

Beloved Companion:

Far more during this age than ever before is the Occultist faced with the question of his attitude toward international policy and social activity. In times past it was not so imperative that the Occultist should consider world affairs, as his own situation was usually so remote from general conditions about him that there was no purpose in his concentrating upon anything but his personal development and his service to the few friends and companions in his native habitat.

Now, however, the twentieth century has removed the barriers between us and our most remote neighbors. We must learn to adjust the realm included in our thought world to cosmopolitan expansiveness.

We must recognize that fundamentally every Occultist has a certain duty to perform which he cannot ignore and still deem himself worthy of the name which he bears. It is true, of course, that Occultism develops independence, it helps one to concentrate upon his own fulfillment as an individual of consciousness, and to realize that fulfillment to its highest capacity. But in doing so the Occultist also recognizes that his development is the sort of awakening which is not selfish, but which is altruistic in the highest sense of the word.

Occultism should lead us to activity in all phases of endeavor - that is just as much a part of the Western Traditions as the development of the Inner Consciousness. In fact, we sometimes lose sight of our responsibility to man in our concentration upon the development of self. We see a Goal ahead of us as individuals and we strive for it, letting nothing stand in our way, but when we incarnate we not only inherit our personal Karma, but we also inherit the Racial Karma for which we are just as much responsible, as we are our individual debts.

A belief in Occult Principles is proven by action, not by thought alone. You remember the question which was asked of Demosthenes - "What is the chief part of an Orator?" If we were asked in the same way - "What is the chief part of Occult practice?", our answers would be the same as that of Demosthenes - "Action!"

If we truly believe in a Principle we have faith in it; if we have faith in it, that faith is bound to find a reflection in our lives for we see its good and we depend upon it with all of our strength. The average man is not capable of being "his brother's keeper", and the admonition to that effect seemingly does not apply to him, but the more developed we become, the more capable we are of acting constructively and with responsibility for our brethren.

But we are speaking chiefly here of national and international affairs. So often we are asked if the Brotherhood does not sponsor different political parties and governmental moves. In many cases we do not; the political machine is, at best, unreliable.

It is a system based upon enforcing the right of a representative portion of the population, and suppressing the rights of those of opposite political belief. It is a governmental jurisdiction based upon partiality. What would it avail us to cooperate with this party, lending it our support, if it would be but furthering the system of Party domination?

No, the Occult School is, and always has been, chiefly concerned with the individual, in rejuvenating their understanding of life, in bringing them a vision, of teaching them harmony, and so eliminating the traits of envy, jealousy, contention and strife, that automatically all of negative conditions will banish from the political horizon. A government is made up of its people - its salvation rests in the hands of each individual in its composite group. Political reform cannot accomplish everything for it is simply a remolding of wornout policies, fashioned and enforced by the same people, or the same type of people. A desire for change must blossom in the hearts of individual souls, find reflection in the life of that individual thru good works, positive thoughts, and plans which are in agreement with the Cosmos. If each individual is living a life of Christ-Consciousness, the political problem is going to take care of itself. It has no identity aside from the desires of the individual composing the political party, and its accomplishments and activities will reflect exactly the state of development of those registered in it.

The Occult is seldom a political figure, but he is always a humanitarian. His policy is one of justice to all, he seeks to unite them for the common benefit of all. The Occultist, more than any other individual, realizes the need for Universal fellowship. He perceives that the separation of those during this life wave into segregated units is not beneficial for the welfare of all. No man is separate from his neighbor, even though he may live the life of a hermit, for there are bonds, unbreakable, uniting us all.

First, we have our common issuance from the same source - the Logos. Then we have our association with world Karma, with Racial Karma, and with national Karma. Finally, we are related thru the very fact that we incarnate again and again on this plane for the soul purpose of developing the same qualities of awakening.

Wide mention is being made at the time this is written, of certain radical political parties who wish to enforce what they term a Brotherhood of Man thru the military suppression of all those of an opposite opinion. They wish to distribute wealth thru a common fund, furnishing opposition with dire penalties of imprisonment and death. When we speak of "brotherhood", we are not referring to any party in existence, nor to any governmental plan now in operation. We are speaking of a finer Brotherhood based upon the Principles of Christ Consciousness. This Brotherhood will not need to be enforced by Law. When it is achieved there will be no need for Law. The present day parties who are trying to achieve these ends and who are, nevertheless, using the wrong means, have noted many things which

are true, but they are endeavoring to correct them in the wrong way.

They point out the two extremes of the social scale; they direct accusing fingers at the potentates who live in lavish splendor while within a radius of a few yards, there will be beggars, living in misery without hope or future prospects. They say vehemently that that is wrong, and they are right in their criticism, but snatching the wealth from one faction and giving it indiscriminately to the other faction is but tipping the scale to the other extreme, and duplicating the same condition over again. Military enforcement cannot bring the awakening of Christ Consciousness into the soul, and that is the only thing that can alter these conditions as they should be altered, making it possible for man to dwell among men in peace and in understanding.

Radicals are constantly saying that society is to blame for this or that, when society as a unit does not exist. It is simply an abstract idea applied to a group of individuals who themselves, each and every one, must understand the ideals of Occult Consciousness if they are going to produce a mythical "society" that will be any better than the present one.

The work of the Occult Schools, therefore, and largely the work of its students, is this laboring in the Master's vineyard with the Soul of each Neophyte. The circle of Neophytes is ever increasing; thousands upon thousands are looking upon life with a new understanding of the Inner Consciousness.

After all, when things are analyzed in a sensible, logical light, we can perceive that working for social justice is in our own interests. It is we who are going to incarnate again later on in the future; we who are going to live under the jurisdiction of the state we are now building. May we never overlook this solemn fact of reincarnation. Too often we think of it in a vague way - there are many who would willingly embrace any type of political procedure if it brought them temporary respite from certain obligations, or if it offered them gain for this lifetime. They would be satisfied to condone any procedure, getting out of things the easiest way, even though their conduct meant the fashioning of conditions to be felt for countless generations in the future. They may even know that, realize that their deeds must be paid for later on, but they look upon those future generations impersonally, failing to understand that they themselves will be a part of that future world, being affected by the very conditions which their present day actions are setting into motion.

This by no means is the same thing as becoming a fanatical moralist. The esoteric sciences do not advocate the Neophyte, with the first glimmer of understanding, deserting home and fireside to campaign for social readjustment, even though he may perceive that it is vitally necessary. The first demonstration which should take place upon the perception of Truth is the changing of each individual's own personal life, that he may, insofar as he is

concerned, demonstrate in the harmony of his life, exactly what Truth is and can do. The Occultist is certainly meticulous in his observance of duty, and the fulfilling of one's personal obligations becomes a matter of rigorous observance.

This he does, not because he believes a spiritual or mundane reward is waiting for him to bless him eternally for his faithfulness, but he does it because he understands that right living and right thinking are the first practical steps on the Pathway. He perceives that the performance of duty is the foundation upon which good citizenship and spiritual harmony are built. For each man to do his share in the world's work would mean that half of the vices of humanity would be eliminated. So he takes pleasure in the performance of his duty for its own sake, not for any promised reward which might accumulate for him. So far as he is concerned, he is going to do his utmost to raise the level of racial and world Karma with which he is connected. As this is so it is certainly apparent that aligning oneself with an Esoteric order does not mean the desertion of any of those responsibilities to which each one of us are heir.

No one more mistakes the meaning manifesting Christ Consciousness than he or she who says "I wish that I had oratory ability, for then I would preach Truth thruout the world, but without this gift I am useless to the Cosmic Plan, and so must be excused from service." Or the one who avers "I have a very real desire to serve, but must find some other location as this city in which my home is located offers me no opportunity to demonstrate the humanitarian love which I have for God's children". In both of these cases the statements are in error; regardless of who we are, where we are, whatever our special gifts and talents may be, the ability which we have can be consecrated directly to the Cosmic Plan in the special assistance to someone or something close at hand.

Let me quote you an example of what I mean by this. It concerns the attitude of a young man who was employed as an attendant in a public institution. After being a student of Truth for several months, the full implication of the possibilities of living a life of Truth dawned upon him. He was immediately convinced of the benefits of Occult study and the wonderful opportunity for renewing hope and confidence which such esoteric knowledge carried with it. Because of his specially developed abilities along the line of public speaking, he was convinced, and perhaps rightly so, that were he to be given a temple in a large city, that he could fill it competently with the fiery messages he felt formulating in his consciousness and surging to his lips. He knew he could do these things, he knew that he could help humanity - all he wanted was a chance to show his ability. He demanded of the Cosmos that the temple should be provided. At first he was completely convinced that his complete faith in himself would be successful in materializing the building he desired. But time passed, weeks and months, and still he seemed as far from his Goal as he was when he first

identified himself with Occult thought. His assurance in himself never diminished, but he lost complete faith in the Cosmos and blasphemed against it because it was restricting, limiting him to menial tasks when he felt himself invested with Divine Qualities.

All this time, as we have pointed out above, he was working in an institution, surrounded by broken souls and broken bodies. His disappointment, jealousy and anger for other speakers who were doing what he wished to do, so permeated his nature that he developed a most despicable disposition. He was thoroughly disliked and eventually lost his position because of his destructively embittered viewpoint.

As we analyze his response impersonally we can perceive quite clearly that bountiful opportunity surrounded him all the time. The splendid gift of effective approach, the ability to clearly analyze for the assistance of others these principles would not have been lost on the bewildered souls which he associated with each day. They were worthy, perhaps more worthy to receive his messages than the teeming thousands pictured in his mind's eye, filling his unrealized temple.

This is an illustration of an actual case, but it is an extreme one. But let it serve to point out to each and everyone of us the principles we have discussed in this Lecture. First, this study should help us to change ourselves, give us an understanding of the duties we have to ourselves, to our close associates, our community, our nation, and the Race at large. Then let it also point out that this duty, when it is recognized and discharged honorably, can assist in a most effective way, the development of the Cosmic Plan. If we have the special faculties of active leadership, a way for the manifestation of those faculties will be open unto us. Otherwise, let us be satisfied if the field of our work lies at home, as our service there is just as important a work as that of any great leader and teacher.

In the Bonds of the Eternal Brotherhood.