

August-September 1956  
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My dear Friends,

I am sometimes invited to speak to other bodies of people studying what we might call Higher Thought. As I think I told you, our Convention key-note this year was "Trust yourself to Life." A big debating society at Krugersdorp saw that title in the newspapers and asked me to come and give it to them. I found a big audience assembled and we had a very heartening time. And a few days ago the "Society for Psychic Advancement" also asked me to speak on that same subject to them. This is all very good, for thus theosophic thought reaches other fields, and it all makes for goodwill amongst people of similar thought.

This leads me to a very interesting discovery that I have made recently. I find that people arrive at true spiritual consciousness and the higher reaches of spiritual knowledge by many different routes. I have been talking to more than one such recently. For instance two members of our own E.S. have arrived at very beautiful heights, two more who have now left the E.S. Another one has been trained by what I used to think was a very commercial body, the well known A.M.O.R.C. Two more I have met have arrived by their own apparently unaided efforts. It is one of the great signs of the times that more and more people are turning inwards in the search for the Kingdom of Heaven.

And suddenly I saw so very clearly that the Truth is a naked fact which has no name or designation or label. It is always the same naked fact in life, the deepest man can know, but according to a man's upbringing, mode of thought, it is dressed, for him, in many different garments. It may wear a religious appearance, as did the way taken by the Saints of the great religions. Or it may wear a distinctly Theosophical garb, or even a "New Thought" dress, or a Rosicrucian, or even plain artistic beauty. But the fact is the same. One who has now left our Society tells me that her illuminated meditations continue to increase in depth, despite leaving us. "Of course," I said, "do you think Life takes any notice whether we belong to an organization or not? If you have found the Way it will go on opening out to you, no matter where you are, if you are faithful in treading the road." Another told me that he now noticed a tremendous power flowing through him which helped others. "Of course," I said again, "you, the personality, do not help. Only the God in you can really do that if you make it possible for Him to put Himself down into your lower consciousness." And that is what he is doing. H.P.B. says in the Secret Doctrine, quoting from an ancient Jewish work, that the Diviner Self is always longing to pour himself down into the personality, but he cannot do so until the personality has adored and worshipped.

I am talking like this because I do so want you all to realise that there are so many ways to God, and that our way is not necessarily the best way for another. It is like going up a shining mountain. One can start almost anywhere at its base, but as we near the shining peak there is finally only one way, what the inspired Plotinus called "the flight of the alone to the Alone."

Sometimes the naked truth is garbed in what seem very queer garments. But never mind if it leads to the Heart of the Universe. There is only one thing we can do about it all. Steadily aspire; regularly, daily. Call it prayer, meditation, what you will. It is the approach of the son to his Father in Heaven. And we must also purify the lower self that the Higher, as its flame increases, may shine through without let or hindrance. St. Augustine said that purity was a

67. August-September 1956

necessity for insight. "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God" Not with their physical or mental eyes, but with the eyes of the awakened spirit. Let me put it in Dr. Alexis Carrel's words, in his last book written before he died: "Reflections on Life." He writes that man has a "bolder and more astonishing aim -- to attain awareness of the unknown realm which extends beyond science and philosophy: the realm on whose threshold the intellect automatically comes to a standstill.... Most men do not realise that they are the makers of their spiritual destiny. Only a very few achieve spiritual evolution for it demands a persistent effort of the will. The spirit rises by suffering and desire rather than by the intellect. At a certain point in the journey it leaves the intellect behind it. Alone, in the midst of this dark night of the reason, it escapes from time and space, and by a process which the great mystics themselves have never been able to describe, it unites itself to the ineffable substratum of all things."

"Light on the Path" says something similar: "Each man is to himself absolutely the way, the truth and the life. But he is so only when he grasps his whole individuality firmly, and by the force of his awakened spiritual will, recognises this individuality as not himself, but that thing which he has with pain created for his own use, and by means of which he purposes, as his growth slowly develops his intelligence, to reach to the life beyond individuality."

Purity, I feel, means whole-heartedness. It also includes sincerity and simplicity. It is not so often that a person is sincere all through. Sometimes we are sincere in our minds, but not in our hearts, or the other way round. But if all our three-fold lower self is sincere right through, having thus the single eye, our whole body will become full of light. The "single eye" also refers to the development of the pineal gland in the head.

And simplicity. The Lord said that to enter the Kingdom of Heaven we must become as little children, and the Voice of the Silence says that "the pupil must regain the child state he has lost." No truly spiritual person is ever sophisticated. Spiritual people have a certain childlikeness about them. Not childishness, but a certain youthfulness of spirit, simple, clear, young.

The spiritual consciousness in every one of us is the true source of all real wisdom, joy, and power to help. If we have not yet gained it, we can still help ourselves by thinking what an ideal, such as a Master of the Wisdom, would do or say or think. For, as "At the Feet of the Master" says, "you must never do or say or think what you cannot imagine the Master as doing or saying or thinking."

Your affectionate friend,

Clara Codd

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