

135. June - July 1968

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

My dear Friends,

As I have so often said before, please do not mind if I do not answer every letter I receive. But all the same take my love and warm thanks here.

I have often said that I feel there is a new religion coming into the world, or rather a fresh presentation of the ancient and immortal truths of life which are the same "yesterday, today and tomorrow." This is where I feel the new impulse is trending; it does not lay any emphasis upon creeds or a church or ministers. The sole and wonderful emphasis is placed upon the ability of every man to accomplish union with the Over-Soul, and thus become spiritualised for himself. I wonder if I told you that a number of mystical and occult schools of thought are now meeting regularly every year. I saw the program of their last meeting, at Hove, near Brighton. It was immensely interesting, and I was pleased to see that our own John Coats opened the whole proceedings. I am sure that we are converging upon an era when not only will all forms of religion recognise each other, but there will also come about a union of all nations and consequently the abolition of war. As President Roosevelt once said, if we could abolish war we would have at our disposal a vast sum of money, usually spent upon armaments, to aid social reform. I have just been reading a wonderful book, William S. Shirer's "Rise and Fall of the Third Reich." There he says that the Nazi party looked upon the Slav nations as very inferior. Now no nation is inferior to the others. I remember when what I called the Revolt of Asia took place. We are now witnessing the revolt of Africa, too. The black man is not inferior. One of my most valued and dear friends is a full-blooded African from Ghana.

I like to think that the First Object of the Theosophical Society is to form a Brotherhood of all men without any distinction of race, caste or colour. Some of my friends are particular about whose acquaintanceship they cultivate, meaning whom they consider "well-born" people. Now there again I have no sympathy with them, for one of the dearest friends I ever had was a factory hand, a real working man." I just do not believe in such distinctions.

Nor do I believe in National distinctions. I look forward to the day when all nations will live in peace and respect each other. I have lived so many years among different nations, and found that they each had their particular excellences. I will tell you what I found out about the British people, that they are fundamentally a kind people. They are not naturally brutal or cruel. And I shall always remember my month's work in Iceland. The Icelandic people were so friendly to me. I found in them, as I also found in the Norwegians, a simplicity which was very endearing.

And I remember long years ago, when I was young, answering an advertisement for an accompanist to travel with a concert party. I found the concert party was a husband and wife, both of them public singers. I toured Switzerland and France with them. The hotels would generally put us up in the attics free of charge in return for giving their people a concert. The husband was a Spaniard and the wife a Russian. I have never forgotten Senor Codina. Like many Spaniards he was very dignified and courtly. His Russian wife was exactly the opposite. She bullied him completely but he never replied. He just bore it all uncomplainingly. I said to him one day, "How do you bear it?" He looked at me very gravely and said, "When one loves, one loves for ever." Dear Senor Codina, he was an angel.

Another of my very dear friends was an Italian, Don Ruspoli. He was a very patient man. He said to me one day, "I never get upset or annoyed. I say to myself, 'Fabrizio, you do not exist, how therefore can you get annoyed or upset?'" He also told me that he had experienced the "Cosmic Consciousness." It came on him one day quite suddenly when he was in a shop. Another of my friends told me the other day that it had also happened to her. I feel sure that as time goes on, more and more people will become illuminated like that, and think what that will mean to the world at large. I remember C. W. Leadbeater telling me that seven hundred years hence, war will have been abolished and also poverty. And that there will be a real League of Nations all over the world. I hope it comes sooner than that.

The world lost a great man when President Kennedy was assassinated. He was going to try and deal with just that problem. He was an Irishman, and I once spent a whole year in Ireland and fell in love with it. I have only one objection to the "green isle." It is nearly always raining. But the Irish are such warm-hearted people. A farmer's wife took me in for a whole day and treated me to the best of everything. Whilst I was there I went to see the ancient underground temple near Drogheda. The entrance stones are covered with queer writings which no one has yet deciphered. I went down a long passage, and presently found myself in a large underground temple. At one end there were three alcoves and in each a stone coffin. There was another coffin in the centre of the temple. They looked too short for a body stretched out. So I came to the conclusion that the body, or living man, was placed there in the attitude of a child before birth. Perhaps the temple was an initiation chamber, where the body of the initiate was kept safely while his soul roamed the underworld.

Another queer thing in Ireland was the Round Towers. I wonder if they were used for the same purpose? I remember a touching little story that happened to me in Ireland. I was lecturing in Dublin on a pouring wet night. When I came out from the hall I found a little woman waiting for me in the rain. "Oh Miss," she said, "I waited to thank you. I can never join you. The priest would not let me. But I wanted to thank you for you have taken away the fear of death from me." I wonder why the great religions teach their people such fearsome untruths? That is why I, personally, left the Christian Church when I was young. As Dr. John Robinson says: "Our image of God must go."

I will close this letter with my favorite quotation from Robert Browning whom I regard as a great Theosophist.

"Oh! 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?"

Next time I will tell you some true reincarnation stories that have been told me by people who have remembered them.

Your affectionate friend,

Clara M. Codd

From your secretary: This letter is late. The next one may be even later, as I am taking a vacation in August. Thank you in advance for your forbearance.