

Beloved Companion:

Of course the discussion of our last lesson brought up the subject of the conflict between blind faith and absolute knowledge. To those who understand the difference between these there would seem to be little, if any, advantage in following a Pathway blindly.

Those who have a knowledge of Esoteric Truth but who prefer instead a self administered placebo of fantasy, dreaming, and theological romancing, can never be truly satisfied. There are thousands who skirt around the edge of Truth, thousands who excuse their lack of ambition, as far as investigating Truth for themselves is concerned, by saying that they are unwilling to believe in Reincarnation, or unwilling to believe in Karma and other facts because it would make them unhappy. The truth of the matter is that they are unwilling to accept the responsibility of their own errors, and prefer fastening false hope upon some Doctrine that will assure them that they can do no wrong if they will repeat a few words of repentance.

A belief in Occult facts means that one must face the stern Truths of Life, they must see themselves in their true nature, they must be willing to defend their belief thru actual experience, and testing it under any and all circumstances. You know it takes a particular kind of moral courage to live day in and day out, perhaps in an inharmonious environment, quietly pursuing one's own way, according to one's own belief. Those who are smugly secure in their narrow faiths, deeming their Creed right and everyone else's wrong, are the first to criticize. They are the loudest in the denouncement of Truth as it actually is, because they have not developed to the point where they can understand it, and are not willing to exert the effort to bring about that development.

The type of individual who is mentally indolent naturally prefers a blind Faith; they are mortally afraid of anything that is going to require them to think for themselves, and are still more fearsome of any Philosophy that will tell them pointedly that they are their own Masters and alone are responsible for their own circumstances.

There is a great deal of experimentation being done at the present time in regard to ascertaining the cause underlying the various reactions of Humanity. Psychologists have built up a tremendous system of emotional reactions, whereby they can trace the original thoughts generating each mental response of the human mind. They have classified all of these in various complexes and inhibitions. When these are analyzed we will find that Mankind has built up a formidable system of defense, for the sole purpose of self-delusion. These phases of delusion go all the way from those completely irresponsible, who labor under the delusion that they are prominent personages or have extraordinary faculties, and who as a consequence live in a state of perpetual bliss, to those who build up artificial barriers about themselves and doggedly follow one line of reasoning to the exclusion of all others. We call the former type of persons "insane," but we have a more charitable term for the latter, and simply deem them "opinionated," or "dogmatic."

The effect of these two extremes is much the same, for they are both operating for the building up of a resistance to change, a resistance to improvement and development. The backwoodsman who refuses to buy an automobile, even though he can afford it, but who drives to the city and thru city traffic in a lumbering, traffic-retarding ox cart is certainly no credit to himself nor to his generation and certainly is a discredit to this age. He is living in a world of his own creation, refusing those things which Universal Mind has made available for him for his own good, his own happiness and his own convenience.

The serious part of the situation is that the average person actually doesn't realize how much damage is being done by condoning such a condition and even complimenting it. Let me illustrate what I mean by quoting a portion of an article written by a Psychologist in one of our modern Universities. He is speaking on the subject of Insanity, and is not at all perturbed with the condition. In part he has said "As a group they are supremely happy; consider the typical 'Napoleon' in an insane hospital. He will write a check for a million dollars or give you a duchy in France for the asking. In his own mind he is very wealthy and very powerful. 'Poor devil', you say, 'he's crazy.'.....But note that he is very happy, he is living in a world of dreams, but those dreams are very real. For that reason he is incurable; he enjoys being insane, and with all due respect to yourself, intends to remain that way.

"The insane have solved life's problem. You wish wealth; they have it; you seek power, but this chap is Napoleon. You laugh and you say he is insane, but what are you seeking - happiness!.....He is incurable because he doesn't want to be cured. After all is he not very wise? You toil, you strive, you worry.... he never works, he is well fed and worry never crosses his path. He dies a multi-millionaire; well may he look at you and say 'poor devil, he is sane.'"

Analyze that article for a little while and see just how dangerous such a sentiment is. Such retreating from actuality is in fact the most degenerating sort of practice. This professor looks upon insanity as something pleasant, as something which will keep one from accepting the responsibilities of his own life and which will permit one to drift lazily in the world of rainbow-hued dreams. Nothing could be more harmful than a viewpoint such as that. Certainly we must learn to develop faith, assurance and confidence; we must refrain from running away from conditions, from running away from circumstances that seem a little difficult at first glance. The Repressive Self is indolent enough, without having its weakening forces further depleted by constantly listening to its dictates.

The Occultist especially notices these things; in even referring in a general conversation on the Truths of the Cosmos, usually finds himself up against a stone wall of solid opposition, opposition not based upon a profound knowledge of Truth but opposition

based upon a bull-dog determination to enforce one's own ideas in spite of all counter proof. Naturally Occultism is not to be argued under such conditions, but anyone who has ever sought to bring an enrichment of understanding to those of constricted mental calibre will appreciate the seriousness of the barriers of fear, indolence, or vanity, which preventing such individuals from realizing the Christ nature.

But you may say that many of the Truths concerning the Inner Planes are accepted by the Occultist on the same basis of blind faith that the Orthodox Christian accepts the Teachings of the Scriptures. No, there is no real basis of comparison between the two attitudes expressed. The Orthodox follower accepts without question, without investigation, without individual and original thought or research, the simple exoteric, unenlightening Truths which are repeated again and again for his seeming edification. On the subject of the Holy Ghost for instance, his ideas are only of the vaguest sort. If a tepid curiosity prompts him to ask a question regarding any of these Teachings the answer is usually so uncertain that he gives up inquiry entirely and lapses into a state of Spiritual apathy.

When one studies Occult work, however, the approach is entirely different. The Occultist is seeking to grow, he is eager to assert his Divine faculties, and to expend them in useful mental endeavor. If he finds it necessary to accept on faith certain Truths mentioned about those aspects of the work which he has not yet entered into, it is a provisional acceptance, it is with the thought in mind that those things will be understood later, in a more full manner, and he immediately seeks to develop himself to the point where he can personally investigate the inner teachings more definitely.

The Orthodox follower, as well as the Esotericist, recognizes the veils before him. Whereas one is satisfied to make no approach to those veils to find out what lies hidden on the farther side, or is contented with a brief/behind the veil, the Esotericist knows no rest until those veils have been torn aside one by one, and all things are made known to him.

Of course those who hold a dogmatic viewpoint are young souls, but they bear no badge which discriminates them from advanced souls; they may hold positions of prominence in the land, we meet them every day as indeed their numbers compose the majority of persons in the world.

So the Occultist, advanced or just beginning, has little to guide him as far as determining the development of those with whom he comes in contact. Let us not be disturbed, then, by the expression of ideas by those who hold such erratic, fanatical or restricted opinions. If we were grading them according to Inner Awakening we would certainly place them in the Kindergarten class regardless of their position, social or financial, on the material

plane. But because of the fact that no such discrimination is possible we must use our own judgment in valuing the advancement of each individual we contact. Above all let not our thoughts be influenced by the opinions of those who may be perfectly capable of judging certain lines of mundane work in which they are expert, but who are actually woefully immature as far as Esoteric Understanding is concerned.

We have taken this opportunity to discuss rather in detail this particular point because so frequently students of the advanced classes, to say nothing of those just commencing the work, will tell us of the harmful effects conflicts with those of little understanding have brought to them. They mistake earth plane prestige for Inner Plane Majesty; they are consequently very often led to the acceptance of those statements which are greatly exaggerated or entirely false, and when the time of adjustment comes, as it must inevitably, they find their faith <sup>shatters</sup> a severe shock. There are so many seeking to give us advice, so many who will try to operate our lives for us that we must always analyze advice; we must analyze the nature of thoughts entering our minds at all times. Thought is a powerful force; it is in constant operation, and thousands of ideas crowd in upon us constantly during our waking moments. Part of our Occult Training should be the sensitizing of our Thought receiving apparatus. Thru analyzation we accept those things which are harmonious and true, and reject those things which are the opposite.

In the Bonds of the Eternal Brotherhood.