

My dear Friends:

A happy Christmas and New Year to all of you. I am still travelling up and down England. After the vast expanses of Africa this little island seems like going next door everywhere. Lodges are sometimes but twenty miles apart instead of two thousand. I have just been to Wales, Cardiff in the South and Colwyn Bay in the North. At Colwyn Bay a friend very kindly took me for a long drive into the heart of the mountain district, where I glimpsed great Snowden. I do not think I ever saw a more wild and beautiful scene. The autumn colours were everywhere apparent, and numerous waterfalls and rivers came down the deep valleys. There was a mystical atmosphere all over N. Wales. I remember noticing this very forcibly many years ago when I visited the isle of Anglesey. The very minute one crossed the Menai straits the ancient land of the Druids enveloped one. This time I saw the little hill where tradition says that King Arthur and his knights lie sleeping, awaiting the hour of their awakening. And we came to the little town where the noble dog Gelert was slain by his master in mistake. He defended the sleeping prince from a savage wolf, but his master thought the dog had tried to kill the baby and slew him. His grave is still there.

Welsh is still spoken in the country districts, and the General Secretary of the Welsh Section, Miss Claudia Owen, was brought up speaking that language. I think Wales ought to have home rule, for it is a purely Celtic country. Still, like Scotland, it can claim to have ruled England, for the Tudors were half Welsh.

I can see a new spirit slowly growing in our Society. We are not as numerous as we once were. So many other similar societies are doing our work now. But I notice a growth in our Lodges of interest in, and the study of, H. P. Blavatsky's works. Some of them have good Secret Doctrine classes. At Liverpool I was shown some notes on the study of the S. D. taken down by the father of P. G. Bowen, the writer of occult books. His father was a direct pupil of H.P.B.'s. In these notes she says that the Yoga most suited to the West is Gnani Yoga, and that the S.D. is meant to lead the student towards this. It develops a hitherto unused part of the brain. The S.D. is not meant to be read right through. We should begin with thoroughly mastering the Proem, and the summation of principles towards the end of Volumes 1 and 2. We should hold fast to the conception of the One Life - not the unity of several parts, but the great fact that there is only one life and one consciousness. Unless we can hold that thought we shall not understand the S.D. The great principles of Theosophy should become part and parcel of our whole being. They must no longer be just ideas and conceptions. They must be part of life. I remember seeing a meditation that H.P.B. used to give her pupils. She began with trying to make them realise the oneness of the vast universe both in space and time. Such thoughts, said she, gave one a deathless courage with which to face the problems of life, and also eradicated any sense of sin in the universe; there is only lack of growth.

I come against the question of our future work. H.P.B. once said that we were not working merely that people should call themselves Theosophists, but to alter the mind of a century. I think that has largely been done during this past eighty years. We may say now that practically everyone believes in, or has at least heard of, the truths of reincarnation and karma. There is a new note creeping into the world. Eighty years ago the Master M. said that a wave of mysticism was sweeping over Europe. It is now sweeping through the whole world and is in itself an indication of the coming new presentment of the old eternal truths and facts of life. We may say that the consciousness of man is slowly turning from

the idea of God Transcendant to the thought of God Immanent, and most of all in the depths of the human heart. Hence the tremendous growing interest in all things mystical and occult, schools of Yoga, lives of mystics and saints, etc.

I think this is where we should be very particularly leading the world. I remember Brother Raja said something like this before he died. We must "learn that we may teach," and "acquire spiritual knowledge and strength" that the weak may lean upon us and the sorrowing victims of ignorance learn from us the cause and the remedy of their pain. What is spiritual knowledge and strength? It is most certainly not intellectual knowledge, for it belongs to the realms above the mind. It is a great, impersonal, loving wisdom lying in the depths of our own most glorious beings. Before we were even really men, it was put there by the Dhyana Chohans at the commencement of our great evolutionary journey. We may reach it through selfless meditation, adoration, and service of our fellow-men. Says Hermes, the Thrice-greatest, "This knowledge, my son, is never taught, but when the hour is ripe, God restoreth a man's memory thereof."

Professor Radhakrishnan writes that spirituality is the recognition that all life is God. It would therefore follow that the sequence of events called Karma is the Will of God in action. That is why I have a lecture called "Trust Yourself to Life". I borrowed the term from a letter of the Master K.H. to Mr. Judge: "Draw on the breath of the great life throbbing in us all and let faith (which is unlearned knowledge) carry you through your life as a bird flies in the air -- undoubtingly."

I always think that the true occultist is a super-psychologist. He knows and understands the human heart and all life. You remember the words of Light on the Path: "Learn to look intelligently into the hearts of men....Study the hearts of men, that you may know what is that world in which you live, and of which you will to be a part." Then it tells us to "Regard the constantly changing and moving life which surrounds you, for it is formed of the hearts of men; and, as you learn to understand their constitution and meaning you will by degrees be able to read the larger word of life." The wise king Solomon asked of God: "Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart." What can a man ask better of life? For then we can truly relieve the ignorance and pain of the world. That is far more important than gaining something for ourselves. The sorrow of the world is the only pain the Masters know. "Woe for the living dead, and helpless pity for the men of karmic sorrow."

And so our path is the path of the Bodhisattvas, those who turn back from the further shore to "accept the woes of birth" and thus to stay near to help the other divine fragments struggling along beside us.

Yours affectionately,

Clara M. Codd

I see I have neglected to inform you all, that "we" sent Miss Codd another \$40 about June 21. There is about that much more accumulated, which I shall send on to her one of these days soon. Perhaps I should mention again, that if you wish to contribute to the expense of her trip to this country, such contributions should be sent directly to the National Treasurer at Olcott, marked for the Clara Codd Fund.... Box 270, Wheaton, Ill.

My cordial good wishes for Christmas and the New Year, to each of you, and again my thanks for all your kindness which makes this work a pleasure.

R. D.