

Beloved Companion:

"Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." How simple that statement is, and yet have we not too often failed to ask its true importance? Do we perceive in each joy, and in each trial the working of faith as it rewards and tests each deed and faculty? How often we neglect to remind ourselves of faith, and yet it should be the key-word of our occult lives, especially now that we have advanced to a high station. Faith, and all it implies - loyalty, courage, pride in the things of spirit, boundless aspiration, these are the fabrics from which the garment of the initiate is spun. We cannot enter into the arcane halls unfittingly garbed, but how petuantly we try to force our entrance to those sacred corridors!

"Faith is the substance of things hoped for." Substance implies actuality, fulfillment. One dreams mighty dreams, one aspires to climb the mountain heights, but has it not been said that only thru faith can these things be made substance, fact? We never reach the point where we are superior to the temptations of the lesser planes. We never reach that point where faith ceases to be tested. We are not always required to tarry in the garden while the Master prays; tests assume various forms, forms which we would hardly suspect were important. But we manifest our faith or the lack of it in all things that we do. Because the test of faith is so frequent, because it meets us at every turn, because we are weak and self-willed, we often fail. And failing, add to our difficulty by too lightly excusing our short-comings. Faith is one quality in which we should never fail. Whatever circumstances may develop, whatever life may bring of adversity and sorrow, thru all of this our faith in the great supernal good intrinsic in all things, should glow with an undying fervor. When we lack faith, we lack all other virtues. More than any other quality it defines our lives..... without it even love is falsified.

As you are advancing now into the higher work, I feel more and more free to discuss with you these vital elements of Truth study. You are looking ahead to a resplendent future, and justly so. But you, as is every consecrated worker, are destined to find those who in their activities with you, will bring sore disappointments. I say that not because I look with cynicism upon the foibles of human nature, but because we have so many young souls among our race, souls who apparently seek help, but who are not prepared to profit by the attention and care you lavish upon them.

Repeatedly you will hear the cry "How long, how long?" and again "Show me the great Masters, let them come to me, and I shall believe." Oh they of little faith! The young soul seeks to command the Cosmos, when they have not yet earned that right. Unmindful of what they ask, they demand that the great Avatars impose upon themselves the restrictions of this, the lowest of the planes, to satisfy their idle whims. The adept, whose faculties have been sharpened, refined, purified to a most remarkable degree feels keenly any confinement in the gross substance of the terrestrial existence. All of the focussed malice, hatred, evil and discord of this plane to which the uninitiated is deadened, react upon the subtle vehicles of the adept just as vitriolic acid would sear the flesh of your hands. Discord pierces thru their perfect bodies, and yet, they come, always they answer the call of serv-

ice, unthinking of the inflicted suffering it will bring. They come, oft-times are unrecognized in their humble station, but never have they failed. Thus the officious young soul, seeks to command the divine powers as he would the performance of a theatrical show. I say the Masters come, but it is a just balance of conditions that those who called in the most demanding tones are the last to see the nature of that which they have brought into being.

Faith alone can lift the cloud of spiritual blindness, faith alone unfold in the Light of truth as a flower opening under the rays of the sun. The Masters have come....in every age they work and strive to raise the fallen. They have given us knowledge, and more than that, they have given us all the practical example of their lives.

Thus the faith that is really the substance of life, makes no thoughtless demands upon man or god. It, in itself, is alive and stimulating. It feeds the soul, replenishes it with life-giving nectar. It does not tear down, it builds, it lifts, and it fulfills promise. Doubt destroys, ultimately defeating itself. Faith ascends, indomitable, victorious, supreme.

"Faith is the evidence of things not seen"....have you thought of Faith as being an intangible contract between you and your Master? Do you perceive it an indissoluble bond? In your hours of pain, or of sorrow your thoughts turn naturally to those you know will guide you; you realize your own weakness, but you feel kinship and close sympathy of a higher power enfolding you. Faith accomplishes this, it leads you to the perfect source of inspiration and peace. When disaster overtakes your mundane fortune, when you feel enmity and hardship around you; then once more you reach confidently out into the darkness of the silence, and unfailingly the hand-clasp of the Way-shower comes. Faith unites you with the inner planes, it bridges every gulf and crevice.

And so for the assignment of this week, I am going to suggest that you observe yourself and your actions to see just wherein you are succeeding or failing in the test of faith. I know we are accustomed to pass over these seemingly minor demands with unconcern, but remember that regardless of the heights of intellectual or spiritual attainment that you may ascend, your accomplishments will actually amount to no more than your faith in that which lies beyond. Prepare a special meditation for each day of the entire week, touching for a few moments upon some aspect of faith. Observe your actions and thoughts carefully. More and more as you advance, is the example of your life an important part of your work. Everywhere young souls are observing you. Perhaps they are not watching you consciously, but the opportunity is yours as far as manifesting the life of Truth is concerned. You never know just when some problem, some crisis is forming in the lives of those you meet, even in a most casual manner. A chance word, a thoughtless condemnation, a slighting remark, a skeptical remark, altho meaning little to you, may be the deciding weight in turning that observer from one path to another. Small incidents decide great issues. Our deeds, our manner of conduct and action is the open book of life which our associates read. As a companion on the Pathway, it is your duty to so compose that Book that those glancing at it may find nothing but that which is of an inspiring example. So enter into the spirit of this week of Faith - observation. Check your responses carefully, search into the innermost depths of consciousness, weed out lingering ideas of discord and doubt, and report to your instructor at the end of that time the results which this special exercise has brought.

In the Bonds of the Eternal Brotherhood.