman who is placed by Karma in the midst of small, plain duties and sacrifices and loving-kindnesses, will through these faithfully fulfilled rise to the larger measure of Duty, Sacrifice and Charity to all Humanity - what better path towards the enlightenment you are seeking after than the daily conquest of self, the perseverance in spite of want of visible psychic progress, the bearing of ill-fortune with that serene fortitude which turns it to spiritual advantage - since good and evil are not to be measured by events on the lower or physical plane."

As we grow in the spirit of dedication, we shall also grow in a lovely dignity which always accompanies the gradual simplifying of our minds and the purifying of our hearts. Meanwhile we have all of us many little failings and sillinesses. Disregard them in each other. They will go. I am very conscious of my own imperfections in this respect. So never let us criticise each other, only love and trust each other. We shall get everything in time and God has given us time and power to overcome.

I trust to the honour of each one of you not to mention this group outside the circle (and I will send you all a list of those who are in it soon). We must not give the slightest occasion to provoke jealousy or curiosity. We live to serve, and to understand, and to love, that above all else.

May the beloved Master's Blessing rest upon each one of you.

Your affectionate friend,

(I shall send a letter like this to everyone every two months.)