

131 October-November, 1967

"Way's End," Beech Avenue
Camberley, Surrey, England

My dear Friends,

Last time I was writing about Starr Daily's description of the spiritual consciousness, so far as it can be described. Now I have made the interesting discovery that more than one of our members have experienced it. One of them was telling me that she suddenly experienced it just once in her life and has never had it again since. As I quoted before, the Christ said that the Kingdom of Heaven cometh not with observation. All those who have experienced it agree that it comes suddenly and unexpectedly. If any of you have also experienced it, do tell me about it. H.P.B. said that to reach the spiritual man within was more worth doing than to see the inner worlds or to command the elements.

I can see why, because since the Eternal Life in us has found a channel down here through which it can radiate to the help and blessing of all life. Animals especially, since they are simple and open, are often aware of it. I think I have told you that one of my greatest friends was an old German who owned a circus. He never entered the cage of his lions and tigers with anything more than a little twig. And I have a photo of him with a tiger lovingly rubbing her face against his. He told me that he was sure that animals were susceptible to thought power. Fear is a derivative of hate, and if one is afraid of anything it will begin to hate you. Of course it is all very well for me to talk like this for I am a rather fearful person myself. Probably it is all due to the imagination.

I have just finished and sent to Adyar my latest book which has been in my head a long time. It is called "Trust Yourself to Life." That title came to me from one of the Master's letters to Mr. Judge where He says: "Let faith (which is unlearned knowledge) carry you through your life as a bird flies in the air -- undoubtingly." If Adyar accepts it, it will not be a very big book as it has only ten chapters. The last one is the longest, "The Place of Beauty in Life." There I have quoted much from the ancient Greek writers, especially Plato's description of the visit of Socrates to the beautiful priestess Diotima. I love the writings of the old Greeks, but perhaps that is because CWL once told me that I had had five lives running in ancient Greece, and never was in ancient Rome. So I feel a Greek. I will quote you a little bit now.

Said Diotima, the priestess, "He who has so far been instructed in the things of love, and has learned to see the Beautiful in due order and succession, when he comes towards the end will suddenly perceive a nature of wondrous beauty (and this, Socrates, is the final cause of all our former toils) -- a nature which in the first place is everlasting, not growing or decaying, or waxing or waning; secondly not fair in one point of view and foul in another, or at one time, or in one relation or in one place fair, at another time or in another relation foul, as if fair to some and foul to others, or in the likeness of a face or hands or any other part of the bodily frame, or in any form of speech or knowledge, or existing in any other being, as for example, in an animal, or in heaven, or in earth, or in any other place; but Beauty absolute, separate, simple, and everlasting, which without diminution and without decrease, or any change, is imparted to the ever-growing and perishing beauties of all other things.

"He who, from these ascending under the influence of true love, begins to perceive that Beauty, is not far from the end."

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It is more important to perceive the Beautiful than the Good, for the Beautiful is always Good, and we can see that Immortal Beauty can never be selfish or cruel. I remember a little girl I once knew who was told by her governess that it was more important to be good than beautiful. "Oh!" she sweetly replied, "but I would rather be beautiful and then good."

The love of beauty is essentially religious. Dr. Alexander Carrel writes: "The love of beauty leads to mysticism. Song easily becomes transformed into prayer." And a great German divine says that the basis of true religion is a sense of the Holy, the sense of Wonder. I am sure it is not the sense of blaming other people, or^a rigid, self-righteous sense of morality.

I often think that the poets tell us more than the theologians. I love the words of Robert Browning who was a true "Theosophist."

"O world as God has made it, all is beauty,
And knowing this is love, and love is duty.
What further may be sought for or declared?"

There is another chapter entitled "Regret Nothing; Never Be Sorry." This is a quotation from a message from the Master M. to Mr. Judge: "Regret nothing, never be sorry, but cut all doubts with the sword of knowledge." I think that means do not spend useless force in unavailing regrets, but try and understand what made one do it. For to understand oneself is to understand everybody else too, for we are all made alike, and, says the Delphic Oracle, "Understand thyself, and thou wilt know God and the Universe."

This is a short letter for once.

Your affectionate friend,

Clara M. Codd.

To those who have pledged: Yearly pledges are due again November 1st -- payable, however, at your convenience.

FROM YOUR SECRETARY: About November 1st, I am leaving Krotona and going to Olcott to work at the National Theosophical Headquarters.

While I am leaving here the end of October, I'll be "on the road" for a month or so, and will not settle in at Olcott until about December 10th. So please use the new address after about October 24th. But do not expect your December-January letter until after Christmas -- sorry!

My new address will be:

Mrs. Ruth L. Doak
Box 270
Wheaton, Illinois 60187