

December - January 1960-61
 10, Steele's Road, London, N.W. 3

My dear friends,

Christmas is approaching, and so let me wish everyone of you the happiest Christmas and "all the best" - as the S. Africans say - for 1961. I contemplated writing to some of you, but I wonder if I ever will be able to. Anyhow I would like to. I would also like to send everyone a Christmas card, but I see that would be really impossible.

Since I last wrote to you I have been going many little journeys, and talking to an Enquirer's meeting at the London Headquarters. I shall be having a new experience after Christmas for I shall go to live for a while at St. Michael's in Huizen, Holland. I shall probably also visit Paris and Brussels. It seems as if a European time was now eventuating for me. And as I have never worked very much on the continent of Europe, it will be forging new links and be a very interesting experience. I remember when I first went to Ireland Mr. Jinarajadasa wrote to me that he was pleased that I could thus make a link with that country for that would make it easy for me to go there again in the next incarnation. I have been invited to China and to S. America, but I have not been able, as yet, to visit those two regions. Mr. Hodson and I are certainly world travelers, and every now and then we run across each other. The last time I saw him was in S. Africa.

I am personally very glad that S. Africa has now become a republic. I once suggested to the then Prime Minister here, Lord Attlee, that it would be a good thing if the British Government abolished all Colonial Governors and let every member of the Commonwealth become Republics. But he did not agree with me. I think that in the new world we shall all become independent and yet brotherly units, helping each other along but not dominating each other in any way. I know many people will say that the African native is not yet ready for self-government, but he is a human being as we are and there is not a human being anywhere who does not want to be free to govern himself. In the past we have exploited undeveloped peoples rather more than we have really helped them to become civilised and fully developed.

But the real world problem is the abolition of poverty, the lifting of that heavy burden from the shoulders of the vast majority of mankind. Slowly things are improving. I can remember visiting homes when I was young where there was no furniture beyond a few old broken wooden crates, and a heap of rags in the corner for a bed. Poverty breeds crime. Of course it does. The whole world must learn to mutually share all things and to adjust accordingly. One of the wonders that the United Nations has done is its medical war upon terrible diseases. They have an avowed aim to wipe out malaria everywhere and have already done a great deal towards that end. But, as one doctor said, their work is enormously hampered by the terrible malnutrition of the majority of the world. I want to get on with that and leave talk about war and national prestige, etc., alone. I do not believe that any war will ever eventuate.

I was thrilled with the election of the American new President, though some of you will not agree with me there. How lovely to have youth at the helm, and also to have triumphed over religious prejudice. Another thing that thrills me is the friendly visit of the Church of England Archbishop to the Pope. I have liked Pope John ever since he went immediately upon becoming Pope to the worst prison in Rome. "You cannot come to see me," he said to the prisoners, "so I have come to see you." I do not wish to start a Theosophical rumor, but once Madame Blavatsky was asked if there was any way in which the Roman Catholic Church could

be salvaged, and she replied that it was not outside the bounds of possibility that an Initiate might one day become the Pope. Now I do not suggest that the present Pope is anything like that but at any rate he is a man with a big heart and lots of common sense. Really great Leaders are badly needed in the world today, and I think they are now emerging. Three times in my life I have been addressed by perfect strangers who will never tell me their name or say who they are. And he hold me the last time I saw one that great souls were now being born into Britain because that country was the balancing point between Russia and America.

If there is one thing of which I am very certain, it is that at this precise juncture we should all do our best to become world-minded, and to feel that we are citizens of the universe. Yes, I really believe in "flying saucers". Now someone is going to scold me, I fear. But I have personally met people who have seen and even gone for rides in them and I truly do not think that they were telling me hysterical imaginations! Of course other planets are inhabited. Did not a body of Venusian Adepts come to our earth six and a half million years ago in what is described in the ancient writings as a golden boat or a chariot of fire. Only four remain with us now, but Venus is a whole Round ahead of us in evolution, and so probably their people are quite god-like compared with ourselves. I have heard from some of the people who have contacted them that there are no noxious insects on Venus. How lovely to have no mosquitoes! Just as it is said that there were no snakes in Ireland because St. Patrick exorcised them all!

I fear that I have been talking what must seem to some of you rather tall stories. But the moral is quite clear. It is incumbent upon all of us these days to think widely and greatly, to put down the narrow barriers of race, of religion, or social position, and to become patient, understanding citizens of the planet, full of patience and goodwill. I say patience because rightful changes cannot come about in a hurry. It would be crude and unhelpful if they could. Think of the enormous patience of Life Itself, Life which is "God." It never lets up on its tremendous, beneficent purpose, and yet it is willing to let everything exercise its immortal free-will, even if that means delay and added trouble. I remember some words in At the Feet of the Master: "For God has a plan, and that plan is evolution. When a man has seen it and really knows it, he cannot help working for it and making himself one with it, because it is so glorious, so beautiful."

I would like you to remember something else too, and that is that all things are "spiritual" which mean man's advance. Our Masters are interested not only in religious things, but in every single phase of humanity's life, art, medicine, social relationships, the everyday life of the most ordinary man. What to each one is a step forward is what the Master watches with compassionate care. "Be wary", says Light on the Path, "lest too soon you fancy yourself a thing apart from the mass." Personally I never want to be apart from the mass, but to be part of them and with them forever and ever. Sir Francis Bacon once wrote that he had taken all knowledge to be his province. So let us take all life to be ours for ever and ever.

Your affectionate friend,

Clara Codd

About the fund for Miss Codd: Your generosity has exceeded all expectations. We now have more than \$1,000.00 a year pledged, most of it paid a year in advance, plus some donations. Miss Codd wrote, "I am eternally grateful.... It is really wonderful of the members to do that for me." This fund makes possible her projected stay at Huizen -- after which she hopes to come back to the U.S., where she will certainly need it! My warm gratitude to you all. -- Ruth D.