

50, Gloucester Place, London W. 1
April-May 1958

My dear Friends,

My time in the British Isles is growing short. On April 24, I set sail by the Queen Elizabeth for New York. I shall be in America until the following September when I set sail again for India. I hope to be back in South Africa in time for their Easter Convention in 1959. The last time I sailed on the Queen Elizabeth was when I last came to England from the United States. In that enormous ship we only took five days to cross the Atlantic. I remember noticing the terrible devastation which had been wrought by the war in Cherbourg. The famous actor, Cary Grant, was on board, and many of the passengers spent their time trying to catch a glimpse of him. When we came into Southampton my married sister, Mrs. Bignold, came to meet me and I did not recognise her at first! And again this time when I came into Southampton from S. Africa, and my youngest sister came to meet me, again I did not recognise her at first.

My itinerary for the United States has arrived, and I see that I am to visit New York, Baltimore, Washington, Philadelphia, New Orleans, Toledo, St. Louis, Seattle and San Francisco. I expect I shall sail from San Francisco for India and I wonder whether I shall pass Japan on the way.

Whilst in London, I have been sometimes attending a Lodge which I founded many years ago, the Surya Lodge. I remember why I did that and why I gave it that name, which is the Star name of the World Teacher in the Alcyone Lives. It was when Dr. Besant was giving those wonderful lectures about the coming new world and the return of the Lord Christ. She told us all at Adyar that we should saturate ourselves with the thought of His coming. I found that many Lodges did not take much notice of that so I founded one which would. To begin with we all sat in a circle and took the meetings in turn. We had a tiny ceremonial for the opening and closing. When Krishnaji closed the Order of the Star in the East, the Lodge still carried on, but there came a time when I wondered if we should close it. I had been away many years, but my sister Dorothy determined that it should not close down, and it is now a very happy and flourishing Lodge devoted to the teachings of Krishnamurti, which it studies at every meeting. They are fortunate to have as their leader Mrs. Lavender Berry, who is just retiring from being the General Secretary of the T.S. here. She leads the readings and discussions each time. I can see that this Lodge fills a much needed and useful niche in the work. It does not hold lectures but it gives its members food for thought. In fact I can say that it feeds their souls, which is what I feel a Lodge should do. And a wonderful fact is that at this present moment the leading officials of the English Headquarters belong to it.

I can never say that I "understand" Krishnamurti, but I can say that he has done something splendid to me. He has opened windows and given me great vistas. Although I am not in a position to judge, it always seems to me that he is the one truly "God-conscious" man that I have ever met. Long years ago, when I used to watch him as a boy playing tennis at Adyar, and I tried to get his prevailing characteristic, it was always the same, intense and perfect purity. He is so supremely natural, so unaffected by position or experience. What other man would have come through such extraordinary experiences so completely untouched and unspoilt?

I was there in that great camp in Ommen when he dissolved the Order of the Star in the East, which in those days numbered more members than the Theosophical Society. In one supreme act of courage and sincerity he gave back thousands of

devoted followers who would have given him everything in the world. He gave back all the money and land that had been given him. It was on that occasion that we all heard a Voice from the Inner World speak through him and that is an occasion that I will never forget and which I count as the greatest happening in my life. The words were so few, but I repeated them over and over again that I might not forget them. So impressive were they that when they had been spoken Krishnaji turned and left the camp and for fully fifteen minutes afterwards no one spoke or moved. Then quite silently, one by one, we all went back to our tents, still silent for the rest of the night. I know the words spoken have been printed rather differently to what I remember, but I feel in my heart that mine are correct. Here they are: "I come, not to destroy but to fulfill. If you would tread the path that I have trodden then you must learn to love as I love, to understand as I understand. I come to those who love and to those who suffer." I used to muse on the reason why he said that last sentence, and I see why. Because if one loves or suffers one is alive. Perhaps if one does neither, one is temporarily "dead." Then again I remembered some lovely words of scripture, that when He came even the dead would hear the voice of the Son of God, and they that heard should live.

To my mind Krishnaji is the greatest spiritual teacher in the world today. I call him, though I think he would not so call himself, the supreme psychologist. Try not to reason about what he says, or to compare it with anything else that has been said. If you try to watch your thoughts be very impersonal about it. For it is a dangerous and narrow path. I have known more than one person suffer a nervous breakdown trying it. The thing one must not become is "Self-centered," and by that I mean "little-self centered." It really reminds me of the words of the Gita: "When a man feelth no attachment either for the objects of sense or for actions, renouncing the formative will, then, he is said to be enthroned in Yoga. Let him raise the self by the SELF and not let the self become depressed; for verily is the SELF the friend of the self, and also the SELF the self's enemy. The SELF is the friend of the self in whom the self by the SELF is vanquished; but to the unsubdued self the SELF verily becometh hostile as an enemy."

When we try to understand ourselves we should try to see it from the standpoint of the Eternal Self, not the temporary, passing self looking at itself. That way lies confusion and despair. Loving deeds lead us to that Knowledge. As the Voice of the Silence states: "Self-knowledge is of loving deeds the child." I love the way Krishnaji makes us feel that the universe is one, that the distinction between what is secular and what is sacred does not exist. All is sacred, all is holy, all is God. To want to be something in our little selves is to set oneself against the whole of the universe. We must go on from here, just as we are "without one plea." No other way is there to go.

Your affectionate friend,

Clara Codd

April 2, 1958

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: I have sold the house at 546 Jeter Street, and am moving April 19th to an apartment. The new address:

Mrs. Ruth L. Doak
27 Duane Street
Redwood City, Calif.