

LETTER 36.

June-July, 1951
Johannesburg, S. Africa

My dear Friends:

I am now at the beautiful Cape of S. Africa. It is the oldest part of the Union, and has many stately old Dutch houses and avenues of oak trees. In a square stands a statue of an early Dutch settler and navigator, van Riebeck. At the top of the principal street stands a very large Dutch Reformed Church, with a vast pulpit supported by carved lions. It had a famous minister, Andrew Murray, who brought about an approach of the Scotch Presbyterian Church with the Dutch Reformed Church.

We have just had a splendid Convention here. The Cape Town Lodge has acquired a beautiful building with a fine lecture room and library. We all had a wonderful time on the Saturday evening of Convention, consecrating the house to our future work in the service of Those who stand behind us. A Scottish member who has just arrived on a visit to this country, Miss Helen Young, a well-known violinist, played for us one evening. She is a member of this group, I am happy to say.

One of our members has been asking me to tell you just what does this group do, and whether it does anything special on the other side. Now that last I cannot exactly tell you, for I am not sufficiently psychic to know, but that the link formed is a very real and permanent thing I have had, personally, ample evidence. Quite a number of the group members who are sensitive have told me of their memories of meeting the others at night. I do not know that we have any special work assigned to us, but I have no doubt whatever that we are all used by Those who work on the other side, according to our capacities.

I formed this group some years ago, because I could see that many of our devoted members seemed to be without any particular links in this work, though that is not true of a number of the group, and I felt I wanted them to form a link with me. You must none of you think that this a special 'occult' group. It is a personal group of friends of mine who like to discuss with me some problems of the spiritual life which I know we are all trying to lead in our own way. Many of you tell me that you find the Letters helpful. That is enough for me. And I am often asked if they may be used for others. Certainly. Make whatever good use you care to of whatever I write. I only think it would be wise not to mention that there is such a group exactly, because it is quite possible that then some one will wonder why I did not ask them to belong, too. I asked those whom I felt it would help and who would like to retain a link with me, both in this life and in those which are to follow.

That on the inner planes we re-inforce each other I am aware. Sometimes this takes the form of physical or mental healing. I could tell you one or two very interesting examples of this. It is always a help to belong to a band of brothers, who, even if they do not meet on the physical plane, are yet psychically linked and responsive to each other. It always makes me happy when I get, as I sometimes do, a postcard from a number of group members who have found each other at gatherings of various sorts. And a curious point is this, that once anyone is a member of this group I simply cannot forget them. Again and again the faces of group members arise before me. One problem that used to beset me years ago, was how, travelling as widely as I do, to remember everyone. I never wanted to forget a single one, and how many there were! So not only did I start this group to help people, but also to keep them ever in memory. Sometimes members ask me if I will include a friend of theirs. And so I have a few members whom I have never yet seen. Some have sent me their photographs, and so now I know what they look like.

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And more than that, I feel what they are really like. I never, never forget any of my group members, even though it is only possible for me to write to them individually very rarely. I am happy to have this group because I would not like to forget any one of you.

Now it is possible that some of you may get rather tired of getting the two-monthly letters. If this should happen you must not think that you will be hurting my feelings in any way if you tell the Secretary where you belong that you would like your name removed from her list. That has happened already in one or two cases where the group member has also left the Theosophical Society. And I have one or two members who are not in the T. S. anyhow. What my friends belong to or do not belong to is no affair of mine.

I would like now to express to my three Secretaries my very deep appreciation of their kindness and unflinching help. Without them I could never have done this. So unselfish, so faithful, they have been, and are. I am sure you will all join with me in this expression of gratitude.

I am also asked whether being in this group implies any nearer approach to the Masters we all love and serve. Who am I, my friends, to form an 'occult' group though Mr. Jinarajadasa told me that I had inspirations about some of you. And I have as members of my group about twenty who are pupils of the Masters of the Wisdom. They now have a higher affiliation than with me, but they like to remain all the same, and some have asked to belong. I am honored when someone asks me if they can belong. I only want to help all I can, and to form a band all over the world of brother pilgrims upon the great Path to God and our Masters. I have been immeasurably helped by those who are farther upon the Path than I am, so if I, in turn, can help others a little, I am so happy to do so.

Some of you have asked me to write upon various subjects, serenity, for example. Serenity is the result of peace of mind and heart, and only one thing can disturb that, too much preoccupation with ourselves. Sometimes, of course, it is disturbed by just wornout or strained physical nerves. So many people have such dreadfully trying lives. Do not let us be too cross with ourselves when this happens. Try some relaxation. Go for a walk, read a book, or just lie quietly still. Trust yourself to the hands of God. Rest on that tremendous Life which is bearing us all whither we would be. So we may "rest in the Lord," and He will give us one day our heart's desire. Nothing is gained by straining and aching to achieve. "Be still, and know that I am God." In moments of doubt, despair and anguish, hold tight the hand of Life which is God. "Trust yourself to Life," wrote the Master K. H., "as a bird trusts itself to the air, undoubtingly." And ask not when or how or where, but only that all will be well.

Next time I want to write to you what two great doctors told me about the healing power of Love. Have you seen in the April Reader's Digest an article: "Science discovers real love"?

Your affectionate friend,

CLARA CODD

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