

Box 863, Johannesburg, S. Africa
April-May, 1955

My dear Friends:

In a week or two I shall be off to the Cape to attend our Annual Convention, which takes place in the four great towns in rotation. This year we shall have as our distinguished guest our old friend, Mr. Geoffrey Hodson.

I think that this time I will answer a letter which I have received from one of the group. "We are told," she writes, "of the seven Masters, and that They whose work it is to guide the T.S. are the Masters M. and K.H." Now there are more than seven Masters. I expect my correspondent really means the seven Chohans who head the Seven Rays. Not all of them take personal pupils amongst men. Indeed very few of the Adepts do that. Also I think we can hardly say that our two Masters "guide" the T.S. The Laws of their Brotherhood are very strict. They do not absolutely guide anyone. They can give hints, send helpful influences if the person or Movement is open to receive and respond to them, but they very rarely tell a disciple or a movement just what to do. That is left to the initiative and judgement of the individual or movement concerned. I can put it to you in the Master's own words. "We allow our chelas to be temporarily deceived, to afford them means never to be deceived hereafter, and to see the whole evil of falsity and untruth, not alone in this but in many after-lives." And the Master M. writes: "Did we help the founders? No; they were helped by the inspiration of self-reliance, and sustained by their reverence for the rights of man" And the Master K.H. writes: "To the last and supreme initiation, every chela is left to his own advice and counsel. We have to fight our own battles, and the adage 'the Adapt becomes, he is not made' is true to the letter." Do not let us ask the Master for help. He will always help us if we do our own best.

My correspondent also writes that she is strongly drawn to the Christian interpretation, and has many friends among the orthodox. She wonders Whom one should look to as Master. So often she is drawn back into the thought and ways of the Christian West. Now there is nothing wrong in that. All the ways are God's ways. The great Hindu Saint, Ramakrishna, personally tried every "way", that of being an ardent Christian, and even that of being a woman, and found that all ways led to the same great Finding. So very often people are troubled because they do not feel particularly drawn to any one Master. I have known many a member never able to be sure where they "belong". I assure you all it does not matter in the very least. If your heart leads you to adore and follow the Christ as Master, do so with your whole heart. After all, He is the Teacher of the world, and the proto-type of all Masters and Gurus. It may possibly be more than one life that a person will follow along that road, and before his true Guru becomes manifest. But by thinking of the great Proto-type the aspirant is not being disloyal to that future Master when He shall make Himself known, for the link between all Adepts is so strong and unified that to think of one, to serve one, is to love and serve all of Them. I remember the late Bishop Wedgwood telling me that from his youth he had loved and served the Master K.H., and it was only when he was put on probation by the Master the Prince that he found out Who was his true Guru. He felt that he owed somewhat of an apology to the Master R. But the Master smiled and said: "I am glad that all these years you gave your love and devotion to my Brother."

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I think we must be careful that we do not hastily depreciate that which belongs to other faiths and ways of thought. I have myself learnt much from the lives and thoughts of Saints, both from the East and the West. As Louis Claude de St. Martin once put it: "the Saints all come from one country and speak the same language." It is quite a helpful thing to keep putting our ideas in other words and imagery. I remember Dr. Arundale telling us to do that, so that we do not become caged in the tyranny of words. He told us to express the famous Four Qualifications for Initiation in our own words. So I tried to do this long ago, and it came out like this, though perhaps I would phrase them differently now.

- I. Discerning the Eternal from the temporary we
- II. Surrender our wills to God, and
- III.
 1. Fix our minds on Him and His work
 2. Do all "in His Name,"
 3. Let people be as they are,
 4. Let events be as they are, and
 5. With unvarying intent, and
 6. Sure faith,
- IV. Long to realize our Divinity and to become one with God.

Perhaps it would be interesting if in my next letter we discussed the Four Great Qualifications.

Most of us are only children in the great school of occultism. H.F.B. once said: "You are not yet occultists, but preparing to become one in another life." That preparation consists in becoming pure of heart, unselfish, simple, without ulterior motive; in developing a lively intelligence and sense of initiative; in maintaining a deathless courage in face of the trials of life and the problems that confront us. Intelligence, love, courage; these are the Great Qualifications that prepare us for the Path. Let us be as wide as the universe, as kind as the Everlasting Arms, as brave as the deathless Immortality within can make us.

I will quote once again the Master K.H. to Laura Holloway. "The greatest consolation in and the foremost duty of life, child, is not to give pain, and avoid causing suffering to man or beast." Patanjali's Ahimsa, Harmlessness. Patanjali also said that if we could be entirely true, our words and deeds would be full of power; and that when we asked nothing of the universe, all things would flow to our feet.

I expect you all know the following little poem by Edwin Markham:

"He drew a circle that kept me out;
Heretic, rebel, a thing to flout!
But Love and I had the wit to win:
We drew a circle that took him in."

And I must also quote for you the first verse of a lovely little poem called "Song at Twilight".

"We must go on from here,
Time has no turning -
Carry what we have learnt
Since there is no unlearning.
The bridge behind is down."

Your affectionate friend,

Clara Codd

P.S. I have been asked if these letters can be shown or quoted from. Please make what use you can of them.

C. C.

Handwritten note:
You cannot put them
in the book