

THE SERVER

HE has said: "When the world is ready by your work, I shall come."—C. Jinarajadasa

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As He Looked in Judea

The following was taken from a manuscript now in the possession of Lord Kelly and in his library, and is said to have been copied from an original letter of Publius Gentilius at Rome. It being the usual custom of Roman governors to advise the Senate of such things as happened in their provinces in the days of Tiberius Caesar, Publius Gentilius, Governor of Judea, wrote:

"There appeared in these our days, a man of great virtue, named Jesus Christ, who is yet living amongst us, and of the Gentiles is accepted for a Prophet of Truth, but His own disciples call Him 'The Son of God.' He raiseth the dead, and cureth all manner of diseases. A man of stature somewhat tall and comely, with very reverend countenance such as the beholder may both love and fear; His hair of the color of a chestnut full ripe, plain to His ears whence downwards it is more orient and curling, and wavering about His shoulders. In the midst of His head is a seam or partition in His hair after the manner of the Nazarites. His forehead plain and very delicate; His face without spot or wrinkle, beautified with a lovely red; His nose and mouth so formed that nothing can be apprehended; His beard reddish in color like His hair, not very long but forked; His look innocent and mature; His eyes grey, clear and quick. In reproving He is terrible, in admonishing, courteous and fair-spoken, pleasant in conversation mixed with gravity. It cannot be remembered that any have seen Him laugh, but many have seen Him weep. In proportion of body most excellent, His arms and hands most delicate to behold. In speaking very temperate, modest and wise. A man for His singular beauty surpassing the children of men."*

* Compare the above description with the article by Annie Besant on "The Christ of Mt. Athos" in "The Theosophist" for November, 1912.

The Full Moons of Spring

In an early issue of "The Herald of the Star" our Head wrote as follows:

"It may be useful later on to issue a list of dates on which special meetings of the Order in all parts of the world might be held. In the meantime, however, one or two dates may be noted as having a definite significance, and officers of the Order should, as far as possible, hold meetings on these days. January 11th is the most important of these dates, for not only does it mark the foundation of the Order, but on that date in 1910 a very unusual conjunction of planets was utilised for the performance of certain occult ceremonies of very considerable importance to the Order and to its future work. The 28th of December has already been sufficiently described to show its importance. Members may now add to these the full-moon of Chaitra, which in the West is usually the full-moon of April, the Easter full-moon. Members of the Order should take advantage of such periods, when magnetic conditions are peculiarly favorable, so that they may renew their energies and increase their power of work."

THE FULL-MOON OF CHAITRA

In a communication from the Private Secretary of our Head was stated: "In a recent number of 'The Herald of the Star' mention was officially made of the significance of the full-moon of Chaitra in connection with the Order. The reason why the Head recommended suitable observance of the day is that the whole Order was drawn nearer to the Supreme Teacher on the full moon of Chaitra, 1912. No further explanation can, at present, be given publicly." Our General Secretary adds that the full-moon of Chaitra is the first full-moon of April and can be ascertained for each country. (The full-moon falls on April 7th, 1917.)

THE WESAKA FESTIVAL

"Of the Lord Buddha it is said that still His Shadow falls in blessing on the world He loves."

From "The Halcyon," once published as New Zealand's official Star organ, we glean: "At the full moon of May every year this festival is celebrated all over India, and amongst Buddhists in other lands. It is specially interesting to us of the Order because it marks the anniversary of the enlightenment of the Lord Buddha, the beloved Brother and Co-Worker of Him whom we call the Christ, the Lord Maitreya, who followed the Buddha in the office of World-Teacher. At the full moon of the month Wesak, corresponding to the month of May, the Lord Buddha visits again His world in glorious vesture. At a sacred spot in Tibet the great assembly of Adepts and Members of the White Lodge gather, with Their disciples, to meet Him, and many of those who are able to function in their subtle bodies are also present. Those who have the inner vision may see the waiting Hosts, and feel the deep silence that broods over all as they wait the sign of the appearance of the Lord. At the moment of full moon He comes, and His blessing falls on those gathered to meet Him. Then, through all the world His blessing pours. . . . Even from our great distance we may join in this Sacred Meeting, either by slipping away in our astral or dream bodies, or by sitting apart in meditation during the time when the celebration is held: in this way we consciously partake of the mighty blessing that pours forth from the Lord Buddha and thrills through every kingdom of Nature."

JULY

In the same little Star magazine "Madri" (a pseudonym), writing his thoughts of the Master's Presence, day-dreams the following: "It was full moon of July, the day of the Festival of our Lord Maitreya, when year by year He preaches His wondrous sermon to those gathered to hear Him—gathered, some of them, from realms other than this our earth: Angels and Archangels, Devas and Gods, and the August Assembly of the Guardians of Humanity, who bow in reverence to Him even as we. I slipped into the inner world and seemed to be alone waiting for the sign of His return. . . . I looked again, and saw that in His hand He held a Sceptre—a Sceptre of Living Fire—symbol indeed of Power Divine. May it be that soon once again some of us shall see Him, holding in His hand that Sceptre of Living Fire."

A Star Press Department

Secretary: Mr. R. W. Smith, R. R. 7,
Fort Wayne, Indiana.

I have promised Miss Tuttle to use by best efforts towards organizing a Press Department for Star work and putting it on an efficient working basis. We know how Mr. Cooper for the Section, and Mr. Jinarajadasa for the Society, have been urging a systematic use of the newspapers as a means of disseminating the ideas for which the Order stands. We need only to think of the thousands and thousands of people who look over the papers every day, to realize what an opportunity is waiting for us. Doubtless you have all felt, as I have, that this is work which someone should take up,—someone else, of course. Feeling sure that the members of the Section will co-operate, and realizing that the start cannot be made too soon, I made the promise, and am very glad to be of service. The public press is virgin soil which with careful cultivation may be made to yield rich fruit. But we can't stand gazing rapturously at these fertile fields, at the opportunities our leaders point out, and expect results. We shall have to dig.

This Department will endeavor to furnish the tools for digging, by supplying articles written or arranged according to newspaper requirements. They will be articles on a variety of subjects, and though they all may not actually mention the Coming, they will carry the ideas we wish to spread. We shall try to make them light and not very deep, always trying to play up the feature which is news, or a unique and interesting point of view. As far as possible, the articles offered will have already been published, and as many of them as possible will be prepared by rearranging or working over into newspaper for material already written by Mrs. Besant, Mr. Leadbeater and other authorities. Our main idea will be to make available material already at hand. There are also many fine short poems or verses which carry our sort of ideas and there are excellent things appearing in our various magazines, all of which newspaper editors will be glad to print as literature. We shall try to make the service elastic, supplying articles regularly or occasionally, as the members may desire.

Now how shall we gain admittance with our tools to this fertile field of the press? The only way is to ask. We must make up our minds that we shall at least try to get in. It is useless to wait for an invitation. And when we actually try, we are likely to be surprised to find how many editors will be willing to use the articles. We can count, surely, on a certain per cent being amenable, perhaps 25% or 30%. The number will depend largely upon the earnestness and tactfulness of our effort.

At the start it is not necessary for members to subscribe for monthly articles. We suggest that only one or two be obtained and that further service be asked for as the occasion seems to demand. Here are a few hints which may be of some help, although the fact that they were successful with me, may not mark them as the best guide for you:

Do not mention at first, having a regular or special service to offer. Your editor is much more likely to refuse a regular service than a single article. This means a few more trips, but they will be worth while. The personal contact will help you to get an idea as to what line of thought he is most interested in.

Show your article and ask if he doesn't think it interesting enough to use. Tell him frankly that you believe certain things and have certain ideas which you think are of interest to the general public. Point out that you are neither proselyting nor begging for funds and that the articles are no more propaganda than his own editorials. Ask him to judge the article on its newspaper merits alone.

After your second article is accepted, you can then say that you can supply similar articles every month or so.

By no means should you use the telephone to explain your scheme.

Do not be too importunate. If your editor cannot see any merit in the articles, don't be insistent, but try him again two or three months later.

If you do not get a hearing, do not be discouraged. Papers change editors and editors change minds. We cannot hope to interest every paper. If we can get Star material into one paper, even for once only, we have gained something.

In order to make the Department self-supporting, the articles offered will be charged for at 10c each. This should cover the cost of stationery, typing, and postage.

Below are listed articles now ready, all of which it happens, have already been published in a local paper:

Will Christ Soon Return?	2300 words
Compiled from Mr. Leadbeater's lecture.	
The Same, shortened to	1300 words
All Religions are Brothers	1800 words
Compiled from Mrs. Besant's writings.	
The Same, shortened to	1200 words
A Vegetarian Pleads His Case	1300 words
The Same, shortened to	900 words

The importance of the public press as a means of spreading Star ideas is not to be underestimated. Suppose your paper has a circulation of 20,000;

suppose only two per cent of the subscribers see the headlines; or say only one per cent read the article; even then 200 people get the message and that is a fair sized audience. This work can be made far-reaching and we must keep its importance before us continually. Remember that every effort counts, and be sure that the Master will use your effort to help prepare for His coming. Think what a help it would be to Him to have the ideas which now seem ordinary to us, become more and more familiar to, and widely accepted by the general public.

R. W. SMITH.

An American Editorial Department for "The Herald of the Star"

Following a recent suggestion made by Mr. Jinarajadasa, an Editorial Board is being formed in each country to collect and forward articles to "The Herald of the Star." "The Herald" proposes to print, as a general rule, only such articles from each country as have been approved by the editorial board of that country. Mr. Francis G. Hanchett, 2537 Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, is Secretary for this board in America and articles intended for "The Herald" should be sent to him. We are fortunate to have the benefit of his literary ability as well as of the many hours of labor that this work requires.

Speech Dedication

Speech Dedication is the name given to the following little list of rules (against gossip and careless speech) selected from "At the Feet of the Master." The Dedication was started at Adyar, by India's vigorous Organizing Secretary, Dr. Mary Rocke, in December, 1912. Much important work is sometimes hindered by the barbed words that often escape when we are off our guard, and the following Dedication is an effort to help us correct this fault, which we all share. Those wishing to join the attempt may copy and sign the rules, sending their name with 5c for return paper, to the American Secretary, Mrs. Mary McFarland, Krontona, who will forward the names to Dr. Rocke. There are no further obligations, meetings or papers: members receive merely a copy of these Rules. It is found advisable to make a special effort during the first fortnight of the practise so as to establish the commencement of the habit.

Rules**I. NO GOSSIP.**

1. Never speak ill of anyone.
2. Refuse to listen when anyone else speaks ill of another; but gently say, "Perhaps this is not true, and even if it is, it is kinder not to speak of it."
3. On no account must you go and gossip to some third person about the matter.
4. Sternly repress the wish to meddle in other men's business. What another man does, or says, is no affair of yours and you must learn to let him absolutely alone.
5. If you hear a story against anyone, do not repeat it.
6. Never attribute motives to another.
7. Your thoughts about others must be true; you must not think of them what you do not know.

II. WATCH EVERY WORD.

1. Before speaking, think carefully: Is it true, kind and helpful?
2. You must be true in speech, too—accurate and without exaggeration.
3. Be accustomed to listen rather than to talk; do not offer opinions unless directly asked for them.
4. To know, to dare, to will and to be silent; and the last is the hardest of them all.
5. Never wish to shine or to appear clever; have no desire to speak. It is well to speak little.
6. Mind your own business, and learn the virtue of silence.
7. You must never say what you cannot imagine the Master as saying.

PROMISE OF ENDEAVOR.

I herewith dedicate my speech, and will endeavor to keep these Rules.

Name..... Address..... Date.....

Anti-Gossip—Another Viewpoint

We have often wondered why so little has been said of the effort to refuse to let our feelings be hurt by gossip. A good share of the evil that gossip does would be minimised if each person made up his mind to not be upset by what another person says. The one who virtuously complains of gossip

is himself guilty of it if he wails, "So and so spoke ill of me!" Such a remark shows the speaker to be a weakling and a coward, since he has not fearless confidence in his own right motives. If his conscience is guiltless, he need fear no malicious lie, being confident of his strength to live it down. He is therefore unwavering in his course of action and treats the lie with the indifference it deserves. And if the unfavorable criticism be a truth, then the strong soul is glad that he has had his attention called to his error and he strives to correct the flaw if possible.

If the gossip be heard directed toward another than ourselves, then we have four opportunities:

1. To refute it if we know it to be false.
2. To cut the string of evil right at that point by taking care to not repeat it, trying also to shut it away from our own mind.
3. To offer the antidote of speaking of the virtues of the person in point.
4. In any case, to deliberately make a strong thought of the person as he would look or act **without** the fault ascribed to him, taking care to demolish as utterly as possible every thought-form of the person which images him as committing the fault.

So, besides the effort to refrain from gossip, we should like to commend an additional effort to meet in a fearless and sensible way any gossip once started.

Leaflet Propaganda

Do not neglect to co-operate with the plan of leaflet propaganda outlined in the January "Server." Already letters of enquiry are coming to Krotana from all sorts of strange sources telling us that someone has sent them one of our leaflets. Thus the propaganda, which often seems weary and useless, really shows its fruits, so do not be discouraged with leaflet propaganda. We want to accomplish this work on a huge scale, in a nation-wide rather than in a merely local way. When we have accomplished the plan of send a leaflet and letter to every Congregational minister in the U. S. A. we shall then do the same with other denominations, then with teachers, doctors, etc., until we shall have reached every class of people who are in public registers. Help us to do it quickly and thoroughly!

Send money for leaflets and the request for the names of ministers to Mrs. Elda B. Cardner, Krotana, Hollywood, Cal.

Leaflets with letter, price: 15c for 10; 35c for 25; \$1.35 for 100.