PREFACE

to the Letters of E.I.R.

When the great images reach you from remote antiquity, they somehow assimilate with you particularly well. Even if they are wrapped in myths and legends, they are most convincing. In the course of time, everything seems possible. Writers and artists of all ages dedicate their best aspirations to these distant personifications. Whole generations are inspired by these heroes and heroines. No one envies them; no one thinks how those achievements were performed; only the memorable records of human ascent are left to us.

Not quite so is it with the recent past, to say nothing of the present time. Take, for instant, the biographical sketches of the great men of late. So much that is unessential, uncharacteristic is mentioned regarding them! This only proves that the final essence of their beings is not yet weighed and appreciated. The most doubtful, the least-proven details are invariably included; hence, the conclusions, if not altogether negative, always rather underestimate.

Of course, from age to age, the scales of the past are being adjusted. The justice of the people will remove much that obscured the eyes of contemporaries; the judgment of the ages does not necessarily have to demean! Even in the span of a short hundred years we see that much has been balanced of its own accord. The lengthy pamphlets in which the great souls were slandered have not yet been obliterated. Not only our grandparents, but we all remember how cruel and unjust was the attitude of people towards certain events, which in less than a century were deservingly recognised as meritorious not only by their own country but by the whole world.

Beautiful images of women and men are passing with us even today - the true creators of culture. And one would imagine that it would be most valuable to recognise them immediately rather than postpone unnecessarily. Wherefore, inexplicably, hide them in the archives and screen them from sight for the increase in the fantasy of the folk imagination?

Here we encounter a wonderful Russian figure. Already in childhood as a girl she reveals herself, secretly carrying away a

heavy volume of Dore's Bible. Bending from its burdensome weight, hiding it from the grown-ups, she takes the treasure in order to study the illustrations and eventually, when she learns to read, to study the Covenants themselves. From her father's bookcase, at an unusually early age, she also takes volumes on philosophy. Amidst the noisy, and it seems distracting environment, she was able to develop a profound contemplation of life, as if she had possessed it long ago. Honesty, justice, a constant search for Truth, and love for creative work - all this actually transformed the whole of life around the strong, young spirit. And the whole house, the whole family became directed by the same benevolent principles. All difficulties and dangers are endured under the same stoic leadership. The accumulated knowledge and striving to perfection brings a victorious solution of problems; this leads the surrounding people towards the luminous path. Ignorance, darkness, malice were ever acutely sensed. Wherever it was possible, the healing of both the physical and the spiritual are performed. Life becomes full of true labour. From morning till night everything is performed for the benefit of humanity. The broadest correspondence is carried on; books have been written; works of many volumes have been translated, and all this is done in an amazingly tireless spirit. Even the most difficult circumstances have been conquered by true faith, which became real straight-knowledge. Surely, wonderful accumulations are necessary for such knowledge. All young people should know of this tireless life as a vital example of austere achievements, benevolence and constructiveness. When the difficulties of this inspirational work are known, it will be particularly valuable to realise that unbroken advancement has been made. Often, one thinks that everything is hopeless, that good is defenceless against evil, so great are the delusions resulting from human despair. Therefore, real vital examples are indeed most important in these cases. We rejoice when all beginners in Constructive work can be encouraged by such example." (Adamant, 22. 4. 27.).

So speaks the most authentic beholder! All of us - the friends and admirers of the works of Helena Ivanovna can receive fiery flashes of her broad and wise contemplation from her letters,

for is not her whole life imbued with it? The Women's Movement, cosmological researches, the Living Ethics - all these can be found in her letters to friends. Elena Ivanovna was against publishing her letters, but we - her numerous friends - have been exchanging copies of what were for us their most precious indications. Eventually, we came to the conclusion that, considering the demand for these letters by an increasing number of friends and co-workers, it was necessary to publish them in book form. We applied to E.I. herself, and at last, received her permission. Of course, the first volume consists only of a relatively small number of letters, or rather, fragments of letters, which, in most cases, are just the answers to various questions of co-workers. The names of the co-workers and even their dwelling places, are not mentioned, as of course, what is important is the subjects dealt with. As to the correspondents, they themselves know whom the letters concern and on what occasions they were written. In the gradual publishing of these letters, the broad contemplation of this remarkable Russian woman will be revealed. In Russia, as well as abroad, during her world travels, she always gave herself in service to her own country and to humanity. The Russians have given quite a number of wonderful women in various fields of life. One can think of the names of such heroine-workers as Kovalevsky, Blavatsky, Dashkova, Volkonsky, Morozova and many others. From the remote days until now, they have served humanity with their unusual talents and knowledge. The activities of women have been recognised only recently, but already we can see the influence of woman in all spheres: art, literature, philosophy, medicine, education, industry, aviation, in short wherever the new world is being built. Elena Ivanovna is always hoping to publish a worthy book of advice, dedicated to woman. However, she has not in view any estrangement from the world, but on the contrary, she always thinks of the broadest, closest collaboration, which would for ever remove the conventional limitations of ignorance.

The Editors have great pleasure in presenting these thoughts of a wonderful woman-thinker. It will give the possibility to all seekers of truth and culture of becoming acquainted with the profoundly heartfelt letters of Elena Ivanovna Roerich.

LETTERS TO AMERICA

The first Letter. 1929

My Young Friends,

From far India, the country of beauty, of achievements of the spirit and of great thought, I send to you who are gathered in the name of the great labour and structure of the future - Greetings of the heart; I call you to self-perfection and unlimited achievements.

The book of new discoveries and the light of daring is open before humanity, and you have already heard about the approach of the New Era. Every epoch has its call, and the calling foundation of the New Era will be the power of thought. That is why we call you to understand the great significance of of creative thought, and the first step in this direction will be the Discovery of Consciousness, freedom from all prejudices and from all tendencies and forced concepts.

Let us glance at the entire immensity of the night sky; in our thoughts let us fly over the innumerable worlds and the hidden depths of Infinite Space. Thought in its substance is infinite, and only our consciousness attempts to limit it. Therefore, without delay, let us start the next step - Broadening of Consciousness. The most ancient wisdom of India says: "thought is the primary source of World Creation." The Great Buddha pointed out the meaning of thought which builds our essence. He taught his pupils to broaden their consciousness. Lao Tse, Confucius, Christ - all the Teachers of the spirit and great thinkers taught the same thing.

The Great Plato said: "Thoughts rule the world." And modern scientists, as for instance Professor Compton, have expressed the probability of an active, rational force in every phenonemon of nature, and of the influence of thought upon matter. He concludes with the following remarkable words: "possibly the thoughts of men are the most important factors in the world."

With such broad understanding, let us become acquainted with the history of the development of thought. Putting aside all prejudices of place, time and nationality, we, like the bees,

shall collect the precious honey of human creative thought! After placing into the foundation the powerful achievements of those great creators who moulded our consciousness, let us begin the third step - the Development of our Own Thought, our own creativeness, and, from the new combinations we shall hew sparks of the fire of thought - this crown of the Universe.

Let us remember that a thinking being is never lonely because thought is his greatest magnet and it brings similar response from space. Therefore, if we want to receive a beautiful answer, we should send into vibrating space our striving thoughts saturated with the pure fire of the heart, as only the thought which is spiritualised by striving, nourished by the heart can create and attract as a powerful magnet. Thought without the striving and flaming quality is sterile. Thus, let us long for knowledge, for broad thoughts, and in our striving, we shall dare, as only the daring of thought moulds new ways.

You, my young friends, who have approached art and creation, you should be able to utilise your gifts as a condensation of your forces, for sound and colour; thought and rhythm are the foundations of the Universe, and of our existence. Sound and colour, knowledge and creation are the chalice of Amritha, the chalice of Immortality!

Eternal, continuous creation of the Universal Life surrounds us, and we, being part of this great creation, should create every moment of our life, create by thought, by word, by action.

My young friends, fill up the treasury of your spirit. Absorb all the sounds, all the colours, all the rhythms from the fathomless source of Space. These finest vibrations, consciously absorbed, will refine your receptivity and your thought.

The refining of the receptivity will give you the possibility of penetrating into the Sanctuaries of Space, and will open the path of achievement and continuous, endless ascent.

My friends, labour with all the tension of your forces,

because only by reaching the limit of your tension do the rich possibilities come to you. The laws are alike in everything, and we know that the rich energies are born of the greatest efforts. Therefore, only increased activity and a sharpening of strength will bring the achievement of beauty.

And I beg you, do not fear the difficulties, display readiness to meet all obstacles, for each obstacle strengthens you and leads you to the future victory. Try to love the difficulties, and say "Blessed be the obstacles, through them we grow." Courageously, inspired by striving, realising the majesty of the endless perfecting of creative life, strive towards the Calling Infinity of lives, Infinity of Achievements, Infinity of Knowledge, Infinity of Construction, Infinity of Beauty!

My young friends, hearken to the Call of Creative Infinity!

AMERICA

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Letter No. 2 1. 3. 1929.

The approaching great epoch is closely connected with the revival of woman. As in the best days of humanity, the coming time will again offer woman her rightful place alongside her eternal fellow-traveller and co-worker - man. You must remember that the grandeur of the Cosmos is built by the Dual origins. Is it possible, therefore, to belittle one of them?!

All the present and coming miseries and the cosmic cataclysms to a great degree result from the subjugation and abasement of woman. The dreadful decline of morality, the diseases and degeneration of some nations are also the results of the slavish dependence of woman. Woman is deprived from complete participation in creative thought and constructive work. She is deprived not only of equal rights, but in many countries, of equal education with man. She is not allowed to express her abilities in the building of social and government life, of which, by her Cosmic Rights, she is a fully-fledged member. But a slave woman can produce slaves only. A proverb - great mother, great son - has a Cosmic-scientific foundation. As sons mostly take after their mothers, and daughters after fathers, great is the Cosmic justice! By humiliating woman, man humiliates himself. This explains today the paucity of man's genius.

Could the terrors and crimes of today be possible if both Origins had been balanced? In the hands of woman lies the salvation of Humanity and of our Planet. Woman must realise her significance, the great mission of the Mother of the World; she should be prepared to take responsibility for the destiny of Humanity. Mother - the life-giver - has every right to direct the destiny of her children. The voice of woman-mother should be heard amongst the leaders of humanity. The mother suggests the first conscious thoughts to her child. She gives direction and colour to all its aspirations and abilities. But the mother who possesses no thought culture can suggest only the lower expressions of human nature . . .

The Woman who strives to knowledge and beauty, who realises

her high responsibility, will greatly uplift the whole level of life. There will be no place for disgusting vices which degenerate and destroy whole countries!

But in her striving towards education, woman must remember that all educational systems are only the means for the development of a higher culture. The true culture of thought develops by the culture of spirit and heart. Only such combination gives that great synthesis, without which it is impossible to realise the real grandeur, diversity and complexity of human life in its Cosmic evolution. Therefore, while striving to knowledge, may woman remember the Source of Light and the Leaders of Spirit - those great Minds which, verily, created the consciousness of humanity. In approaching this Source, this Leading Synthetic Element, humanity will find the way to real evolution.

And Woman is the one who should show this way, because from the very beginning she was chosen to link the two worlds; visible and invisible. Woman possesses the power of the Sacred life-energy. The coming epoch brings knowledge about this great omnipresent energy, which is manifested in all immortal creations of human genius.

Western woman is awake and realises her powers; her cultural contributions are already evident. However, the majority of western women - as with all beginners - start with imitation, but in original self-expression is real beauty and harmony. Would we like to see man losing the beauty of manhood?! The same is true about a man who has a sense of beauty; he certainly does not wish to see a woman imitating his habits and competing with his . . . vices. Imitation always starts with the easiest. But we hope that this first step will soon be outlived and that woman will deepen her knowledge of Mother-Nature and will find true original ways of self-expression.

The Cosmos manifests unity of law, but there is no repetition in its variety. Why then, does humanity see only the violation of law on one side, and uniformity on the other?! Uniformity of

perception, uniformity of life, and especially uniformity of thought. It is forgotten that uniformity of expression leads towards stagnation and death. Life and its power is in perpetual change of form. It is necessary to apply this life-giving principle in all the expressions of our life.

Let us collect the most beautiful heroic images of all times and countries, and with creative imagination let us apply their achievements in our life, taking into consideration the peculiarities of our epoch. Only such imitation will give the correct foundation for further progress.

I shall finish my address to woman with a page from the book "The Teaching of Life": "When nations started disunity - the result was self-destruction. And only a return to balance can stop this self-destruction. Humanity does not apply the principles of creativeness in its right proportion, and thus violates the foundations of life. When by the law of the Cosmic Magnet, the lower forms are subordinated to the higher, this concerns only the energies which should be transmuted. v But when the Origins are called to create and give life, itis impossible to remove one of the Origins without self-destruction. Therefore, humanity will start its real evolution only when both Origins are affirmed in life. All principles which do not include the understanding of the dual Origins can only increase the lack of balance. Humanity must understand the law of the Cosmic Magnet. Much can be done for evolution by realisation of the grandeur of the Dual Origins which are the basis of Life."

Such simple truth still does not find place in the consciousness of man! Our scientists, biologists, chemists, physicists should know the truth about the dual elements or polarity, but they are silent. And such truth, in its most sacred and vital application is scorned, and the rights of the strong selfishly are dominating . . . The trouble is that the intelligence of man is disconnected from its source - the Cosmic Intelligence. Being part of the Cosmos, the human being yet does not see his solidarity, his unity with the Cosmos. And his observations over the

manifestations of Nature do not suggest any analogies to him. However, only in observations and comparisons with human nature is it possible to find the keys to all the secrets of Life, and therefore, to many problems of everyday life. People, like parrots, love to repeat the favourite ancient formula - "macrocosm is microcosm"! So often this is repeated without any sense! The forced dogmas, the human laws, the general standards of life - all this influences the human mind which, with rare exceptions, becomes extremely mechanical. Everybody is preaching various freedoms, but the most opposite schools of thought agree in one thing: they all are afraid of freedom of thought!

Therefore, woman must defend not only her own rights, but the rights of free-thought for the whole of humanity! Through the development of thinking, our general abilities will grow widely. Let us think with the broadest, the purest thoughts. It is said: "The Kingdom is not made up of royalties or of subjects, but is created by spacious cosmic ideas. Let us create our own cities, countries, planets! But let such thought be created by the heart, as only thought born of the heart is vital. The Heart is the greatest Cosmic Magnet. All cosmic energies are attracted to the heart, and the heart assimilates them. The heart manifests in life all aspirations. The fire of Space is attracted to the heart and the whole cosmic process lies in this principle. Therefore, the Cosmos exists in the attraction of the heart. Only the energies which are based on the attraction of the heart are vital. Thus, infinitely the chain of life is forged by the heart."

Did you listen to your heart? Does it beat in rhythm with the Perfect Heart which embraces you all?

Thus, I shall finish with the words about the heart. Let woman affirm this great symbol, which can transfigure the whole life. Let her strive to transmute the spiritual life of mankind.

Mother - the life giver, the life Protector - let her become also Mother - the Leader, the <u>all</u>-Giver, the <u>all</u>-Receiver.

Letter No. 3 (Third letter received)

Today, I write using the words of the great Teacher about the "Sacrament of Hierarchy". Truly, this is a sacrament because it is based upon the applicable and exact law of the Cosmic Magnet which leads all beings to perfection. It is necessary to realise the Hierarchy clearly, precisely and broadly as the only way towards progress. We must understand the whole chain of Hierarchy holding strongly to our nearest link. Mistaken is the one who wants to skip this link and in this way loses his nearest inspiration. It is impossible to do without this link as the rhythm of the movement of the whole chain flows along this saving connection. Grave indeed is this error. How much time will be lost in trying to recover the vibrating link which responds to the call. But this link gives sequence and tension because it carries with it the entire rhymthic striving of the whole hierarchical chain.

"Subordination of the lower to the higher represents the foundation of the whole Cosmos. Subordination of the lower to the higher will bring purification. But humanity subordinates to the lower that which should lead. When the higher leads the transmutation of the lower occurs. This transmutation creates a valuable sequence which grows infinitely. By transmutation, we mean the subordination of the lower to the higher, and we want to confirm the consciousness of mankind on the process of infinite progress."

"Therefore let us not delay the transmutation of our consciousness. Let us remember the leading Hierarch and let us honour the nearest earthly Gurn. The earthly Gurn is given for honouring, for progressing, for unifying, for constructing." By neglecting the Gurn, by depreciating the Gurn who is confirmed by the great Teacher, one neglects and minimises the Confirmed because the earthly Gurn represents Him. Let us remember how the Lords of Light hold sacred the Sacrament of Hierarchy. The Hierarch carries the "Synthesis of Chalice" and, therefore, he includes obedience and command. The one who does not know the art of

obeying will not attain the art of commanding. Beautiful are those two concepts. Conscious subordination approaches command. After the firm realisation of Hierarchy, we shall with all our heart begin a deeper understanding of the Teaching of Life. It hurts the heart to feel how little understood are those treasures which the Teacher spreads so generously. On these treasures will be founded the new race. Ponder over the majesty of what is given. I feel frightened when I think of the responsibility we take upon ourselves when we accept these treazurs, and that among us are those who still fail to realise all the value of them for humanity. And what is given for distribution as the most essential food for starving souls that should remain in the foundation of the new evolution remains with them without appreciation. Do feel the call of my spirit. Re-read as often as possible your treasure; collect all the crumbs, and, with all your essence, fuse with them. They will give to you such broad and clear understanding of the most complicated questions of existence. The only way will be by absorbing it, and the joy of infinite progress will fill your hearts. My heart longs to inspire you with joy of the majesty and beauty which the Teaching of Life opens to you. New souls are coming and will multiply. We must be able to hold them. It is necessary to give to everyone according to his mentality. Nothing attracts people so much as the necessary word which liberates their minds and gives them new possibilities. All beings are drawn towards light. This is the first law of the Cosmos. The Teaching and the ability to assess it is the magnet which attracts people and all possibilities. It is that armour which can withstand all attacks; that source which brings endless joy. But it should be accepted by the heart and not by the head alone.

Love each other, respect each other, but let the inner life of each one of you be his own Holy of Holies. You are united by the Teacher and by actions, but you are not the judges of each other. The judge can easily become the judged one in

the eyes of the Teacher. Their measures are not our earthly measurements; this we must always remember. And a stone thrown at one's brother will weigh one down like a heavy burden. Efter accepting the Hierarchy, absorb the Teaching because the only indestructible joy is the joy of that broadening of our consciousness which forces us into the higher sacrament of life. Where all our most sacred, most holy strivings find their materialisation as the Higher Reality is above all human imagination.

Letter No. 4. 13.10.29.

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Lately, I have been thinking a great deal about the members of your group. Once more I am convinced that no one can be replaced and that everyone is needed. And how simple it is, in such circumstances, to achieve the complete harmony which guarantees victory in all directions. But my heart feels that there is something that prevents this unity. What is the remedy? Of course, the only solution is: comprehension of the Teacher and the Teaching by the heart and not by the head alone. Therefore, we must pay attention to the development of our heart, that amazing organ, which includes in itself, in its numerous centres all creativeness and psychic life. Without development of the centres of the heart, we are sterile, there is no creation of psychic life, there is no life in the higher spheres and the crown of the Arhat is unapproachable. Only with our heart are we able to approach the consciousness of the Arhat, of the Teacher, as this consciousness is in his heart. Humanity has an obscure understanding of the Arhat, but without this understanding it is impossible to advance. In the book "Hierarchy" it is mentioned: "It is customary to think of an Arhat as a dweller of the clouds. The records of the drift of thought are dreadful and grotesque. Truly, We, the Brothers of Humanity do not recognise Ourselves in the concepts of humanity. The Images of Us are so fantastic that we deem if people applied their fantasies precisely conversely Our Images would assume true form. Everything takes on a new scale. Everything becomes improbable. Everything becomes uncorrelated to reality. On the way to the higher worlds, let us say, a Arhat is without limits in all manifestations. The Arhat ascends, bearing the power of the Cosmic Magnet in his heart."

. . . . . .

But let us see how this Image is expressed by the higher consciousness. "The heart of an Arhat is equal to the Heart of Cosmos. The heart of the Arhat is like the fire of the Sun. Eternity and the motion of Cosmos fill the heart of the Arhat. Maitreya is coming radiant with all fires. His Heart flames

with compassion for destitute humanity. His Heart flames with the affirmation of the new Covenants. Among people, there exists the concept of benumbed Arhats and miserable yogis feed the imagination of men with their own images. But when humanity realises that the Arhat is the highest manifestation of Materia Matria Lucida, it will understand that there is no difference between Materia Matria Lucida, which emits Light, and the Matter of Love enveloping all with Light. Humanity invests the Arhat with an austere Image, but Materia Matria Lucida radiates Love . . . When will it be possible to enlighten man with Our Image?"

The mind with difficulty realises the purity of the higher spheres. "To him, who is aware of the path to Us, let us say: 'Walk by the path of love. Walk by the path of labour. Walk by the path of the shield of faith.' To him who has found Our Image in his heart, We shall say : 'Walk by the way of the heart and the "Chalice" will affirm the path.' To him who thinks that he has attained the path through conceit, We shall say: 'Go and learn from the spirit who known consummation.'" Conceit stops all progress. "All creation is contained in the call of the heart. The entire cosmic expanse is permeated with a call, and the Heart of Cosmos and the heart of an Arhat are permeated with the call. The call and the answer compose the combination of the Cosmic fires . . . The Heart of Our Brotherhood safeguards for humanity the path towards the General Good."

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The Key to the Teaching each one must find in his own heart. The understanding of the Teaching of Life should inaugurate the creativeness of the Spirit. The Image of the Teacher can direct the enlightened path towards cosmic space. Thus, by accepting with our heart the chosen Image, do not our hearts flame with love towards all beings? The creative Materia Matria Lucida serves as embodiment for the high spirit, but this energy is attracted through love. The whole Cosmos is upheld by Love. Love is the greatest magnet.

My love for all of you and my eagerness about your progress tells my heart to point out the necessity of improvement. Now one general suggestion. In applying this suggestion, you must remember the testament of the Teacher - "Severity to yourself and an open heart for your brother. Only the benevolent eye can create." The Teacher always advises to apply the Teaching first of all to your own self; otherwise you will remain on the same degree. "It is sad when the spirit, after making its life circle, returns to the same point; it is sad when the spirit sets for itself the same limits, and its brood as faithful fellow travellers will await at the gates."

Above all, develop the sense of justice and comeasurement. Both these qualities are measured by the heart. Therefore begin to think about the heart so that you can remember about it and then hearken to its call. The magnet of the heart grows with sincerity and striving. There is nothing abstract in this, because all the finest cosmic energies pass through the heart - all the finest ones and therefore the most powerful and creative; but in order to attract these creative energies, one must build up one's own fires. Thus, build up all your fires! But do not mistake sentimentality, that weeping kindness, for the severe, wise manifestation of the heart. Remember what the Teachings says about compassion and pity. Love each other; take care of each other and give joy to each other.

The Letters of Helena Roerich

Letter No. 5 11. 2. 29

(first letter received)

Everyone of you is writing about your striving towards unity. What then prevents it, if you fully realise this necessity? I shall answer: Lack of spiritual discipline, lack of ability to apply the teaching first of all to your own self. When one must show tolerance, the old habit of uncontrollable antagonism or not outlived atavism rises in all its strength and then all the best intentions are forgotten at once. Of course, it is difficult to kill all the bad habits with one stroke. Therefore, let us start by rooting out the most urgent - let us drive away intolerance. Let us write with fiery letters in our consciousness about this intolerance testament of the Teaching and let us remember in the beginning and the ending of the day, in work and in rest.

Let us remember how the Lord Buddha taught his pupils, how he demanded that they should first of all learn how to control their temper and only after the restraint of spirit was over all the feelings of the pupil, only then did the Blessed One open a little the curtain over the sacred Teaching. The path of the Teaching is the same now; the same foundations are necessary for drawing near and for the highest confidence: honouring of the Hierarchy and the discipline of spirit.

Of course, by applying the gifts of directions and possibilities bestowed by the glorious hand of the Teacher, we can build much in greatening ourselves in the eyes of the world, and in this very life to outlive the bad Karma by obedience to the leading indications. But what will be put into our real treasury if we do not transmute our inner motives and feelings into the highest strivings? In spite of all our work on the line pointed out by the Teacher, the Tower will be closed. All this sounds so complicated and difficult and at the same time all is so easy and simple. If the heart sparkles with love and enthusiasm for the Teacher and for the beauty and broadness of the Teachings of Life, these sparks could so easily be fanned into the flame of

unquenchable striving which carries us above all and everything. Strive, my friends. Is it so difficult if you have before yourselves the Image of Beauty? Is it not the highest joy to bring every bit of yourself to the service of the general welfare? The achievements are so beautiful and there are no limits to them. But all the possibility, all the joy of it is only in us, ourselves. No one can take more than he gives - otherwise destruction will come. The laws of Cosmos are exact and unalterable. The highest joy for one may cause sadness in another, if assimilation is not there. Do understand this! The rays sent to us by the Teacher in the greatest joy of His Spirit will call forth our anguish and may even ruin our organism if we are not prepared to receive them. Do understand this, my dear, and give way to the rays of the Great Teacher. Each ray in Cosmos can be either creative or destructive. It all depends on correlation and assimilation. Let me quote from the book "Infinity", because "Man, being part of the Cosmos, belongs to all its laws."

"The Cosmic creation uses all vital impulses, tensing all levels of life. Of all the impulses the most powerful one is unity, which includes all the manifestations of life and by which is created the combinations of life. When unity struggles with differentiation, then comes the tensive explosion, and the splinters of explosion are often driven far away and these particles mutually lose their attractive powers. Thus, man, by throwing away the forces with which he is tied by Karma causes a powerful explosion. The law can create only by unification. The element of attraction marks out the path for all the striving energies. The Brothers of Humanity mark out the path for everything which was confirmed by evolution. So the force of attraction is meant to be the law of Existence. This Cosmic power of unification confirms the power of Cosmic Intelligence."

Again let me quote: "Let us consider the revolt of a pupil. When the pupil hides his revolt against the giving hand of the Teacher, it means he is hiding a handful of stones. We

shall remind such a pupil that the anger will be turned back to him. Let the pupil who is counting his offerings turn towards the giving hand; great will be the deficiency! The pupil who considers himself more important than the Gurn, breaks off connection with the Teacher. By counting his offerings, the pupil is already rewarded. It is incorrect to affirm one's own importance. From the remarks about flightiness, it could be said that the above-mentioned list is not quite complete. If these debts are not outlived, the journey will be long. Self-conceit is a plague! One can sorrow for one's own deficiency, but the revolt against the giving hand is similar to the arrow thrown against the shield. The posts of the Teaching are holding the actions. So let us remember."

It is said about the Hierarchy: "Of course the spiral of life is built only by this principle. The creativeness of the Teacher is also manifested in eternal motion. Therefore, the saturation of a pupil must be done by the creativeness of the Teacher. The pupil who is counting his achievements throws himself outside the boundaries of Truth. Thus, I shall say: The Hierarchy is the only shield. That is the reason why the pupil who considers his soft chair higher than the grone of his Gurn, truly must remember the giving hand. I feel distressed when the confirming pupil is acting arrogantly. We consider arrogance against the Gurn as the maximum of self-conceit. Thus let the pupil remember in all his steps. Someone is wondering: are not the results counted first of all? To this, I shall answer: Could this someone count them already? The counting may not come up to expectations.

Carry the Treasures entrusted to you by the enlightened Spirit and sow the seeds of spiritual creation, fully striving and realising the significance of the great gift. The result depends upon striving, which brings spiritual creativeness.

Someone is exasperated at the severity of the foregoing. But may I ask: Is it possible that this someone still remains on the first step of the call when so many pleasing things are given?

Are we still at the stage of childhood when the salutory but bitter medicine is offered in chocolate pills? Courage and patience must be found for throwing away the old shell and being born in luminous joyful spirit. All of us have experienced the plunging of spirit. It is almost unavoidable, but it should be carefully watched because it is dangerous if the last plunge is lower than the previous one; the rising up again will be difficult and much will be lost.

Let us hearken to the voice of our heart. Let the heart whisper what kind of beloved hearts live in the Fortress of Light. All inaccessibility is changed into the strongest magnet for the striving heart. Nothing can stop this attraction if the spirit has transmuted its internal fires.

You are all so dear to me and I would want so much to have you all around me to whisper a gentle, cheering word, and above all, to grow with all of you in the joy of understanding the infinite Teaching.

Often your calls reach me. I feel it is not easy for you, but so much bigger will be the victory. My heart often talks and calls as the great labour is ahead of us. Let us make it easier by applying the testaments of the Teaching. I know your firmness and devotion, but everything can be refined and in this way is the joy of our existence.

To the strong spirit the difficult times shows the shortest way. Let us welcome all the difficulties. The joy is secured, but it is necessary to withstand the attacks of the dark forces. We shall remember that "Will power and energy are the rulers of Karma". Let us apply our will power to the transmutation of our fires. Let us attract the pure fire of space. All joy will come with pure fire. Let us remember that the characteristic point of the pure tensive fire contains in itself the value of unification. Therefore, where unification is not manifested, there is no pure fire. But only the pure fires lead to the Towers.

I am sending all my love and support in this hard time

of the struggle of the spirit. You are surrounded by constant care. Do not doubt it. Every pupil is dear to the Teacher. Every movement of your heart echoes to the Great Heart. Not always can the forwarded rays reach our physical conscience, but every minute they dispel and annihilate so many hostile sparks around you. Help these unexcelled messages by your striving and by your conscious, cautious attitude towards them. They are sent by the Perfect Heart and the Perfect Mind.

Are you convinced of the complete insolvency and dubiousness of the manifestations of "Spiritual Order" of the majority of mediums? Each one sees only his own sphere, no more and no less. Are you going to look for knowledge from a person only because he knows the alphabet? Look for the accumulation of the "chalice" of the great synthesis. You have the highest; do not overload your Karma by touching the imperfect spheres.

Letter No. 6 11. 12. 29

I quote to you the page from the book "Infinity"; this page, by its close analogy with the seven cosmic and human manifestations, will help you once more to ponder over the seriousness of events.

"Only in tension, only when all the strings are vibrating, can the cosmic task be realised. Only when the task assumes the tensified form, may predestination take place. When the foundations of Cosmos support their firmaments by their attractions, the firmament can withstand. But when the foundations impede the mutual attraction, the dome is subject to the unbalanced tremor; thus the foundations can either affirm or destroy the task. The foundations can always unite the most diverse energies. Cosmos directs its energies by polarization. Negative and Positive give the manifestation of combinations."

Think over the depth of the above mentioned and do not impede your mutual attractions, do not evoke the shaking of the foundations. How can you discount the results of the tremors? In partial explosion, the new foundation can be carefully built up, but often the single explosion, by the force of detonation, strikes the nearest hearths. Everywhere is the great law of analogy and similarity.

Also you should read in the book "Community", page 232, par. 261, - "in order not to become a jar of scorpions." The possibility was foreseen a long time ago and warning is sent. Let us learn how to apply the indications. Let us be imbued with the seriousness of the present time. Each lightmindness is on the borderland of crime.

When we shall replace the limiting concept of "I" with powerful, creating and joyous "we", all the possibilities and wealth of the spirit will blossom immeasurably; our power will be increased exceedingly. People are afraid of the concept "we". "I" can always be checked, while "we" is unknown and therefore threatening!

The long ago predicted great time has come. Do you not feel it in all the tension of cosmic and human explosions? All the crust of the earth is aquiver and the great change is approaching. This time it is not the comparatively harmless tail of the comet, but our own emanations by their discord with the approaching higher fiery energies may evoke, or rather will evoke, the unexpected change. It is good during such perturbations to be on the solid indicated rock, under the Umbrella of Dukkar. Our tasks will all have room under this cover!

One more indication: "When you create the new degree, when Uranus is collecting the sixth race, then it is necessary to be imbued with the confirmed great time, and all the interfering worries should be discarded."

We must welcome all the dear ones, close in spirit, but all the destroying ones, those who bring division, must be either driven away or put in their places. We labour and create not for self-aggrandisement, not for individual personalities, but for the great general welfare.

And so, remember unprecedented, beautiful and threatening time. Not one minute should be lost. Do strengthen with all your forces the unification, and commit to the strictest ostracism the petty conception of "I".

I send you all the strings of my heart; let each one of you find the resounding one.

Letter No. 7 11. 9. 29.

People will come to you with questions and indications about various psychic and mediumistic phenomena, considering them as manifestations of Agni Yoga. Therefore, I shall try to clarify this difference by quoting from the talks and books of the Teaching. "The Spirit of Agni Yoga links us with the higher spheres and connects us with the currents of the Cosmic Magnet. The quality of fire is confirmed by the tension of the magnet. The magnet of the spirit determines to a certain degree that which is manifested. The same principle guides the lighting of the centres."

"The spirit whose consciousness is on the lower planes cannot ignite the fires of the higher centres. Only the highest attracts the highest and therefore, where there is only physical striving there will be the according receptivity and result. In the approaching epoch of Agni Yoga, it is necessary to know the principle of forcibly sent messages. In nature there is also direct accordance which has it s limits. Only the finest can assimilate the finest, and this is the principle of the magnet. Just as the principle of the fine energies is characteristic of the highest Agni Yoga, the physical receptivity determines the according manifestations. Everything that is forced, that is crude, that is physically manifested is inferior to the fine principle."

"An Agni Yogi possesses the highest balance, as the self-denying creativeness of his spirit leads to the balance of the world's correlation and therefore, the unbalance and disharmony of the centres achieve equilibrium. The Teaching repeats about these fine differences. Therefore, in order to progress to the next degree, it is important to understand the unbalance of the lower manifestations and the harmony of the higher duel. The nature of Agni Yoga is so high that comparison with any mediumistic manifestation will be like a muddy drop of water in a fiery chalice. Therefore, I shall say - the understanding of the higher fires will bring to the pure fiery heights. The Agni Yogi is the collector of a new race. He works in the higher spheres gathering the spirits of a new race. The manifestation of the Agni Yogi's

fire has its object on this Earth, just as in the higher spheres. Therefore, the Agni Yogi is the connecting link between the worlds."

"The exact difference in human instruments given for different aims and confirmed by the motive power of evolution should be assimilated by the consciousness of people. When we talk about the transmutation of the fires, then the confirmation of the most tensive fire of the Cosmic Magnet should be accepted. When humanity understands all the creative power of the spirit of an Agni Yogi, only then can it be said how all his centres are vibrating, responding to Cosmic events. The instrument which is used for the simple copy (of the vision) could not possibly be compared with the manifestation which reflects every breath of Cosmos. Therefore, let all those who are striving towards Agni Yoga find the highest understanding of the opened centres."

"The medium truly has no opened centres and the psychic eye is also not in contact with the higher worlds. Humanity has a false idea about the power of a medium, and often we are distressed seeing how people are deluded by psychic manifestations Psychical materialisations attract as a magnet."

Thus, if it may be so expressed, it is usually the lowest centres of the medium that act by their primitive tension. Often it is a forced phenomenon which does not lead towards the opening of the centres, but merely towards their temporary irritation. While the fires of the Agni Yogi are due to the igniting of the highest centres which really are opened.

Of course, strictly speaking, there are no lower centres and the high Agni Yogi has his 'lower' centres transmuted by the finest fires. But this transmutation takes place after the burning up of the highest centres are submitted to the Solar plexus. We must also remember that the gradation of these fires, or rather, their quality is infinite in their improvement just as everything else in the Cosmos. But one principle is beyond doubt in determining the Agni Yogi. It is the principle of synthesis. To burn up the fires without the "synthesis of the Chalice" is

impossible. By this principle you can already determine the quality of the fires.

So you have the main indication by which you can distinguish the manifestations of the flaming of the centres from the lower psychic manifestations. "An Agni Yogi is the carrier of the 'synthesis of the chalice' - by this indication you can judge." Therefore, fill your 'chalices' with the realisation of beauty, with the true knowledge of the wisdom of the Teaching of Life, and with the assimilation of it in your heart, remember that heart is the greatest magnet which attracts all knowledge, all possibilities, and all achievements. You should remember also that there is nothing forced in the manifestations of Agni Yoga, as the Agni Yogi is his own laboratory. He, himself, by the force of his spirit, transforms his fires. The Teacher gives the indications of the Teaching for broadening the consciousness but the pupil himself must apply it. The Teacher watches the process of igniting by covering the centres with plates of soma when the flaming threatens to become a conflagration. But no transmutation without the participation of the spirit of the pupil is possible.

Of course, you should be careful in your answers, and particularly in the indications given to the questioners, because it is always necessary to remember the principle given by the Teacher: "The answer must be as the ray of a physician, not as the nail of a coffin." It is necessary "not to interfere", taking into consideration the level of people's consciousness. By careful broadening, it is possible to achieve the true understanding, but often this is a very long process and then it is necessary to show the same kind of patience which the great Teacher has with us. At the beginning, everyone needs encouragement and recognition of his abilities. It is easy to scare away and much more difficult to hold, but the great Teacher instructs us to retain the newcomers. Moreover, sometimes the spirit with great accumulations may receive the organism of a medium for some definite purpose, and then,

through the development of a strong will, with the assistance of the great Teacher, he can conquer the unconscious manifestations and submit them to his will. But it is not easy.

We are experiencing a difficult time and should recollect it with joy, as only in difficult action can strength be developed. The technique of a musician also develops only by constant exercises after which all the fingers ache.

Letter No. 8 15. 1. 30

Sometimes I feel so much like being with you physically so that I might share the joy of your creative tension. You know already that the attraction of possibilities is inevitable when all the forces are strained. The law is one in the whole Cosmos. And we have already learned to love the obstacles and we know that "the obstacles which produce weakness of spirit will produce failure, while the obstacles which call forth all the fire of spirit to battle act like a creative element." The ancient wisdom says: "Welcome the day of battle; do not turn away from obstacles." When there is avoiding there is only detention, not salvation. The one who is not afraid to become a participant of eternal and infinite motion truly can accept the part of a fighter. The readiness, the undeferred rhythm will rush him into the radiance of Cosmos. Notice: Fear and hesitation are as dams to the spirit.

We must become accustomed to the constant battle and try to love it. Each atom of Cosmos is fighting! After one victory is achieved, we must be ready for the next still greater one, because in proportion to the growth of our consciousness our actions also grow and the battle grows wider and becomes more responsible. In the whole of Cosmos, the endless battle is taking place, and we all, visibly and unvisibly, are dragged into it. It is time to realise this because by realising, by strengthening our spirit, we shall become the real victors. Directed by the High Wisdom which indicates to us the right direction, we shall pass through all the gates. And without being dazzled by the vision, joyously and luminously, we may look into the future. Known to us there are those fortunate ones who can say this? Think of the advantage this knowledge gives us! What an assurance it gives to all our actions and confirmations. Is not this the greatest happiness, to be able to move ahead to the indicated goal, fully realising the events and knowing our destiny.

to achieve the maximum broadening of our consciousness for the best service to the general welfare. The threatening time is very near. Do not the heat-lightnings already glimmer, and do not the threatening messengers of the awakened underground fire issue forth? And we who know about it must urgently transmute our internal fires in order to assimilate the approaching fiery storm because only this will give us stability in the battle, will bring us near the Hierarchy of Light and will help to fill the chalice. Thus, let us transmute all our energies. We should start from the most stubborn energy, that is egoism - that furious dragon of selfishness with its long tail - self-conceit, love of power, self-love, touchiness, irritability, fear, doubt and other similar decorations, and replace them with the wings of confirmed unification, complete solidarity with all the co-workers, acknowledgement of Hierarchy, joyous strengthening of the given tasks, tolerance and gratitude for the right directions, and conclude with trust to the end. All this transmutation is so simplified when hearts burn with devotion and love to the One who calls to construction and who points out the way to the Tower. Let everyone crucify himself. Let him severely judge himself and be most considerate to all collaborators. It is necessary to crucify only oneself! We shall grow immensely by practising this severity upon ourselves. If someone has not finished something that was entrusted to him, do not blame him, but if possible, finish it yourself. And I do beg of you, do not criticise each other. From continuous repetitions of condemnations, the callouses will appear on the brain, and then how can one achieve the broadening of the consciousness? Every spare moment must be utilised for the progressive action, for the enrichment of the treasury, for the assimilation of the Teaching, which is still so little understood and applied. Every line causes so many questions, comparisons, and requires immediate application in everyday life. And what is applied? The Teacher wants to see us united, wants to look at us as at one heart, one spirit, one organism. If one part of the organism is ill, do

not the healthy parts fulfill their work, giving an opportunity to the sick organs to recover? You must act accordingly.

It is said: "We give the best complete armour: therefore, if they do not wish to substitute the old habits for sparkling armour, the approach to the Tower is closed'. Yes, yes, yes'. It is necessary to realise the threatening time and not to continue with the old habits." It hurts me to write this, but I feel that it is timely; otherwise, something irremediable may happen. Superficially, things may appear as they were, but what is not seen and cannot be replaced will depart. The sorrow of the Teacher is so evident and my spirit knows and sees the sculpture of the spirit of the co-workers.

Who will be the first out of this painful battle? But remember . . . there is no other way. If the spirit be too slow in awakening, it will indeed be terrible to wake up in front of closed doors. In the spiritual world as in the subtle one, the laws are still more immutable; the limits of relationship are much finer than on the physical plane, because of the great choice that can be made there. Accept all that is said above courageously; with courage, crucify yourself, remembering the pressing time.

In addition, I shall quote from "Infinity": "In Cosmic creation the energies are combined in the greatest tension. The synthesis of tension is confirmed by the power of higher fires. In all Cosmic creation, the law of tension may create a new combination. With the growth of tension, new energies can emerge. When the energies which are joined to the combination of magnet attract similar currents, then it is possible to achieve the harmonisation of energies. But when the energies strive themselves in different directions, the wastefulness of the energy of magnet is manifested. It is similar with human actions.

"Why is the human spirit attracted towards disharmonious currents? Of course, currents which are diverted to spacial fire may provide better formulae, but this formula must be created willingly. Initiative should be understood as the basis for synthesized activity.

When the spirit discovers its seed and recognises its environment, then the beauty of the Cosmos can be realised. The shells accumulating upon the human spirit closed the way to affirmation. Therefore, our co-workers must understand that the shells are not of our condition. It must be understood that it is unfitting to manifest the garment of spirit like a shell, when we honour so much the radiance of the garment of the Mother of the World. Thus, remember and strive after the Teacher'. In this way only will you succeed. Self-activity of the centres is being built like an ascending spiral."

Let us discard all the shells. Let us show initiative, and let us strive towards the refining of the quality of thought, and we shall succeed'. The care shown for quality in everything is of the first importance. The high differs from the low only in quality, showing similarity in everything else . . . .

Letter No. 9 24. 2. 30.

Truly, only the small consciousness can be annoyed by the authority of the Garu. For what is the authority of the Garu but the authority of the Hierarch? The authority of the Hierarch does not mean domination to which everything inferior is subjected. The authority of the Hierarch and Garu is not a tyranny. This authority is the highest knowledge. It is said: "The Hierarch uses his power for cosmic progress. Truly, the Brothers of Humanity possess this power, growing th with the Cosmic Magnet." The Hierarch and the Garu are those experienced Pilots, who during the ruinous storm are leading above the all-destroying waves, above all the rocks, the boat which is trusted to Them, the boat in which we all have our place as a "precious" cargo. Therefore, let us not forget this; let us not leave the Hand which is outstretched in salutary leadership! Power and domination are two different things. Domination is the lowest form of consciousness, because it is caused by fearful, all-excluding egoism, while power, blessed by the highest knowledge and strained by the heart, is the highest sacrifice. Let us think over the book "Sacrifice". The Leader meant always the Heart as a symbol.

Try to feel with your heart the power of joy in devotion and love to the Leading Hand. I affirm by the knowledge of spirit and heart that you have not a greater Friend and Guardian.

We should realise how small are all our offerings, if there are any such, compared to the salutary power and pricelessness of this dispensation. The broadened consciousness will understand it. Nobody is demeaned, all are honoured, the way to the highest achievements is opened to all, of only we ourselves do not throw away the possibilities. There are moments in difficult mountain-climbing when the only possibility is to move ahead; every hesitation is fatally threatening. A trembling stone cannot hold a delaying person for long. At the moment we must ascend and therefore the only open way is the path ahead, without doubts, without

regret and recounting the small of offering. Each thought of this kind will mean extra burden for the legs and will complicate the dangerous ascent. We need the wings of love and confidence in the Leading Hand, the wings of joy in the great service. Every application of the words of the Teaching into life will relieve our burden immensely.

I beg you from my heart, do throw away all self-conceit, every thought of exclusiveness in our offerings, every thought of doubt and suspicion, as the time is too threatening and responsible. And is the duration of the struggle so long? Almost half is already done, and really, nobody lost anything. The future is so beautiful and so broad; let your names be written down among the names of the great co-workers of evolution. What can be higher and more beautiful than collaboration for the great welfare of the culture of nations!

The pages from "Infinity": "Great unity in Cosmos leads like a powerful law. Only those who accept this law may truly participate in the cosmic collaboration. The unity of essence in everything directs humanity towards creation. When the consciousness draws from the treasury of Space, then the Cosmic Magnet exerts itself. The manifested treasury contains the affirmation of energy, saturated with unity. Therefore, each seed of spirit must feel similar unity. Each seed of spirit belongs to the Cosmic Unity, in which all cosmic creation is included. Man deprives himself of this truth by accepting the law of insulation. The law of Unity is immutable in all its variety. Only by this law is it possible to construct, because when the attraction creates, then in the power of action lies unity. All affirmed Being is founded on this Unity. The administering law is so powerful that cosmic construction is upheld by this principle. In all its manifestations this law gathers its particles unifying the mutual belongings. This great law is the Crown of Cosmos!"

"In the eternal creation of life acts the law of Unity. The cosmic creation is striving like a fiery, manifested Edict;

Edit which destines unification; Edict which destines designation; Edict which destines the replacing of one by the other; Edict which destines crowning; Edict which destines immortality; Edict which destines life to each atom; Edict which destines the approach of new energy; Edict which destines the new era. The creativeness of Cosmos is fulfilled in such a way by the Magnet of life. How is it possible to disunite the cosmic creation? How to disconnect that which belongs together? How to disunite what, verily, comes one from the other? The Cosmos in its saturation impels towards fiery unification. Only the Cosmic Mind can give humanity the Image of Unity. This Mind gives to humanity the highest image of the most fiery heart! This Mind collects sacramentally. Therefore, in Cosmos this law is created by life. Where is the end, if all the cosmic manifestations issue from the dual Origins? When the spirit comes into contact with the highest spheres then the cosmic creation is revealed in the law of infinite Unification."

The spirit is terrified by the thought about death. But when the consciousness penetrates into the essence of Life, then comes the idea of Unity. When the spirit realises how endlessly all the manifestations of life are flowing, then it will be possible to point to the continuousness of all the chains. The chain of mind, the chain of action, the chain of results, the chain of strivings, the chain of lives. One chain predetermines another. The creativeness of the Magnet of life consists of these chains. And the spirit must be terrified not of death and dissolution but of the very thought of breaking the chain. If one could investigate the records of these broken chains existing in space, verily, the spirit would be terrified! When the great shifting has been confirmed, only those can succeed who accept the unity of evolution. Let us not break the chain which connects us with the Leading Hand. How else can we approach?"

Let us draw again from the same book: "The Cosmic dates

are directed by the assertion of the subterranean and superterrene fires. This correlation is connected with the spheres of human actions. When the date is approaching and comes into action, it is always possible to watch how, together with the cosmic perturbations, the human consciousness is changed. Of course, the immutability of the law unites all the spheres and the communion of all the cosmic forces is the assertion of rational action. Thus, the date is filled by all the events and is not limited to only one sphere."

"Now, of course, the fires of all the spheres are very much forced and the cosmic decision turns the events. The magnetic currents attract the subterranean fire intensively."

"Just as the conductor of electricity depends on various conditions, just in the same way the human aura forms up receptively for the cosmic messages. When the spheres of men need certain shocks, then the cosmic messages are in accordance. Only those elements join those spheres which can penetrate into the confirmed auras. When the sphere needs strong shocks, then it is impossible for the sphere to accept the flowing messages of Cosmos. Therefore, the darkness, which surrounds the planet, will not accept the assertion without the manifestation of explosions. These purifying forces will enlighten humanity. The cosmic fires attract the confirmed dates."

"The purifying fires of the Universe are penetrating into all regions of the planet. The sparks of fire spread over all the channels of the actions of Karma. Like volcanos the affirmed fires burn up. By the force of Karma the power is moved and replaced from hand to hand. The cosmic stream strives towards the purifying fires; therefore the comet hastens in infinity. The tension of the currents is very marked and the effect corresponds to the fires of the planet. The centres of the Agni Yogi record all cosmic currents."

How many warnings and notices are sent regarding the

threatening time, but great is ignorance! I remember reading in a scientific magazine that a northern scientist had investigated the activity of volcanos and he found that the present volcanic activity revealed a period of unusual tension, and all the so-called extinct volcanos were awkening once more to fiery life.

And unexpected eruptions are seen in new places. The most dangerous disturbances are at the bottoms of oceans. The scientist confirms his conclusions admitting the possibility of a gigantic planetary cataclysm, and that in the very near future.

The following paragraph from "Infinity" partly explains these reasons:-

"If humanity would understand the sense of existence, it would join the cosmic creativeness. How is it possible to move farther without realising the eternal cosmic displacement? Only then will it be possible to manifest the strivings beyond the limits shown by our life; only then will it be possible to perceive the cosmic creativeness. The wall of senselessness prevents seeing like a mist of abundance. When it is possible to enter the spheres of true cosmic creativeness, then the cosmic consciousness will come."

"Those are right who speak about human ignorance. When we approach the threatening time it is necessary to force all strength for such a powerful step. The epoch of Maitreya is already predicted, and the signs are already scattered like fiery seeds. Therefore, the threatening time will be light for those who follow the Cosmic Magnet. The threatening time, for those who struggle for the significance of the new epoch, will prove to be full of light."

Letter No. 10 24. 6. 30

In your last letters you emphasize how happy you are to have responsibility, with which every co-worker is charged in his management of the section entrusted to him. The realisation of personal responsibility is quite correct, but I would like also to hear something about collaboration. I am afraid that my understanding of responsibility will be somewhat different from yours. Personal responsibility is not only connected with the broadest co-operation, but truly speaking, this co-operation or collaboration is the basis of personal responsibility. The cosmos is built upon co-operation, and man, being part of and a reflection of the cosmos, cannot exclude himself from this law if he does not wish to destroy himself. Each section, with one of the co-workers at the head of it, must co-operate as much as possible with all other sections. All the sections work according to the same plan and we must see that they work together like the fingers of the same hand, not disturbing, but helping and complementing each other. The withdrawal of one of the sections from co-operation is similar to a gangrenous process and will cause general dissolution unless a salutory operation is performed in time.

If you think that responsibility means withdrawal and independence of action, you reveal a well-hidden sense of ambition or possessiveness. And we know how all such feelings are disapproved of by all the Teachers. If we do not deatroy within ourselves the sense of ownership in all its aspects, we cannot easily reach the next step: it may be that we consider possessively not only our own section, but even our pupils and acquaintances, and we may be hurt if some of our collaborators also evince an interest in them.

The slave-holding attitude arises from the sense of ownership, and you know how difficult it is to eradicate such feelings. But are such atavisms permissible in the epoch of Mother of the World, the epoch of utmost co-operation?

The societies do not exist for our personal aggrandisement: therefore, we must work according to the general plan for the

development of all the societies. By heightening the significance of the societies, we heighten ourselves, but if we think primarily of enhancing our own personality, we shall weaken the societies and therefore ruin ourselves.

I fear that my directions may be disliked by you; I have reasons for thinking this. But as it is said, "the Teaching is not soothing syrup, neither is it silver jack-straws; it is a severe crucifying of selfishness and the tense transformation of our lower nature through the finest fires. Soothing syrup perhaps may be appropriate on the first step, but the Teaching requires the severe and beautiful flowers of self-denial. Those who prefer soothing syrup had better not touch the fiery food prepared for those who chose self- denial."

Yes, all the dark corners should be lighted up, and the filth of yesterday should be cleaned out: otherwise, it will be impossible to build the next degree.

Please forgive my severe remarks. I write with all my heart; I want to help you and to give you a new understanding. Sweet speeches put our consciousnesses to sleep and deepen our ignorance, but ignorance is stagnation and retrogression. Give joy to the Teacher; let Him see your ardent desire to comprehend the joyous ascent; tread this new path with severe self-control. The foundation of the higher joy is full of suffering. "Suffering precedes joy" - let us remember this.

All souls, united by the same strivings, build up one whole chain; united by the same Teaching, this chain is unbreakable.

Letter No. 11 17. 8. 30.

With all my heart I agree with the Teacher's edict about the pressing necessity to commence a new step. What does this new step mean? Not just exclamations and enthusiasm about the wisdom and beauty of the Teaching, not just assurance about devotion and understanding, but action according to the new comprehension of the Teaching. Thus, let us apply the Teaching in life, let us honour the Hierarchy and let us begin a friendly and sensible collaboration.

Let us attentively and carefully carry out the given tasks; let us strive to understand all the majesty of the General Good and our own responsibility. Let us build into the foundations all the given confirmations of the last ten years. Gather together and read them with all your heart. Everybody's place was clearly indicated, because only in such a way could be achieved the greatest and the most beneficial results.

Also, beginning with the very first days, some of the collaborators showed certain characteristics in their natures, which should have been immediately outlived. But what was done regarding the fulfillment of these useful and salutary indications? Was not the most unpardonable carelessness shown to this most necessary problem? Verily - most necessary, as only honest understanding and the outliving of our faults can advance us on the path of service. Let each one look into the depth of his consciousness; let him awaken his heart; let him give a severe account to himself of all the motives which directed his actions; and let him start immediately the eradication of all bad accumulations, as time is short.

The Teaching points out vices, namely, ambition, self-conceit, selfishness, suspiciousness and carelessness, which should not be allowed to grow up among the co-workers if they wish to build the foundation of a new step. Let us bedome firmly aware in our hearts that the Teacher disapproves of the tendency towards bossiness.

As I have already written once before - bossiness and true leadership are antipodes. While the first is of darkness, the latter is of the light of knowledge, the eternal striving towards perfection. First of all, bossiness is vulgar; that is why it is easy to fall into this attitude. "Bossiness is the main obstacle in the path of discipleship." Self-conceit and bossiness are inseparable and lead to spiritual impoverishment and destruction.

The Teacher does not use force. He acts according to the intelligence of his co-workers. Often the leader sees a short and simple plan of achievement, but just the very simplicity of this plan is above the consciousness of the collaborators; so the wise leader will not insist upon his own way, but, after considering the ability of the collaborators, he will select a line of action which is of easy access for the majority.

Not tyranny, but true collaboration is necessary. Broadest co-operation is inscribed upon the Banner of New Era! The main quality of a leader is to be able to assemble collaborators of the most diverse natures and unify them by the same striving. Is not our unification achieved by our devotion to the Teacher? Thus, let us remember that the Teacher directs our advancement by friendly collaboration, but not by force. Wise concessions in small details to the consciousness not fully grown may not give completely satisfactory results, but at least it will not breed a ruinous atmosphere of irritability and disagreement.

For the sake of favourable collaboration in the creation of a new degree, it is most necessary to assimilate the significance of thought. It is necessary to create a better atmosphere in our daily life by the purifying of thought. In such a way we shall attract better possibilities. In all the books of the Teaching, so many discourses are devoted to this question, but until now we could not realise not only the foundation of our welfare but even of our very existence. Cosmos is built upon thought. Both happiness and destruction are based upon thought. Thought brings life, but it can also bring death. When will this

be understood by people?. There is no stronger lever in the Cosmos than thought saturated with psychic energy.

Thought is a magnet, and each dark thought creates a stratum of heavy fluids, which is attracted and gathered by similar consciousnesses. "Joy may, by a magnetic current, attract joy from space." Remember that thought acts as a boomerang; such thought, which is sent consciously to a person whose vibrations are not identical, will return to the one who sent it, reinforced with identical vibrations which are oscillating in space and are seeking reunion. It is easy to imagine what results a thought may bring to one who sent it evil-mindedly. Also, during the temporary weakness of the defensive auric net in the case of illness, the malicious messages will complicate the struggle of the organism and in such a way will cause irreparable harm. Will we not be foolish in breeding such dark thoughts? Chase away every impure thought; replace it with the thought of benevolence. Hasten to purify the spirit by broad creative thoughts about the wonderful future.

Also, it is necessary to remember constantly the ruinous effects of irritability. Irritability makes our vessel fragile. The poison of irritability is pointed out in Agni Yoga, with all its consequences. This poison corrodes the precious precipitations of psychic energy. And what can be achieved without the accumulation of psychic energy? Stupidity and destruction will be the results. Of course, everyone has the free will to destroy himself, but it is criminal to spread this dreadful infection. Thus, bearing in mind the significance of thought and irritability, we shall commence the creating of a benevolent atmosphere.

While building up the relations between the collaborators, you must not forget all the small workers. The real leader will be very careful not to offend by word or action the smallest of the workers. Only treachery must be severely condemned. Our atmosphere and all our possibilities will be considerably improved

if we are surrounded by friends. It has been mentioned many times how you should appreciate each devoted heart and how important are the small helpers connected with our daily life. Even the kindly treatment of animals improves the atmosphere around us.

We must make an effort to absorb the Treasury of the Teaching entrusted to us. Let us remember the donkey under the load of grain - mentioned in the Teaching, and let us not be like unto it.

So many disappointments, so many failures would have been avoided had the Teaching and all the indications been applied in a literal sense in everday life. By giving us understanding of life, understanding of the foundations of existence, the Teaching brings us to fiery purification or transmutation of our centres into the higher fires and thus gives us the chalice of Amrita.

Only this fiery purification opens the way to the Towers. But this transmutation may come only when the spirit has conquered selfishness. It is said, "Selfishness is the breeder of all grey accumulations; therefore when selfishness obscures the spirit it can be positively said that the transmuting fire cannot reach us." When the spirit surrounds the manifested power of its essence with burdensome accumulations, it departs from striving. The burdens are so heavy that the spirit loses its approach to the Towers. That is the reason why those who know this affirmation move ahead by transmuting their ego. When the spirit does not strive to outlive its burdens, it attracts the affirmed obstacle. Thus, there is balance between striving and consequences. The wings of spirit bring the power of soaring to the higher spheres, but the heaviness of selfishness drawn down to the lower spheres. . . Only those surrounded by the wall of selfishness may affirm self-conceit. Therefore the wall of obstructions remains on the way and only the destruction of this wall will bring us to the first step of transmutation. If the centre of ego exists separately, it will be destined to solitude. Only co-operation of heart and spirit leads to the keys of the Teaching. Self-conceit is of the

breed of ignorance. Self-conceit closes all the ways to knowledge. Self-conceit deprives man of the wonderful striving. What remarkable indications of striving - this key to all the Gates - is given in the books of the Teaching.

It is necessary to give an account to oneself: how and in what way everyone came through the probation of the last seven years. Let us recall all the probations which were given to all those who came into contact with the Teaching in the first days of the Call of Great Teachers. Everyone had a chance to show his nature completely. Read attentively the letters about Probation and Chelaship in the volume of the Mahatma Letters. They are very educational. I have mentioned it already, but a useful exercise of memory is always good. The Teacher follows a system of continuous probation. Otherwise, how can the deeply concealed accumulations be revealed? How can they be burned over the fire of devotion and striving? Many psychological ways are used by the Teachers for probation and leading of the pupils. The ardent pupil, who appreciates every hint of the Teacher, who is severe to himself but without condescension to other workers will successfully pass all the probations. But woe be to him who confirms himself in his own importance and considers himself a pillar of the Teaching; frightful will be his fall! I may as well warn you against low, vulgar suspiciousness. He who suspects others proves that he himself possesses similar accumulations. By suspecting, we show that we are inclined to do the things of which we suspect others. Let us be ashamed to unveil our nature so openly. Let us ardently destroy even a hint of this vulgarity. A slave to suspicion will suspect everybody. The king of spirit sees all the beautiful and thus calls to life the best there is. The law of the magnet is everywhere. All words and hints which come from the gurn have deep significance. There is no effect without a cause. Every indication of the gurn, if precisely fulfilled, brings good results, not only to the work, but also to the one who did this work. b By

rejection or careless fulfillment we often deprive ourselves of irreplaceable possibilities. And later, when our intellect has grown, we shall realise how irremediable is the situation and we shall regret with acute distress: "The happiness was so near, so possible!" Inscrutable are the ways of Karma, and we never know which link, which string may bring us the expected happiness. Therefore, let us not lose a single knot, wisely twisted by the hand of the gurn.

Let us drive away all the dark shadows; they stand behind our back and whisper; so much happiness may fly away.

Most of human faults and vices are developed from carelessness; therefore by getting rid of this greatest evil, we shall approach perfection with the steps of a giant.

One more request: Write your letters to me with a copy, and before writing your next letter, re-read your previous one. In such a way you will understand the design of your own spirit better. There will be less contradictions and moods in your letters. And if you write about the new comprehension, point out what actions confirmed and strengthened this comprehension. I would also like to see more questions about the true understanding of events but not the selection of favourable circumstances. Show more sincerity, more concentration, show a broad consciousness. From not a bad, but wrong desire to cause me joy by good news, your letters often do not picture reality. "Too little time is left for burning oil in the image-lamp." Please realise how serious is this indication. Those who do not approach the Hierarchy of Light during this life may forever lose this connection. You know how I dislike to frighten, how all my nature is anxious to bring only joy, but you also know about the limited time. Do not break the wonderful connecting thread. After the break, the fall would carry you far away. Be of good cheer and courage, and find joy

in the salutary indications of the Hierarchy of Light. Let us firmly remember that the most powerful force, which transmutes various energies, is the magnet of the heart. All currents are transmuted by this magnet. The human being is attracted to this magnet - that is why the transmuting power is in the heart.

Let us try to develop this power in ourselves. This will give us the highest joy of existence.

Letter No. 12 7. 10. 30.

The idea of creating the unity of women the world over is more than timely.

In the difficult days of world upheavals, of human disunity, of the neglecting of all the higher principles of life, which are the only true givers of life and which lead to the evolution of the world, there must be heard the voice calling for the resurrection of the spirit and for bringing the fire of achievement into all the actions of life; and, of course, this voice must be the voice of a woman who, during the centuries, has drunk the chalice of bitterness and humiliation and has become possessed of the greatest patience. Now, let the woman - the Mother of the World - say, "Let there be Light," and let her affirm her fiery achievements. What will this Light be like, and which of her achievements will be the great fiery ones? The banner of spirit will be raised, and upon it will be inscribed "Love, Knowledge and Beauty." Yes, only the heart of the mother may gather under this Banner the children of the whole world, without distinction of sex, race, nationality and religion.

Woman - mother and wife - witness of the development of man's genius, can appreciate the great significance of the culture of thought and knowledge.

Woman - inspirer of beauty - knows all the strength, all the synthetic power of beauty.

Woman - bearer of the mysterious power and knowledge of spirit - can indeed become a Leader.

Let us, therefore, without delay carry the great Banner of the New Era - the Era of the Mother of the World. Let every woman enlarge the boundaries of her hearth to encompass the hearths of the whole world. These countless fires will strengthen and embellish her own hearth.

Knowing that limitation leads to destruction, and that expansion gives creation, let us strive with all our forces towards the expansion of our consciousness, towards the refinement of thought and feeling, so that with the resultant creative fire we

can kindle our own hearth.

Let us lay into the foundation of the unity of woman, the striving towards true knowledge, that which knows no human demarcations and limitations. But we may be asked how is the true knowledge to be reached? We shall reply, "This knowledge exists in your spirit, in your heart; be able to awaken it!"

Striving towards beauty will be the key to it. This knowledge is in each striving towards the general good. It is indicated in all the Great Teachings which have been given to the world. It is in every manifestation of Nature. When humanity forgot how to observe the cosmic manifestations, it lost the key to many of the mysteries of life, and it is just these mysteries which could provide understanding of all the reasons for the present upheavals and miseries. Therefore, while gathering the warriors of spirit, let us direct them towards an awakening of this sacred knowledge.

Humanity should realise the great Cosmic law, the law of majesty and equivalency and of the dual Elements, as the foundation of Existence. The predominance of one Element over the other has created a lack of balance and destruction, which may now be observed in all life. But let not the woman who has realised this law and who strives towards equilibrium, let her not lose the beauty of the feminine image; let her not lose tenderness of heart, fineness of feelings, the self-sacrifice and the courage of patience.

Woman, the bearer of sacred knowledge, can become a calling power, kindling with fiery words the souls that are ready. It is necessary to give to every woman according to her consciousness and without impeding her natural and individual growth, with careful touches to broaden the mind on the foundation of the Teaching of life. Let every soul develop in a natural way, bringing out the best she can according to the level of her consciousness. Beauty is in variety, but all should have one general foundation - the foundation of striving towards the General Good. The broadest

collaboration is inscribed on the Banner of the Mother of the World. Therefore, let us display the utmost tolerance.

Sisters of the Golden Mountain - a threatening but beautiful time is ahead of us - the time of great achievements. I send you the call of my heart: let us arm ourselves with flaming striving and with courage, and, over all obstacles, we shall carry the Banner of the Mother of the World, the Banner of Love, Self-Sacrifice and Beauty, so that in the hour of victory we shall plant it on the heights of Peace.

Letter No. 13 13. 10. 30.

I received a series of letters which give me an idea of the course of your work and also of your attempts to apply some of the laws of the Teaching to life. I was happy to see your penetration into the Teaching. The Thoughts you quoted from the book of "Agni Yoga" are very timely. It is indeed necessary to affirm the great usefulness of creative activity together with courageous striving and firm faith in final success. We must face the enemy with complete presence of mind. The enemy is often nothing more than a repulsive but harmless beetle on a sun-lit wall, and only neurotic individuals will be frightened by it. Some enemies assume the guise of yaks, but we use yaks for crossing the most dangerous mountain summits. Of course, too, a wolf will sometimes assume sheep's clothing, but we have already been warned against excessive confidence; and we know that we must suit our weapons to each individual case. We would not, for example, oppose a tiger with an arrow designed for a sparrow.

Fearlessness and striving are two of the foundations of the Teaching. It is impossible to stop anything when it is in a striving motion; similarly does striving Thought surmount all obstacles. You will have received by now the new book of the Teaching. You will find many wonderful formulae in it. Assimilate them and apply them to life. Only knowledge of the Teaching will bring you the presence of mind for your answers, because the Teaching foresees every situation of life.

Also it is useful to remember what was said about darino and how reproved were all standardised concepts - these destroyers of ascent in small things as well as in large ones. You can speak about the necessity of new ways, but do it tactfully and carefully because immobility and dullness resent being disturbed . . "Better to move to the cemetery than to be limited by dead laws." All the laws are in the depths of our consciousness. Thus by deepening our consciousness, we comprehend the laws. From this comes great mobility. But what do we see in reality? Driminal stagnation of

mind. Countries maintaining dead laws decay because they oppose the laws of evolution. Look around "with the eyes of a hawk". Study the present situation and approaching events on our planet! Verily, one may say that future events already cast their shadow upon the Earth. It is impossible to arrest the awakened force of the new consciousness and understanding among the masses. All delays will only cause greater destruction. But we are not destroyers. We are creators. Therefore, let us ardently build the bastions of culture, knowledge of the "Living Ethics" and Beauty. Knowledge and Beauty are the foundation and crown of cosmic evolution.

How I wish to strengthen you in courageous patience, fearlessness and resourcefulness.

Only thought and a great consciousness will conquer everything. Therefore, use all means to broaden your consciousness, by absorbing with all your essence every line of the Teaching. A profound and many-sided consciousness and the application of the covenants of the Teaching into life will give you the key to everything because you will possess a synthesis.

By comparing all the given indications with the current events, we shall see how wisely and timely every one of them was given. How considerately, how carefully was prepared our consciousness for the next degree. Blessed is the Hand which lightened the burden.

Years of stubborn but beautiful struggle are ahead of us, but the result of this battle is predestined. Therefore, we should examine our armour and temper the steel of our swords. It is necessary always to have our weapons ready because we must have the right weapon for the right occasion. Write down and recall in your memory as often as possible each encounter and what was used to give you invulnerability. Exercise together: every coworker can show resourcefulness and can lighten the heaviness of his weapon from a new, unexpected point of view. It is excellent and extremely useful to conclude discussion by such exercises.

You may even imagine the hostile questioners and then prepare and practise your answers to them!

When defending the work of our societies and communities, let us not forget our scientific expeditions and our great idea of the Banner of Peace, our international contacts, and, finally, our struggle against the cruel and ignorant attitude toward cultural creativeness! Often, it is difficult for us to comprehend the significance of our constructive work and, in urgent moments, the most significant notions and proofs are not evident to us. It is not always that our memory can recollect the necessary thought. That is the reason why it is so important to practise the reviewing of our tasks, together with the inspection of our weapons and generalaccumulations To begin with, let us firmly realise that we are constructing a great work of world importance and that we are invulnerable beneath our Shields.

Perhaps, the concept of a city of Knowledge is less clear in the consciousness of the co-workers than the other ideas. Therefore, I shall give you - rather, will repeat to you, a few ideas for your outer protection; as to the inner one, you already have it. The centre should be developed into a city of Knowledge. In this city we wish to grant the synthesis of scientific achievements. Therefore, all branches of science should eventually be established there. And, since the source of knowledge lies in the Cosmos, the co-workers of the scientific centre should belong to the whole world - that is, to all nationalities. And as the Cosmos is indivisible in all its movements, the scientists of the world should be indivisible in their achievements. In other words, they should be united in closest collaboration. The location of the centre is selected absolutely consciously and thoughtfully in the Himalays, as innumerable possibilities are open there, and the attention of the scientific world is being fixed on these heights. The discovery of new Cosmic rays is possible only on the mountain summits because all the finest and most valuable energies are found only in the pure layers of mountain atmosphere.

Are not mountains the greatest of magnetic stations? Would it not be appropriate to explore magnetism and electricity? Would not the study of magnetic currents bring safety in aerostatics? In the sphere of magnetic currents, science is still in its infancy and modern instruments are nothing but toys, while great discoveries could take place with proper study and research. That is the reason why we wish so much to begin this research at our centre, because the conditions of this locality are particularly favourable. Would it not be timely to pay attention to all meteoric precipitations which fall on the niveous summits, and which, by the force of the mountain streams are carried down to the valleys? For astronomical observations, the conditions here are exceptionally good and in nearby Little Tibet it is possible to establish the main section of this station.

Geologically, the Himalayas are also very interesting, and their caves hold many mysteries for archeologists, zoologists and anthropologists.

Great are the number of hot springs, also other uninvestigated springs and salt lakes, which have various properties according to the statements of local inhabitants. As for botony, zoology and ornithology, you have already learned from the letters of our botonist-zoologist how pleased he was with the results of his work. On these mountains, the rarest medical plants and grasses are centred, and the variety of botanic species is unexcelled.

In archeological respects, our valley, of course, is one of the richest and most ancient. There are traces of ancient Buddhist culture. Quite remarkable is the number of local dialects among the mountain tribes. Two neighbouring villages frequently do not understand each other. Fiery atmospheric manifestations also could be observed here and the so-called Himalayan lights may often be observed. How desirable it is to establish here a meteorological station to start studying and observing the magnetic currents, with the idea of broadening it eventually bearing in mind the favourable local conditions. In connection with this, let me quote certain

Indications: "Further movement of magnetic current over the surface of the earth manifests the atmospheric changes. Observation stations, of course, should be established in various places and collaboration between them should be as close and precise as possible. It is true that the trouble lies in the absence of synthesis and that many energies and valuable studies are lost. Therefore, an organisation of true collaborators is necessary on Earth."

Let us think of broad possibilities. "Broadness of thought and consciousness will be your test." Have you noticed that all pessimists usually possess small consciousnesses and poor imaginations?

The establishment of a city of synthetic knowledge is a problem of world significance, and that is the reason why we must not ask for help, but should demand it. We work not for ourselves but for humanity. Everyone of us is ready to apply his best efforts for the general welfare. Let other people also understand this pure striving and they may flame with the desire to move humanity further towards synthetic knowledge.

Thus, insist that your co-workers examine and cleanse their ideas. Search for those ideas in every indication, every thought given in the books of "Living Ethics". We must have the beautiful constructive formulae ready. With all our imagination we are unable to embrace the significance of present events which gather around the cultural activities. Therefore, let us absorb the idea that great world events are taking place and, striving ceaselessly, let us continue to carry the stones for building the Temple of Knowledge.

Once more I ask all participants to think what great collaboration means. May I quote an example given by the Teacher: "Forces which act against each other are mutually destroyed. Forces which act along parallel lines in the same direction manifest the sum of these energies, and forces which act separately are losing, according to the angle of their divergency. People

cannot realise that this fundamental law of physics is also a fundamental law of collaboration." Therefore, straighten out your divergencies so that your forces move in the same direction. Consider the consequences of divergencies. In true collaboration, no one is belittled, and the better one knows and sees, the better one can help. The more ignorant a person or a nation is, the less collaboration is practised. But who would wish to assign to himself the title of stupidity and ignorance? A proverb - "I know nothing of it, I meddle not" - is very characteristic. But he who knows nothing will never know anything.

Letter No. 14 3. 12. 30.

We are so happy about the development of your cultural activities. Each cultural thought applied in life is a precious treasure! And we have an immense fund of such thoughts ready for practical application. Those who approach this fund may draw upon it and use it in accordance with their striving. Therefore, our main problem is to awaken striving in the new-comers. Each one, becoming aflame, will discover his own potentiality, will develop it in his own way and thus will enrich the communal treasury. But in order to inspire one another, we must carry this inextinguishable fire in ourselves, we should keep it in complete purity and we should struggle with the welter of petty thoughts born by selfishness. You may be assured that thought created selfishly can never be harmonious with the great plan of Cosmic evolution. Therefore, in all your failures, look for this worm which gnaws all the foundations. Look just for this. Verily, selfishness is narrowness, but narrowness leads to stagnation and death, while the Cosmos exists by the principles of Infinity.

How to destroy this worm? Only by tolerance, broad-mindedness and understanding of the great law of commensurability. In other words, by the broadening of our consciousness. Therefore, let us ardently strive to broaden our consciousness. All the contributing steps towards this liberating aim are given in the books of the Teaching. Therefore, let us enrich our life with these treasures, remembering that the striving of spirit and will-power can change the whole life.

The spirit which seeks to enfire its energy by striving is a fuser of matter; after fusing matter, it will refine it and then the finest perceptions will be reached. These are the only possibilities for true life and immortality! The spirit of striving must be the foundation of life.

Thus, strive towards the greatest because those who draw a small circle are doomed and their possibilities will be limited

according to the radius of their circle. A limited consciousness attracts imperfect and small energies and possibilities. And even if by reason of Karma, the orbit of spirit catches broader possibilities, a small consciousness will try to build a chicken coop out of it! Only the consciousness that apprehends the world in its greatest actions may co-operate with the Cosmos and with the Great Brothers of Humanity.

Realisation and concrete understanding of the existence of the magnet, which connects our consciousness with the Cosmic Magnet, will actually involve us in the current of Cosmic Evolution. This is a great sacrament; it could be called the Crown of the Cosmos.

Hasten to light the guiding fire of your spiritual magnet. Only in joining the fires of the heart with the fires of the spirit can we attain creativeness and great results . . .

All your motives should be checked by your heart. Your heart is the only judge, accumulator and guardian of the acquired precious energies. The structure of these acquired and accumulated energies build up our individuality and destiny. The law of correspondence is a basic Cosmic law. Therefore, each acquired energy will attract an identical energy from Space and also will evoke a corresponding reaction from the people you contact. Here is an explanation of sympathies and antipathies, and also the reason why one person can find contact with many people, while another, in spite of all his efforts, creates only antagonism. But, as all possibilities come from people, the significance of the quality of energies we accumulate is quite clear. The accumulation of the precipitation of energies does not take place just in a single life. Thousands of years are necessary for filling the "Chalice". Therefore, so essential are the continuous, never-interrupted, benevolent strivings, which deposit the unexcelled treasures in our treasury. People possessing great accumulations of the Chalice are the treasures of nations. Sometimes, very little is needed in order to completely fill the Chalice, and this little

could be completed by one self-denying life, but by carlessness, people postpone the achievement, and by this they throw themselves back. Nobody and nothing can stop an eternal movement, and the transmutation of energies. Therefore, there exist only two possibilities - either to strive ahead or to fall backward. But who would want to vow one's self to retrogression; in other words, to unite oneself with Cosmic waste? Striving is the great moving power for all beings!

Now as regards Agni Yoga. How can we interpret Agni Yoga if we do not broaden our consciousness? All the words about it and about its achievements will be void of conviction if we ourselves do not light the fires of our own hearts. Someone writes about the necessity of tolerance towards every interpretation. This idea is correct. It is, however, necessary to learn how to make an individual interpretation, to be understood justly. Otherwise, such bushes may be planted that the instructor himself will be lost! Often, a false interpretation is more harmful than none at all. Each instructor must realise completely his responsibility for making a correct interpretation of the first principles. He should exercise the masimum carefulness not to give thoughtless explanations of some statements of the Teaching, which are not clear even to himself, but which nevertheless he might wish to interpret in order not to lose his authority. In perplexing cases, it is better to admit honestly: "I shall forbear from any interpretation, as I would like to consider the subject carefully." As for myself, I shall always be glad to explain with the help of the Master everything that is not clear to you.

You write beautifully about your striving for harmony. Apply it in life, as everything is worthy <u>only in life and for life</u>. Show the finest discrimination; avoid hypocrisy. Patches are better than holes, but everyone would rather have strong fabric, so let us try not to make holes! Let us practise sever discipline of speech; let us consider every word, remembering "that the consequence of a word cannot be destroyed even by an Arhat."

Know by your spirit when it is appropriate to tell the truth, even if it is bitter, and when it is better to be silent. But flattery, exaggeration as well as belittling are inadmissible.

Each one of you has particular qualities; nobody has been set aside. Therefore, you must not envy each other. But of course, it depends on you how you develop your capabilities. And the only lawful competition between members of the group may be the competition of striving and understanding the thought for the general welfare in the best direction. Each one should understand that the capacity of each individual consciousness is the only indicator of progress, and that the spirit remains on the same level, not higher and not lower. May I quote the Teacher's words: "When it is mentioned about selfishness, may it not be interpreted individually. Everything in life, everything for life. The Teacher sees. The Teacher knows. The Teacher will not affirm anything without life. The one who repeats his own formulae does not know the formulae of the Teacher. The old formulae will not lead towards new ways. It is necessary to say: 'The channel of selfishness builds its dams everywhere.' Also, it is indicated to esplain that the channel of selfishness cuts the conduit of communication." Let us remember that only the quality of a motive will either move us towards the Teacher or will thrust us far from Him. There is no place where one can hide from the all-seeing Eye, which penetrates into the most secret recesses of our heart. It is necessary to manifest the power of spirit and to strive tirelessly to eradicate the persistent, heavy accumulations, as otherwise, no refinement will be possible. Only refinement of all feelings brings the best possibilities.

My heart is longing to see increase of understanding of the Teaching, increase of sincere striving, free from any expectation of reward, increase of self-denial, the offering of practically everything for the benefit of the general good, increase of a correct approach to entrusted work, and above all, increase of the sense of commensurability. It must be understood

understood that one may exhaust oneself with action and tension, but with commensurability, action and tension will result in the labour of a squirrel which runs the whole time in the same circle. Action, not balanced by commensurability, action, without the creative fire of the heart, will never create a worthy step.

I welcome very much the method which is used for developing attentiveness among children. It is very good to use art gallery pictures for this purpose. So much can be seen in these treasures of art. Attentiveness is a foundation for accumulating knowledge. Attentiveness is a first step in the refinement of receptivity, and we know that only refinement gives broadening of consciousness and that creative power is affirmed by the centres of fine receptivity. The finer - the higher; the higher - the more powerful! Nothing holds back evolution so much as courseness of receptivity!

If we want to approach the High Consciousness, we must first of all refine our own receptivity. Only where there is equilibrium, as in the case of a balance, is true co-operation manifested. That is the reason why the structure, based on the principles of harmony are so greatly valued. The subtle perception of thoughts will lay a foundation for an alert action. The creation of the beautiful is based on this principle. The reason why there is so little beauty in people's creations is that even the best ideas are executed only partly and therefore, the beauty of the original intention is distorted.

Remember that you are surrounded by possibilities, but they will materialise only if your consciousness will realise them. Every thought is born from contact with the reservoir of Space. Just imagine how many unapplied thoughts are flying in the higher layers of Space. Try to seize them by refining your receptivity. That is what we call Cosmic collaboration, but first you must kindle your internal fires.

There is no greater joy than the joy of a growing con-

sciousness! In the waves of consciousness lies all the joy of Life!

Once more I call to you - Please have an open heart for all the qualities of your co-workers. Learn to be tolerant without showing too much indulgence. By the fire of your heart, inspire your co-workers to display in life their best qualities. Try to unite them in the highest feelings of devotion and gratitude to the Teacher Who has given them so much.

Make haste to learn how to love and appreciate each other. But nothing requires such delicate and attentive care as love!

Oh, if you could manifest at least a small amount of that tolerance and care which is manifest by the Great Heart Who called us to build the unified Temple!

Hearken to the call of heart!

Letter No. 15 17. 12. 30

In the days of victory I wish to greet you and prepare you for new and more strenuous battles! In the days of victory I wish to remind you of the words of the Great Teacher: "To know the thrill of the battle." In the days of victory let us thoroughly examine our weapons and prepare our shields as our enemy is ready and, with vigilant eye, he watches our weak spots, so that he can strike through them. He knows how victory lulls the mind and lessens striving and watchfulness. Therefore, after each victory we, with redoubled force, must strive towards the next, greater battle and victory.

The slackening of striving results in defeat. Of course, only a broad consciousness will be aware of the danger of the lessened watchfulness which results from the first victories.

Thus, let us acquire the joy of constant watchfulness and striving. They are among the foundations of the Teaching and life. Only striving carries us towards the next degrees. Only watchfulness and vigilance enable us to overcome successfully all obstacles. The Teacher calls us to pressing labour, when he has in mind victory. All victory depends upon the strength of your striving. Therefore, if striving decreases because of either the short-sightedness of a limited consciousness or because of the internal discord and disunion in the actions of the warriors, defeat will be unavoidable. Therefore, I ask you not to weaken yourselves by internal disunion when we approach a dangerous passage. It is also fatal to push each other, because the one who pushes may very easily share the fate of the one pushed.

It is also necessary to manifest the maximum discrimination when you give responsible positions to new warriors. Give them tests and do not hurry to let them pronounce the first vows. Imagine what complications may be caused if a worker fails to prove satisfactory.

Do not allow outsiders to criticise and condemn any of your co-workers. Always try to find noble words with which to stop evil-speaking and condemnation - for th s you will receive respect. Remember as long as you are united you will be able to

pass through all obstacles, but the least little disunity in your actions will create a rift to the very foundation. And what structure can be built upon weakened foundations? The first storm would ruin such an edifice. Unite together and strive to fulfil the smallest indications of the Teacher; this is your only way to victory.

You must remember that the Garu has not a single personal thought; absolutely everything is directed and given to the service of the general good. Therefore, the one who alters the indication, or allows himself to doubt, should lay the blame on himself. All that is made in a half-way manner will bring half-way results. We know that the dose of a salutory medicine brings life, while but one half gives only temporary relief which usually ends by death. Therefore, let us completely accept the precious indications in order not to lose a single life-giving energy. The complete obedience to the indications and the precise execution of them gives health and leads to great victory, to great Light. In ancient times obedience was a step towards the next ordainment. The one who was unable to realise entirely the discipline of obedience could never reach the higher degrees. Only the one who knew how to obey and execute could take great responsibility and understand all the immutableness of the order.

With all this, one must firmly understand that all the given orders can never enslave the spirit of a disciple because there is always left the freedom of individual expression, and we know how endlessly we may perfect the quality of the fulfillment of every task. Only a slave of yesterday may revolt against an order. Only a petty consciousness is afraid to lose individuality by fulfilling the plans of his Garu. We would have to give up the acquisition of all new accumulations if we are sure only of our own and we disregard that which could be assimilated from the higher consciousness of the Garu.

Extremely happy is the one who can draw upon the Treasury of the Great Consciousness. May I quote from the book "Infinity". "The idea of obedience to the Teacher seems to be strange to people. But how can the spirit lose when the Teacher is the

Leading Light? How can the disciple lose his fire when the Teacher lights all fires? How can the Shield of the Teacher hold back if a pupil is ardently inspired by his Teacher? How little is the desire of humanity to strive towards mutually advantageous work. But humanity must learn to act interdependently and to materialise all the thoughts affirmed by the Teacher. Thus the Cosmic Mind fulfills evolution. Thus humanity must learn to construct by higher measures. Verily, by following the Teacher you assimilate His Image." And further, "How can we achieve comprehension of the magnet if we doubt the indications of the Lord? How can we conquer an enemy if we doubt the power granted to us? How can we expect to build anything strong if we do not admit the ineradicable indications of Hierarchy? It seems as if I repeat myself, but because of hesitation in actions there is need for an attentive study of the indications. Remember how the Teaching promotes the progress of work."

I also advise you to give a positive tone to your speeches, remembering that only positiveness leads people. And only the unusual approach to action attracts attention; however, many people may see even 'lack of tact' in such unusualness, but by this they would only show their denseness. Only unusualness attracts and holds strong and courageous people. All great events were created not by the masses, but by individual strong persons and time will mark them out. Many are called, but few are chosen. Thus, work out an unusual language, a language of power and affirmation, a language of creators, as only such a language is appropriate for the entrusted task. All gushing, sugary words are the words of incompetent sentimentality and of ruinous mediocrity. Do you remember how all of you used to admire the lectures of a certain person? At the same time, however, you correctly noticed that he only criticised and bantered, but we must be creative and we shall confirm and indicate the right direction. You must remember that all the Teachings condemn lukewarmness. Therefore, let us be fiery. Let us become aflame, manifesting the most careful discrimination in order not create a conflagration when it is but necessary to kindle. A broadening of the con-

sciousness will lead the right way. A broadening of the consciousness will change the quality of thinking. A broadening of the consciousness will bring the power of victory.

But drive away petty thoughts. Avoid belittling because the belittling of the entrusted work is equal to the belittling of your Teacher, which would be traitorous and would injure the foundations on which your own welfare as well as the general welfare is based. Drive away all doubts, as where there is doubt there is an arresting of the development of consciousness. The one who doubts, who does not trust, cannot hope for the confidence of the Teacher. Therefore, it is impossible for him to move ahead.

I would like so much to teach you to Treasure every indication, every hint of the Teacher and Caru, as they are so precious! Find within yourself the fiery impulse of striving towards the great task, carrying the light of Culture. Imagine that you live in a house of glass; therefore, be careful in all your words and actions Imbue all your work with the beauty of service. Remain joyous in battle, because you know of the predestined victory, providing that you are full of self-denying tension.

Letter No. 16 7. 1. 31.

The one who belittles or distorts the will of the Teacher ruins himself. The one who belittles his Garu ressembles a man who tries to cut off the branch of a tree on which is sitting. The greater our Garu the greater we are ourselves, but this simple axiom is not comprehended. All the history of humanity proves that the great historical figures, the true leaders and philosophers had reverence for their Garus, whose leadership helped them to become giants of spirit and of great deeds.

The book "Hierarchy" is soon to be published; verily, immutable cosmic law of Hierarchy is so much ignored at the present time. But humanity must once more recognise this law. The principle of Hierarchy is a leading law. This is the giver of Life. Therefore, we must imbue our consciousness with understanding of this law if we wish to grow and to contribute something to the general good.

The law of the chain of Hierarchy is the firmest and is strictly maintained by the White Brotherhood. Nobody can avoid the nearest link because this link has been created by long approach and by the accumulations of thousands of years. Therefore, let us firmly hold the nearest link, so that we do not lose union with the whole chain.

There is so much beauty in devotion and gratitude towards the Garu! In the Teaching it is said that the flame of devotion -and gratitude is above all other fiery offerings. But alas! - these two qualities are particularly rare among the inhabitants of this planet. But possession of these qualities helps greatly towards the creation of the giants of spirit and will. Even the spirit gifted with brilliant talents but not possessing these two qualities will never be allowed to approach beyond a certain limit.

It is useful to point out everything that is said in the books of the Teaching about the relationship between the Teacher and the disciple. It is said that each reverence shown to the Teacher indicates a right understanding of the Teaching, but that for the one for whom guidance is burdensome there can never be any approach to the Teacher.

The Teaching is not abstract, but gives the most practical suggestions for application in life. Therefore, let us hold in our hearts all that is said about Hierarchy and let us check the purity of our thoughts, for the maintenance of the purity of thought is similar to ozone.

May I quote from the book "Hierarchy". "Low thoughts used to be symbolised in the form of reptiles. Nothing else can better characterise these dregs of consciousness. Can one sit quietly if one knows that under one's chair there are poisonous snakes and scorpions? It is necessary to be rid of reptiles and particularly, as far as Hierarchy is concerned, condemnation and blasphemy of the Lord is irremediable. Thus, each one who condemns the Hierarch must realise what he is doing. His carelessness and criminality will besmirch his Karma for ages. Verily, if there is but one path towards the only Light through the Lord, it would be most ignorant to destroy that one path. It is necessary to consider striving towards the Highest as the essential thing in life and to establish a sacred attitude towards this striving. By belittling the Hierarch one may injure oneself and those near to one; it is time to remember this. Verily, it is necessary to hold the connecting thread, which brings both prosperity and blessing."

"One cannot expect success when the very foundations are rotting! Of course, we shall do as we wish, but it is importan to arrest lightmindedness and treachery. Treachery takes many forms, but are not they all similar? It is essential to think - who has the right to complicate the already predestined path? So much of the beautiful is destined and the dates are already approaching. Let the connecting thread radiate!"

"When space is clogged by the fog of non-understanding, it is naturally difficult for the creative rays to penetrate. Each layer is saturated according to the composition of the striving. That is the reason why the earthly layers are so impenetrable. Therefore, all manifestations of spiritual searchings should proceed in a powerful tempo. The searching spirit will be attracted to the magnet of Hierarchy, for each power has its equivalent on earth.

Thus, the law of Hierarchy should be applied in life."

"It is also necessary to know that the dark forces are trying to penetrate into the foundations. Therefore, it is necessary to watch with the greatest care and to be attentive. The dark forces may even use a shield of the Teacher. They will outwardly praise the name of the Garu and secretly will insidiously undermine. Therefore, it is necessary to stand on guard and to manifest resistance. If a victory is to take place, it is necessary to realise all the importance of the chief stronghold. Therefore, let us strengthen all positions. Thus, it is necessary to learn how to treasure the Name of the Teacher. The power of victory comes only when the foundations are strong. Thus let us guard the foundations. It is necessary to affirm victory, that is why caution is so necessary."

All the Indications are full of concern about the broadening of consciousness. Be watchful; exert all your caution, for the enemy may enter the house under a mask of friendship! Close tighter all openings and watch carefully the attempts to disunite you! The way of flattery and the puffing up of pride is the surest one, as who does not love to hear good reports about himself? This is common to everyone; all weak points will be profited by the dark ones. By puffing up pride, they will imperceptibly belittle the highest we have and by which we live. Be on guard!

Letter No. 17 15. 1. 31

I shall answer the questions about service. Of course, service to the Hierarchy of Light is service to the General Good. Of course, striving to the general good opens the gates of higher knowledge and service. But I would like you to realise clearly what qualities you must first of all develop in yourself for advancement on the path of service. Many people are dreaming about the General Good and even are ready to work for it as long as it does not interfere with their habits and prosperity. But true service to the General Good which leads to the gates of the Stronghold of Light, requires sacrifice and complete disdain for everything personal, in orther words, the complete abandonment of selfhood. When the consciousness is broadened, when all feelings and comprehension are refined, the law of sacrifice will be accepted as the highest achievement. There will be no room for self-pity, fear for the future, offences and envy, because, with every breath, will sublimity, beauty and the highest joy of service be realised.

The mature spirit who consciously chooses the path of service, knows the joy of a broadened consciousness and the fiery striving to the High Consciousness; he knows the joy of fulfilment of the Higher Will; he knows the joy of discovery and the destination of Life, and in the appointed hour will learn the sublimity and beauty of the final sacrament!

And so, after understanding and accepting with our heart the significance of the great liberating and crowning sacrifice, let us strive first of all to develop in ourselves love, devotion, gratitude and obedience to Hierarchy. Let us be ready to take any burden, remembering that the heavier the burden the shorter will be our path. Truly speaking, love and devotion breed all the other qualities which forward our advancement; thus, let us cultivate them as the most precious flowers; and once these flowers of spirit grow and mutually maintain, the greatest love will bring the greatest answer. Therefore, let us surround the great Teacher with the fire of love. Let us guard our respect for Him. Let us

evince the most careful, the highest understanding of the Teaching and the Indications, and sacredly, reverently, with the tremor of the heart, face the beauty and the majesty of His creativeness! Remember, those whose understanding is higher will ascend higher.

And now to quote from the book Hierarchy: "Some people vulgarly profane the image of the Teacher and think they are contributing to the great service. Teaching and service first of all require a broadened consciousness, based on professing the Teaching and reverencing the Teacher. Realisation of Infinity gives understanding of the infinity of love and devotion. It is not wise to say 'love is overfilled and devotion has dried up', as the result will be self-destruction. Infinity of love and devotion must be understood as the first step towards service and Yoga. All this should be taken and understood at least as means for self-advancement.

"It is necessary to move towards the Teacher; only then does relief come. But the common and habitual use of the Name of the Teacher will not lead to success.

"Sacredly, infinitely let us cultivate our love and reverence for the Teacher as a salutary means of spiritual revival."

So, my dear friends, the vulgar conception, the scoffing at the sacred ideas by small consciousnesses because of their lack of commensurability, and the belittling of the highest and fundamental, must all be banished from our life, if we wish to enter the path of service.

Some are searching for the happiness of life, but bliss can come only through the fulfillment of the Will of the Teacher. There is no other way. And one must keenly grasp the wonderful, profound words of the Teacher and constantly remember them: "By fulfilling My will, you give Me the possibility of fulfilling yours." As who else, ifnot the Teacher, knows our sacred wishes and strivings? And by purifying and crystallising them by the given Teaching, that is by the broadening of our consciousness, who gives us the possibility of realising them? Would one want to be so foolish as to ruin one's own happiness?

Let us ardently strive to fulfill the saving Will, which

leads us towards the predicted service of the General Good!

When thought strives to fulfill the Higher Will, then comes the direct connection with the shield of the Higher Will. How can the shield protect us if we only partially fulfill the indications. Therefore, those disciples who strive to guard sacredly the testaments and to practise and apply the smallest indications, will develope their creativeness and will broaden their consciousness.

From the book "Hierarchy": "Is it possible to understand the Cosmos without striving to penetrate into the higher spheres? Only the following of a Teacher gives foundation to all strivings. All beings ascend by this law of succession. Therefore, every repudiation of this principle will only bring the loss of that which was appointed. Thus, thought originates as the bearer of succession. Thus, the law of the Higher Will creates infinitely."

The law of the Higher Will is the creator of all goal-fitting deeds! This law saturates Space and only the fulfillment of the Higher Will crowns our deeds. How is it possible to turn away from the indication of the Higher Will without losing victory? How is it possible to find the better ways if the shield of the Teacher is not affirmed by the guarantee of Hierarchy? The Executors of the Will of Hierarchy are leading to victory. Therefore, the disciples must apply the preciseest strivings to fulfill the Higher Will. Only thus shall we succeed. Only in such a way shall we affirm victory.

Devotion to the idea, devotion to the Leader creates marvels. In all times, people realised the significance of devotion, and according to their consciousness have used various means, from the time of putting to oath up to the extreme of clerical anathema and inquisition. And now also, only the small-minded betrayers, full of envy and doubt, terrified of the extra-ordinary Light, rise up against the invincible Power of Hierarchy. Let us tell them: "Pitiful fools, you are afraid of everything powerful and beautiful; you are afraid of spacious thoughts and creativeness; you are not our companions. We cannot find room in your burrows, and you would not be comfortable in our spacious

chambers, as our rooms have not that musty sultriness that you enjoy so much."

I affirm by the name of the Teacher, I affirm by my spirit, I affirm by my heart that the most devoted will be the greatest. Is it not said that Ananda, the most devoted disciple of Buddha, was a thousand times greater than the other Buddhist Arhats?

Let us pay attention to certain formulae of our enemies. How much stronger and sounder they are than many timid formulae of pitiful friends. The enemies may teach us how to exalt, but friends often do not admit our greatest success. The wise Romans used to say: "Tell me thine enemies and I will tell thee who thou art."

Accept with your heart all the aforesaid, and ardently apply it in everyday life. Let unquenchable striving carry you towards the great Magnet in the same way as a needle is attracted by a magnet. All sense, all joy and beauty of our existence is in this Magnet. Perhaps it is not quite clear to you at the moment, but when the Teacher indicates, I shall explain it more completely.

Do not forget about the constant three-year tests. It is much more difficult to go over again the same probation because the surroundings have changed and it is difficult to make up for lost time and to find the lost rhythm which strives ahead and does not wait for the delaying ones. Therefore, let us work with unremitting tension. Let us heighten our vibrations in order to receive the rays that are sent to us and that otherwise may pass us by.

Time is short, so much experience should be gathered; the work is growing. It will be difficult if the amount of work will outgrow the consciousness of the collaborators. Broaden, broaden your consciousness by purging yourselves of ruinous petty thoughts, of commonness, of mediocrity. One petty thought may ruin the work of the world, just as a leaf of grass on the mountain path can cause the falling of a giant into the abyss. Petty thoughts pertain to slaves. Be the kings of spirit and broaden the boundary of your thinking up to the planetary scale! Remember that refined

organisms cannot stand the atmosphere of petty thoughts: they feel suffocated. Therefore, leave all condemnations and in every one look for the best. Be the kings of spirit!

Letter No. 18 21. 1. 31

In this difficult time which we are now experiencing, let us give an account to ourselves of the causes of these difficulties. With complete honesty, let us analise the fundamental reason for these difficulties. We shall see that the root of the evil lies not so much in outward circumstances as in the misunderstanding of the indications, in neglecting and rejecting them, and especially in disagreements among the co-workers. Unification is the foundation of every constructive work, but was such unification manifested?

Can the disciple create, can he be successful, if he fails to work harmoniously according to the covenants of the Teaching? No, a thousand times no! Let everyone think and recollect how many indications were not absorbed, how many were fulfilled only partially, and how much precious advice and hints were not applied at all? Let us manifest honesty, as there is no path without honesty.

Please try to understand, my friends, that we should rejoice with all our essence when we fulfil the Higher Will, as only in this way can we learn and broaden our consciousness. The one who fulfills more precisely will approach closer. Imagine an ordinary teacher and an ordinary pupil. What would happen if the pupil protested against all the experience and the indications of the teacher, and looked for his own methods?! How much energy would the fool waste in order to obtain the synthesis of the teacher! By giving to a disciple the synthesis of his accumulated experience a teacher helps him to save precious time for quicker and farther advancement and for individual creativeness. Without the succession of accumulations, what would happen to evolution?

If everybody had to learn, using only his personal experience, and rejecting the leading hand, we should not move far from our ancestors of an early age! Let us realise that the fulfillment of the Teacher's Will does not mean the subordination of our individuality to a strange will, as some superficial people think, but it means the greatest development of our sensitiveness and creativeness, because there are so many reasons and so many possibilities of

fulfillment in the Teacher's indications! But usually a disciple does not see and does not fulfil even a tenth part of them. Can we say which one of the indications which we did not fulfil in time affects the present difficulties we are experiencing? Everyone knows that if we strike an object in a room, its echo may resound in an entirely different place and on the most unexpected object. Let us remember that nothing can slip away from the all-seeing Eye, and that all of us are under perpetual test, and that the one who is more gifted is expected to contribute more. Only when a better understanding of Hierarchy becomes part of our life will something higher be given us. Do not cast backward the prepared possibilities and do not destroy what is given you. Will you not have to use so much energy afterwards for a doubtful repair?

"How greatly, then, must the disciple realise the power of perception and the comprehension that there exists only one law which governs the entire Cosmos - the Higher Will; along this line the evolution of the spirit is created. This law unites all pertaining and manifested units. The striving towards the fulfilment of the Higher Will leads to the sensitiveness of perception. Only this path offers a corresponding decision of the realisation and fulfilment of the Higher Will."

"Thus the Higher Reason creates upon Earth through the power of Hierarchy. Our creativeness requires the affirmation of Hierarchy in its entire scope, in its entire understanding, in its entire beauty. The manifestation of understanding of Hierarchy reveals all possibilities. It is correct to view the law of Hierarchy as the summit of cosmic creativeness. Light pours from it. Thoughts strive to it. Thus one should direct the best strivings to the summit of Hierarchy. Only when the highest affirmation enters consciously into life, can the highest be given to the highest."

"Therefore each striving leading to the union of the disciple with the Teacher leads to cognizance of the highest laws. The disciple rejecting the Teacher acknowledges by this his own ignorance, because he arrests his development. Each force attracting the spirit

upwards is a force of development."

"Already you know how tense is the time; and to those who are seized with fear, say that when the Lord lives within the heart no hair will fall from one's head and to each one a palace for body and spirit is allotted. But preserve pure your heart in order that I may enter there and surround you with armour. Remember that if you gave in spirit to the Lord what has been taken, He will reward you a hundredfold. Thus direct your thought to the Lord and let the Lord enter into your heart; without the Lord it will be narrow in the empty heart; and as peas in a dried sheep-skin, wrath will jar within the empty heart. Fill your heart with the Lord so greatly that no enemy should force his way through. Peace unto you."

Our way is not the way of conclusions, accessible to everyone. You may vouch that until now the events were developed not according to ordinary logic. Observe the current of events, by such experience you approach the predestined. You may notice that the Hand of the Teacher acts at the last moment; remember this formula. We should learn to act independently, but should remember that success comes only if the heart is filled with the Lord. Verily, such a heart sparkles like a sword of Light; it flames, succours and sustains. Thus, I advise to strive with all the forces of spirit in order to surround the heart with armour. There were plenty of doubts and condemnations. You must consider this order as a result of immutable answer.

Much was rejected, but we should not look back. Therefore, I want you to test your hearts by filling them with the Image of the Lord. More complicated tasks than present difficulties were solved by the Teacher. You must remember how you were led by the Teacher when your hearts belonged to Him. In the same way will He lead all those who do not break His indications. Do you remember a Persian tale about a "long-nosed man who broke his nose against the smallest stone?!"

"Hence when the highest striving towards the Lord is given, the manifested orbit and focus should be guarded. Therefore, all

our abutments should be protected because clouds are about. Victory is predestined but all foundations should be protected and the highest striving can bring all possibilities. The time is severe but wondrous. It is a time of consummation and of constructiveness. It is a time of highest tension and of earthly battle. It is a time which inscribes a great page and which builds a great future. The enemies thus rage because the highest law enters into life.

Let everyone be as a rock - carrying responsibility in the name of the Garu. Verily, His name is a shield of Light! Let everyone listen attentively to the opinions of approaching people, but the least belittling of the Garu should be considered as the best recognition of the enemy. Only in this way shall we learn how to distinguish light from darkeness.

The aura of the Garu is the surest surveyor, the best touch-stone for the new-comers, and as for those who might wish to be-little the Garu, they also belittle the Hierarchy of Light. Therefore, let us manifest double vigilance and caution when we meet those who disparage and slander.

Day and night remember about the great time. All incautious-ness, all light-mindedness, all inattentiveness may create the most difficult results. Put on your complete armour and manifest the most unremitting, the greatest devotion to the Foundations, as only in them is our salvation during this threatening but beautiful battle. Remember the words of N. K.

"We must build upon the true facts; all our words and actions must be clear as crystal, as we are watched by the whole world." . .

Letter No. 19 13. 5. 31.

I continue to write about Hierarchy, as this idea, which includes in itself the complete foundation of life, the evolution of spirit and all constructiveness, is not yet correctly understood. We must hasten to comprehend it as we have little time because the severest Armaggeddon is raging. Only by accepting with all our heart the great principle of Hierarchy can we broad our consciousness which is so necessary for success. By manifesting every day the highest caution towards everything entrusted to us, we shall complete our work victoriously.

First of all, let us be honest, and let us admit that all difficulties and failures are the results of the manifested neglect towards the given indications, of forgetfulness, light-mindedness, doubts and selfish envy. It is impossible to conceal the worm of doubt; even an inexpert observer can notice it. Let us apply against this parasite the most effective remedy, and this remedy is gratitude to the Great Teacher. Sometimes it is helpful to compare one's self with the millions of souls, tossing around - those who have no idea of tomorrow. It is helpful to look back and to give oneself, if possible, an impartial account: what one used to be, and what one has become. It is helpful to exercise our imagination and to picture to ourselves what would be our testiny without the wise and benevolent Guidance. And, of course, it will be most helpful to remember constantly about the indicated constructive work for the culture of the future.

If, after such an honest and many-sided review, our hearts do not overflow with gratitude, devotion and love towards the Giver and the Leader, verily then, they have dried up and our consciousness has become small. If, for one moment our intellect could grasp all the power, all the beauty and all the immutability of the great law of Hierarchy, our petty and low feelings and thoughts would melt away in one infinite striving to fulfil the Will of this creative Element. We should firmly remember that by fulfilment of the given indications, we, first of all, help ourselves. Never is

an indication given unless it can be applied and fulfilled. The apparent non-applicability only means that our small consciousness is not ready, that we do not exercise presence of mind and that we have a habit of giving up with the first obstacles; also that we respect the opinions of shallow-minded but self-confident people, and are afraid of "What will they think of us?" But who will think? It is time to struggle against this fear in every possible way. It is time to realise your own power and dignity. Remember this, and welcome the obstacles, because only these obstacles will show the wonderful design of our luminous struggle. Does not the great victorious conclusion come at the last moment? Many times, we have witnessing this wonderful law. Be firm because the great right is with you and there has never been a case where the predestined was not fulfilled if the nearest co-workers were firm and devoted. Struggle with all your might and with a joyous spirit. Draw into the treasury of your experience every page of difficulties, because only these pages and nothing else will bring you a crown of victory and will affirm your name in the history of culture. The joy of struggle is the fundamental note of Life. Through struggle comes the great power of spirit and the great gift of immortality. Do not exaggerate the significance of temporary failures. Try to learn your lesson from everything, and be ready - be ready for further surmounting and advancement. There is nothing stronger than the human will when it is directed with concentrated power and is sharpened with love towards the Hierarchy of Light. Rejoice in the great task entrusted to you! All will come, all is ready, only help with your firmness and devotion to the Hierarchy.

Continued on next page

As a great thinker said: "The one who panders to the opinions of the masses will never rise above the crowd."

The Teaching severely opposes self-conceit, but to have confidence in one's power does not mean to be self-conceited, and, if combined with heart-felt reverence to Hierarchy, it will surely affirm the best results. Self-conceit is not compatible with reverence of Hierarchy, as one excludes the other. The self-conceited one will never fulfill the indication exactly, but will always distort it, according to the level of his own consciousness which is limited by selfishness. It is very easy to imagine the results of distorted Indications! Will they often bring just the opposite results? It is said that "a distorted indication is similar to a train which has run off the rails." Similarly, "a half-fulfilled indication is like a house without a roof or to a half-dose of a salutary medicine; either brings privation or death."

If we wish to remain integrated during this trying time (which is trying for the whole world) we must affirm ourselves in the foundations of the Teaching of Light, and, with all our attention, watchfulness and straight-knowledge, we must apply the Teaching to life without delay, as success, first of all, depends on timely fulfilment. All the indications of the Garu are given and were given with the idea of their timely fulfilment. The untimely fulfilment of an indication may be destructive, or at least fruitless. The knowledge of dates is a great knowledge, as in all branches of life, success depends on the maintenance of the right time and on the knowledge of right direction. Thus, you, to whom both are given, take care of these treasures!

Now you may see how all the persistence of N.K., all his affirmations about the maintaining of our cultural establishments rather than personal creativeness, all his struggle against the frivolous titles, all had profound significance, and incomplete realisation of this brought and will still bring difficulties. The time is not far off when the representatives of the countries will publicly support the cultural associations on a large scale. Let all women and all the younger generation rise in defence of

culture against all oppression and persecution; let them guard this life-giving flame with all their power. Nations cannot live without this creative fire. Destruction is inevitable where the Cult-Ur dies away. I want to believe that the powerful union of women will make itself heard and will give a new healthy direction to the mind of youth, and will show them the true values and will help them to find the joy of existence by enriching it with a new understanding of each life and each labour. Women - it is your turn to say something new!

Hierarchy, para. 276

"How many unnecessary manifestations people create for themselves! How many superfluous karmic impediments they create for themselves! And all this only because of unwillingness to admit the Hierarchy in their hearts. Thus all affirmations can only then enter into life, when consciousness can accept the Hierarchy. Each evil in the world is generated because of resistance to the great principle of Hierarchy. Each victory is carried out only by the principle of Hierarchy. Therefore must one be so strongly asserted upon the affirmed Hierarchy."

May I also quote a paragraph about Love, as these two ideas, Hierarchy and Love, are indivisible: Hierarchy, para. 280.

"Let us turn back to the concept of love. In each book a considerable place must be allotted particularly to that fundamental concept. For under the concept of love much of the opposite is understood. It is correctly pointed out that love is a leading and creative principle. It means that love must be conscious, striving, self-denying. Creativeness requires these conditions. And if love is marked by self-enfeeblement, disintegration and service to self, it will not be the highest concept of humanity, which extols the concept of achievement. The heart filled to the brim with love will be active, valiant and will expand to its capacity. Such a heart may pray without words and may bathe in Bliss. How greatly in need is humanity of the realisation of the fire of love! To such a fire will correspond a purple star of the highest tension."

Hierarchy, para. 281.

"It is necessary to realise very accurately the fundamental conceptions of Be-ness. The love of achievement is not austere for those aflame in heart, but it frightens those who love their weaknesses and who hesitate while embracing their own illusive "I". Love which can move worlds does not ressemble the love upon the marshes where the bones of outworn remains are decaying. Above the marshes are the will-o'-the-wisps of decay, but the eternal creative fire of the heart does not wander; it impetuously ascends by the steps of Hierarchy to the highest Light. Love is the leading creative principle. Unbearable is the Almighty Light, but Hierarchy is the link to that dazzling Summit. To that point where one might even be blinded, the Hierarchy leads with an illumined spirit. Love is the crown of Light."

With these beautiful lines, I shall end my letter. Friends, fill your hearts with love! Does not the Great Adamant stand at the head of our temple? Remember this and welcome the obstacles, as only they will bring out the wonderful design of our luminous struggle. Does not the great victorious crowning come in the last moment? Many times we have been witnessing this miraculous law. Stay firm, - great rights are with you, and, there has never been a case where the predestined was not fulfilled if the nearest coworkers were firm and devoted! Struggle with all your might and with a joyous spirit. Draw into The Treasury of your experience every page of difficulties because only these pages and nothing else will bring you a crown of victory and will affirm your name in The history of Culture. The joy of struggle is the fundamental note of life. Through struggle comes the great power of spirit and the great gift of immortality. Do not exaggerate The significance of temporary failures. Try to learn your lesson from everything, and be ready,

over please

– be ready for further surmounting
and advancement. There is nothing
stronger than the human will when
it is directed with concentrated power
and is sharpened with love towards
The Hierarchy of Light. Rejoice
in the great task intrusted to you!
All will come, all is ready, only help
with your firmness and devotion
to The Hierarchy.

The end of N 19, 13. 5. 31.

Letter No. 20 29. 5. 31

It is said, "It is necessary to acquire the regal mind". Therefore, be kings of thought and spirit. Be the most devoted, the most ardent executors of the Will of Hierarchy; accept every indication with all your heart. Devotion and loyalty are the highest qualities; therefore, they are so ridiculed now. Only loyalty creates, but the world is moving towards destruction, and that is why the subverters immediately banish this fundamental and constructive quality. Loyalty is the quality which adorns everything great, or rather, without loyalty there is no true grandeur. Therefore, let us manifest this creative power in all our thoughts and actions.

If one cherishes devotion in his heart, it is not difficult to follow the right direction. While cherishing our striving, we must also develop our watchfulness, which is so necessary for success. Let us be like a vigilant mother, whose spirit feels and foresees all the dangers which threaten her child. Who knows how many fateful blows are avoided by such vigilance of spirit!

In time of danger and great battle, let us be firm in all foundations, and let us manifest invincibility of spirit. Now is the time for courageous actions, the time for broad actions and the brightest affirmations. Therefore, let us look over our armoury and we shall see that it is inexhaustible, only in each case it is necessary to chose the most suitable weapon. With all our attention, let us examine the treasures we possess, and let us not profane the pearls which are sent to us, but where it is necessary to manifest our wealth, let us know how to do so wisely. We shall not allow our best treasures to be neglected just because there are some who do not realise their true value, but we shall appreciate even the smallest among them as their value is not necessarily in proportion to their size! To put it plainly in general worldly terms - it is not necessary to take advantage of everything, and to know how to call forth the best, as such ability is true economy of strength, and every wise constructor should possess it. True economy does not

mean dispensing with foundations; it means wise application in commensurability. Yes, everything will change for the better when we begin to apply the Teaching in our life without alterations, when we practice true collaboration, when we stop constructing with one hand and destroying with the other, when we understand that the work we have started is not personal but for the general good, when we understand that inadvertence, negligence, mistakes and the breaking of the principles by even a single collaborator should be considered as the negligence of all the members - only then will true responsibility be understood. The idea of responsibility has nothing to do with alienation, feebleness and so-called "bossing". First of all, responsibility lies in looking for great balance in goal-fittingness and commensurability, which can be achieved only by ardent collaboration. The so-called co-worker must have in mind a synthesis of all the sections. Of course, it is not so simple, but it is necessary to exercise it, because without such synthesis, it is impossible to use correct discrimination and therefore impossible to build a true prognosis for each section. All the societies or sections are like a single organism, and it is the duty of all of us to watch its general growth and development. But of course, a healthy spirit and heart can easily correct the temporary deficiencies of the other organs. Therefore, let us pay double attention to these foundations!

We are sorry that in the discussions there was not a single proposal, not a single specific opinion regarding the discussed problems. It is difficult to imagine that at such a stage of consciousness, all the decisions could be in unison; therefore, it would be advisable to insert special opinions and proposals into the review of the session's work, and consider them when a more unified consciousness is achieved. Many slanders and troubles will be avoided in this way, because when opinions are in print, one cannot deny them, pleading a slip of memory. For instance, at the moment, it is very important to know how and what kind of remarks and proposals were expressed as regards publishing the pamphlet about the Banner of Peace. If the opinions expressed were not written

down, perhaps the most valuable ones will be forgotten. People forget so easily, especially those things which are disagreeable to them. But the knowledge that your opinion is in print will force us all to brace ourselves and to use our strength in creative work, as everybody would wish to have only his best in print. The fact that not a single thought, not a single impulse, transient as they may be, will not be lost, but will be recorded in our aura and in space - this fact does not trouble us because our imagination is so poor and our intellect cannot comprehend it. Therefore, let us help ourselves to this important realisation, and let us put everything into record. We shall enlarge our comprehension immensely if we check our decisions and compare them with the consequences.

I also wish to send you my thoughts about lack of prejudices and lack of principle, as, frightful as it is, there are such people who confuse the idea of lack of prejudice and an open consciousness with lack of any principles. Meanwhile, these two ideas are opposites. The unprejudiced mind seeks everywhere for fundamental truth, and therefore is always exercising its ability to discriminate. As for discrimination, it is the first step to true knowledge. And true knowledge is always based on firm principles, or else it is not true knowledge. A principle may have many backgrounds in its applications to life, but its foundation will always be the same: the foundation of validity or truth. In other words, principle or law is always goal-fitting, and we already know that cosmic goal-fittingness is the principle which leads to beauty; therefore, all the actions of an unprejudiced person must be marked with truth and beauty. An unprejudiced person is firm in his fundamental convictions, because they are based on the <u>leading</u> truth. A person who has no principles, in general has no convictions, as he has deprived himself of discrimination <u>consciously</u> and <u>voluntarily</u>, and his destiny is like that of a ball that is driven by the accidental strokes of circumstances. Is it not said in the Teaching regarding such a person: "Oh, the ball of destiny! Where will you fall and where will you jump off?! The light is given to you - hasten the

ball to arrive in time! Try to stop the wily rotations."
May the forces of Light guard us against the wily rotations! Let each one of us build firmly upon the established foundations and principles, so as not to violate them, even in trifles. How can we always discriminate where are those trifles, which may cause downfall?

Therefore, let us quote from the book, "Hierarchy". "Sometimes one can demonstrate the most complex laws by means of the simplest apparatus. The law of karma is complex, but take the Rhumkorff coil or any other electric coil and you will get an evident image of karma. The current runs along the spiral uninterruptedly but the protective winding is subject to all outside reactions; in addition each thread contacts the thread of the preceding round, as carrying upon itself the consequences of the past. Thus, each hour changes one's karma, for each hour evokes the corresponding past. Thus, one may contact the entire line of past manifestations. But the same obvious example shows how the seed of the spirit is unharmed; and striving into the heights it sustains its shell without fearing the past. Verily, karma is threatening only to those who are plunged into inaction. But a striving thought is liberated from the burden of the past and like a heavenly body strives forward without re-treading its path. Thus, even with a difficult karma, one may evince a useful liberation."

"Let us see how people understand Service to the Lord and Hierarchy. He, who thinks of ascending only by prayer, is far from Service. He, who in his labour hopes to bring the best effort for the welfare of humanity, must adopt the Lord in his heart. He, who does not yield his own comfort, does not know how to serve Hierarchy. He, who does not accept the indications of the Hierarchy, does not understand Service. Only when the heart is ready to accept consciously the affirmation sent by the Highest Will, may it be said that the manifestation of Service is adopted. Thus, We are no lovers of funereal rites and of empty invocations of the Lord. Thus, We venerate the striving of disciples to the Service of the

Hierarchy. Thus, it is so easy to observe how the one who does not accept the Service in spirit, venerates the Lord and Hierarchy so long as the way is convenient to him. Thus, We take into account each effort to remove the burden from the Hierarchy; so in the great as in the small. Thus, in Our creativeness, We affirm reverence not in words but by deeds. Thus, We deplore it when We see reverence in words but not in actions."

"The striving of the people is always measured by their service either to Light or darkness. b By this may be judged their destination in life. Thus, the worst is half-way thinking and striving. The destroyers always build only upon half-way striving. There is nothing worse than a half-way servitor for he screens himself by the manifestation of half-wayness. Therefore a direct enemy of Light is preferred by Us. We do not admit the small worms which creep in the mist into great battles. Thus, half-wayness must be cast aside. One should always and in all ways avoid any intercourse with half-way people. Thus half-wayness manifested by the disciples throws them back a millennium and therefore one should know when to affirm one's own consciousness. Thus the servitor of Light will not admit half-wayness."

"Most pernicious is it when this half-wayness insinuates itself into one who is affirming himself upon the path, because then there results duality of thought and action. Hence, half-wayness is the enemy of the Teaching, and when We see half-wayness in relation to Hierarchy, this destructive circumstance must be eradicated. For without integrity there can be no structure. Hence the disciples must understand how important it is to have an integral striving. For this, one should renounce personal comfort, conceit, self-pity, self-deception and always remember that Hierarchy must not be burdened This must be remembered by those who understand Service as the charge of the Lord and the Hierarchy to oneself."

Thus we experience through the majestic and threatening time and only by the extreme tension of our entire strength can we conquer. Think in the broadest possible way, discuss together how you can

understand and apply in the best possible way what is sent to you! Learn how to oppose with dignity all the ignoramuses and destroyers of culture! Today, it is necessary to manifest the broadest understanding of the Banner of Peace. It is essential to understand the Banner of Peace as the greatest symbol. Yes, I can see that in the very near future the League of Culture will be established, in which will gather all the best representatives of thought, knowledge and creativeness, and where woman will have her full say, and this League of Culture will replace the extinct League of Nations. The events in Spain once more should manifestly prove to the world how timely is the idea of the Banner of Peace! The new events are coming and they will force the adversaries of Culture to beware . . . but will it not be too late? It is necessary to know how to answer all those who try to supress culture . . . You have all the formulae ready and besides, each day brings affirmation of their timeliness.

Today, every country must think about the best ways of preserving its cultural treasures, and by no means try to stop the activities which beautify the image of the nation and the country; these activities of the Banner of Peace attract the attention of the whole world towards the possibilities of cultural significance of America. Let us not conceal from ourselves that until now America has not been among the so-called leading cultural countries. America has been considered only from the standpoint of the dollar and mechanical civilisation. And the formulae pronounced by an American official, whose words you have quoted, only prove the aforesaid. If we talked to such an official about the Banner of Peace and about the cultural activities of our organisations, he would sincerely wonder, "What is the use of bothering about such annoying and unnecessary things", But since they are so willing to concern themselves about culture, why do they not use their apparently great imagination and their great knowledge of art for the creation of something like a gambling club, let us say, in a movie-theatre with modern shows, slightly pornographical. Everybody would understand it, and would be pleased!" Such types will never be able to grasp the meaning of

Culture. How can they comprehend the historical significance of the union of the true representatives of Culture, united under the Banner of Peace?

N.K., in his essay, has expressed his remarkable definition of culture. He says: "An ignorant person first of all must become civilised; then educated; after education is acquired, a person becomes intelligent; then comes refinement and realisation of synthesis, which is crowned by the acceptance of the idea of Culture".

Not a single narrow specialist, regardless of how high his professional skill, can be considered cultured. Culture is synthesis; culture, first of all, understands and knows the foundations of life and creativeness, because it produces the creative fire which is life. But who have realised the foundations of life?

But the new events are coming, and a revaluation of values is predicted. Consciousness is growing and there is nothing that can stop this growth; this gigantic wave will overthrow everything in its way. There is safety only in entering the ark directed by the powerful Hand of the Pilot, not of this world. But each one who enters the ark is advised not to push one another, not to change seats, not to look overboard and not to look back, but with all their efforts to strive rhythmically with the striving of the ark, which, in its speed, can no longer stop even in the case of the falling overboard of some of the fellow-travellers, because the salvation of the rest of the people depends just on this speed. Therefore, let us gather all the fire of our spirit, and with the understanding of all the danger of this time, let us increase the tempo of our work; let us rise in our thoughts so that we can realise the majesty of events and of everything that is timely. Avoid an indifferent attitude to details which may not seem important to you; now at this time, the least little detail should be considered, the least action should be cautiously started, because light-mindedness in these days of extreme tension approaches treachery It is especially difficult if the right moment is missed.

Observe how many wonderful things are taking place: The pieces of shattered mosaic are being reassembled by a powerful Hand

into a majestic picture; the details spring out unexpectedly, but an attentive mind will notice how, in this complicated design, are marked out the degrees of a wonderful new step in evolution.

Therefore, friends, tense your consciousnesses and forge the future! Affirm yourselves in the beautiful and lawful foundations and learn how to protect them! Remember that only thought can win, so you should always have a ready answer which will render your adversary helpless. How can we win? Only by the power of thought and by test.

Letter No. 21 3. 6. 31.

I would like to quote from further discourses, which I consider very timely:

"Let us observe how the black ones labour. It is necessary to observe their peculiar habits. They are not indignant against a nonentity. They consider that the first steps of Service are particularly useful for them. A nonentity is negligible even in treason. Treason is precisely the main basis of undermining by the black ones. For treason, one must know something. This relative knowledge, not strengthened by devotion, may be found on the first steps. One must know that condemnation reacts like fire upon a wavering devotion. It is sad to observe with what unnoticeable deviations the disciple begins to steep himself with indifference, finding eloquent justifications. Like the blade of a knife, the heart loses its protective net. Without its sheath, the blade injures the carrier himself. But such spurs do not lead to achievement; they lead only to irritation. If one day has passed successfuly in humiliation of the Teacher, why may not tomorrow be also blazing with blasphemy against the Highest? And if the silvery thread be broken, the blade of fossilization is already irrevocably sharpened."

"It is necessary to observe the wavering ones, for the contagion from them is great. Often they themselves are already about to sink into the black mass, yet the blasphemy disseminated by them wounds many innocent ones. You arm yourself rightly against indifference; it corrodes all beginnings, and what fires are possible from the frigidity of indifference? The manifestation of the affirmation of the Teacher is also like the watering of flowers. The watered garden will not wither. We are concerned in moving the work forward. We affirm new dimensions. Indifference to Our affirmations is not permissible."

"When the spirit is filled with striving, there is no place for indifference. When the spirit is aflame, there is no place for indifference. This quality is an immunity against indifference. Only when the spirit tends to egotism, the death of Spirit may occur. Therefore, one should flamingly protect the spirit against indifference

where the evil generated by neglected striving will nestle; where this evil will inflict a blow that will bring its effects. It is difficult to detect the root of evil generated by indifference. Only in endless vigilant striving may one find protection for construction. Hence, while constructing great works one must understand that egotism and indifference are inadmissible. Therefore, We demand that the first thought should be dedicated to the Teacher. Is it possible to succeed when the disciple puts himself on the first place? Did We not put Beauty at the foundation? We have given the great foundations for the world. Therefore each thought must be appreciated as the foundation of a great structure. Verily, the future is great."

"Amidst the concepts of courage, the most invincible is the courage of the flaming heart, when in full decisiveness, in full realisation of achievement, the manifest warrior knows only the path of advance. To this achievement of courage, only the extreme degree of the courage of desperation is comparable. With the same speed that the courage of the flaming heart overcomes the future, desperation flees from the past. Thus, where the courage of the flaming heart is lacking, let there be the courage of desperation. Only thus can the warriors conquer, when the offensive is great. All other aspects of courage are of no significance, because in them will be half-wayness. This quality, next to cowardice and treason, must be avoided."

So let each one equip himself with valour, which should be characteristic of everyone! Happy is the one who possesses the valour of a flaming heart! Everything is easy to such a one, and joyous the battle under the leadership of the Hierarchy of Light! He will sacredly treasure the weapons entrusted to him, and he will remember all the provisions and indications, because all will be contained in the flaming heart and not in dead scriptures. There will be no necessity to remind him again and again about the same suggestions and to point out the forgotten Shields hanging upon the wall. His heart will be an inexhaustible source of strength; his consciousness will not be divided, because the purpose of achieve-

ment will be sparkling brightly ahead of him, and all his thoughts and all his aspirations will fly like steel arrows, obedient to the orders of the Hierarchy of Light.

Yes, it is time to purify the consciousness, to rid oneself of old habits, as time does not wait. It will be terrible if events get beyond us. I beg you to forget the old misunderstandings and to think only of helping the general work. Everyone must make his best contribution towards the general work. Let us learn to ignore the petty stings of injured self-love. Let us discern why we must not be offended by the little complications caused by some collaborators. Verily, the one who is able to meet mean-spiritedness with a smile will be a conqueror. And how contemptible is the one who casts down his own fellow co-worker! He will not escape the glance of the Lord! As it is said, "These stones will grow into a mountain for him".

You ask how to lead the ones who show a desire to study the books of the Teaching. First of all it is necessary to become acquainted (at least in some measure) with the personalities of such people, with the conditions of their lives, their occupations and abilities etc. In case, advice and leading can only be individual. It is advisable to ask them to what extent the ideas of the Teaching influence their every-day routine, to what extent their lives are changed. But the best thing is to observe personally their lives. If the Teaching for them is no more than a pleasant stimulant which distracts them in their daily life, it is better not to bother with such people. They may read the Teaching, and perhaps even with more benefit - in solitude. As to their interest in the higher worlds, it is necessary to remember that it is most inadvisable to give certain details of life in the higher worlds to such souls, who do not quite realise even their responsibility on this Earth. In the books of the Teaching, of course, it is mentioned often enough that people must be conscious of their life in the higher worlds and their bond with the cosmos. Therefore, let everyone aspire to such consciousness in his own way. But a desire to know more

than the books of the Teaching give and the inability to show the right to such privilege, proves much light-mindedness and harmful curiosity. It is necessary to note the people who, at the very beginning, demand some special knowledge, inaccessable to the rest. Usually, such people are the ones who do not apply the Teaching in life.

It is also characteristic of the questions of such people that they ask, "Is it possible to find out what the seven ingredients consist of in the above-mentioned emulsion?" or, "Does not the above-mentioned preparation of L. consist of salts of lemon?" and "Could not the rhythms of mahavan and chotovan and the formulae of psychic energy - could not all these be sent to them?:" And not a word of the true foundations of the Teaching! It is amazing that such questions are asked by so-called intelligent people! These people are reading the books without any comprehension of their contents. Often such people remind one of young sparrows: they grasp the first grain they see, but as soon as they notice a second, they give up the first. Then they fly for the third, and so on endlessly. As a result, they lose instead of gain.

Therefore, the people who wish to approach the Teaching should thoroughly analyse to what extent their habits have changed after their acceptance of the Teaching. What happened to their prejudices? Have they changed their lives, or just their words?! Let them confess their thoughts to themselves or to the chosen Guru. There are too many parrots: what is the use of multiplying them? Often, parrots place their owners in awkward positions: they utter blasphemy instead of praise, and vice-versa.

It is also useful to note our worst habits, and immediately start to eradicate them. Every day, the disciples should enter into their diaries what has been done in this respect. Let them first struggle with one habit, as it is not so simple to alter oneself. It is very useful to watch the quality of thought, and not allow any malicious, petty and, in general, mean-spirited thoughts. The purifying of consciousness is the first step. After that, we advise

the discipline of thought: to learn how to think in one direction, without being distracted even for a moment. It is wonderful if one can concentrate on the Image of the Guru. I send to you all my best wishes: may your consciousness grow and broaden! What joy there is in the unity of such consciousnesses. There is no obstacle which cannot be removed by such power.

I just wanted to finish this letter, but then I thought it would be useful to quote some further paragraphs from the Teacher as they are very appropriate.

"The reorganisation of the world intensifies all powers of the Cosmos. If humanity would understand that reorganisation requires the striving of spirit, it would be easy to establish balance in the world. But the nations do not hesitate about what to place upon the scales and where is the balance; hence the chaos of thinking is so destructive to humanity, and thus the shifted nations sink to the depths without taking measures for spiritual transffguration. Therefore, it is time to consider the affirmation of spiritual quests. When the cosmic perturbations require a powerful tension, humanity must know where to look for the centre of salvation. Therefore, the quest of a spiritual centre will lead unavoidably to Hierarchy. Humanity has lost the urgent formula of salvation. Hence, the anchor of salvation is the focus of Hierarchy. Only a conscious quest and the affirmation of Hierarchy will afford salvation. Yes, yes yes: Therefore We gave the foundation of actions and works which are founded on Beauty."

"Therefore, it is necessary to manifest complete comprehension of all the beautiful thoughts and treasures. It is also necessary to understand the fires of the centres. Only thus can we attain victory. Of course, the dark forces seek to injure. It is necessary to watch them; their fear is great. Thus, let us guard the foundations."

"The disciples on the path of Service must apply all the best strivings of their spirit and consciousness. While creating, one should understand that only the application of the best manifestations affords corresponding results. Thus, let us not expect beautiful

results where the spirit has not applied its best strivings. Often people wonder why their undertakings are unsuccessful. Let us say then: did you apply all your best impulses? Did not superficiality, the dullness of inflexibility, negligence and lack of ardour to the Hierarchy intrude themselves? Thus, one may expect correspondence based upon the case and effect. Thus, one must understand that each inconsiderate action, each non-goalfitting deed, may bring so many unnecessary and harmful consequences. Thus, the disciples on the path may display their best strivings and ardour to the Hierarchy."

"Hence one must chiefly develop vigilance in oneself and watch untiringly the creativeness surrounding the Sacred Hierarchy. Only when disciples will attain this quality may one hope that the predestined success will come. Therefore, one should manifest an extreme conscientiousness and vigilance towards all that occurs around the focus. Each unnoticed mistake will yield its own blossom."

"It is asked why We so often delay in destroying the enemies? There are many causes. Let us name two: the first - karmic conditions. It is easy to harm the near ones, by touching an enemy bound to them by karma. This condition may be compared with a most delicate operation when a surgeon does not amputate a sick limb lest he injure a dangerous artery. With the karmic bonds, the interacting relationship is unusually complex. We consider it more useful to insulate the dangerous fellow-traveller than to obstruct the entire caravan. The second cause is that enemies are the source of tension of energy. Nothing can so greatly increase the energy, as counter-attack. Therefore, why to invent artificial obstacles when the dark ones attempt with all their strength to increase our energy!"

"It is necessary to understand the main point of the world's struggle when instead of poisonous gases, the projectiles of psychic energy are flying around. It is necessary to observe the unusual events. The idea of culture will survive, and you are right in thinking of the world rulership of Culture. . "

My friends, please realise upon what firm ground you are standing when you are protecting all the achievements of Culture. Therefore, keep high your spirits; find the necessary fiery words!

Do not forget that only enthusiasm, faith and ardent striving can enflame and inspire the spirit of people whom you contact. Kindle the creative fire in your hearts. I am sending you a command: "Attack as if pursued by fire."

Do you remember how Tamerlane the Great achieved one of his mightiest victories? He burnt the steppe behind his armies. Being pursued by fire, the armies rushed forward and destroyed the enemy, which was much stronger than themselves. Even so, you must also understand the majesty of this formidable time. You must realise that everything is in conflagration behind you and that the only salvation is ahead of you. So, strive forward, and hold fast to the entrusted Banner!

We want to feel in your letters the note of revolt in your spirit, and also your ardour. Look for fiery collaborators, those who comprehend the significance of Culture! Notice and reject all that is dead and ignorant, and always welcome a battle. Verily, you can increase your possibilities only by fighting. You should be able to speak with strength about your international cultural activities! The Pact for the Defence of Cultural Treasures and the interest which it aroused in the cultured world - you received many letters which prove this interest - this alone gives you the right to demand attention and to facilitate your efforts to uplift the level of your country's cultural standards. Point out how history remembers the names of those who help to develop humanitarian and cultural ideas! Mention the fact that all the countries that have answered to the call of the Pact for the Defence of Cultural Treasures proves how the consciousness of people is awkening, how it demands the defence of the treasures of human creativeness! Therefore, each Government which progresses in rhythm with evolution should listen to these cosmic demands, and should guard the achievements of culture. Space is filled with these commands; therefore, it is urgently necessary to struggle against the approaching dark events, which are caused by the convulsions of the dark forces. Several more years will pass and how much that is irretrievable will occur!

Thus, collect all the facts; look through all the materials you have, and then affirm yourself in invincibility: you are representatives of the new epoch, the epoch of great co-operation and the prediction of the supremacy of Culture. There are many more dangerous signs than people suspect. Subterranean fires are piercing through, and many things will blaze up like straw. Only the blind do not realise on what kind of a volcano they are dwelling!

Letter No. 22 11. 6. 31

You have already received the call to battle and the command to attack as if fire was raging behind you. Therefore, we ask you not to delay in applying this command and indication as, verily, there is fire behind you and every wrong step or delay may burn you. Go forward - forward without looking back, because it is necessary to rescue from destruction all that can be saved. "Let them understand in America that the crisis itself is nothing less than a battlefield. There is no better possibility! The Teaching says that while the human spirit is in "happy" and comfortable harbours it will never awaken. Therefore, only in the days of shocks is it possible to expect spiritual ascent and the realisation of true values The threatening time will compel many people to look for salvation and outlet. Try to be at your best and connect yourselves with the great Focus without delay! Let nobody be deceived by apparent calmness as it is very deceptive - such calmness may be more dangerous than storm.

Struggle with all your might; insist on your rights in the name of the general good, in the name of Culture! Half-wayness is always pernicious. Look for complete victory, complete liberation, so that all your forces are concentrated on the broadening of the culture of your country! Action is necessary today, the broadest action. Therefore do not be overburdened by the increased number of your committees and by intensified work; your work is very splendid and beautiful, as indeed are all your intentions. You should broadcast the seeds wherever you can, as you never can tell from whence will come the greatest harvest! "The bells of all countries are necessary, and their ringing makes a symphony". In the time of approaching downfall and destruction, we shall build and create; we shall guard all cultural achievements and affirm the foundations of Life.

Letter No. 23 17. 6. 31.

We were extremely happy to see your boldness and daring, your forward striving and your plans for the future. Yes, it is only the one who has spiritual aspiration who can be carried above the abyss. Verily, above the abyss, as indeed are we not the witnesses of so many who destroy themselves? The requiem of the American Banks alone is extremely significant. The unhealthy, inflated, unbalanced prosperity of the country cannot continue for long; the hidden abscess must be opened, and woe to them who fail to protest in time against the evils by improving the spiritual health of the whole population!

How blind are those who think that by withdrawing themselves, by abusing the "Chalice of the World", they can exist and flourish! Chastisement is approaching and will inevitably fall upon them. Fearful will be this chastisement in its cosmic correspondence and righteousness, because it is impossible to plunder from the organism of the planet the most essential part, without self-destruction. Therefore, sharp-sighted as a hawk, look far ahead; observe events and foresee the future.

The future League of Culture will manifest its authority and will confirm the balance in this world, but, of course, as yet it is too early to talk about it; even if this League already exists invisibly (as a teraphim), it has to be affirmed. People must be imbued with the significance of the value of spiritual creativeness and must learn to respect every manifestation of it. The possessors of spiritual fire will become the true treasures of their countries. First, let women realise all the significance of the raising of the Banner of Peace and Culture, and in powerful union, not only theoretically but practically, let them carry the stones for the building of the new world. Mountains are built from stones; let us not neglect the smallest stone!

Again I must write and ask you to pay double attention to everything that was said regarding responsibility. We are looking forward to a time when the correct comprehension of this idea will

be assimilated by the human consciousness, and only then will commence true, successful, creative work. I have already written many times that responsibility is correctly understood only by those who manifest in their daily lives the greatest collaboration. Each one who is in charge of a certain department has a personal responsibility for its creative fulfillment. However, every director must understand that he is but one member of a whole organisation and that he must collaborate with the other members harmoniously, in order not to interfere with the normal growth of this organisation, and thus harm his own vital capacity. Each one, with all his attention, must guard the general development. Of course, it is ridiculous for seven people to hold one chair, as N.K. used to say, but it is necessary to discuss together who should fill this chair, as only by general agreement will it be filled in such a way that none of the collaborators will conflict with it.

Time, time, time! Unless we properly realise the significance of time, many possibilities may fly away. How can we build a successful future if we are neglectful and always too slow? We must follow the cosmic rhythm which indicates "presto prestissimo". Let us leave all moderato, diminuendo and mordent to our enemies. We are experiencing extremely significant events; verily, there is no greater time in the history of our epoch!

Why are the organisations of South America silent? I hope I shall not be a prophet in this case as I was in the case of the President of Peru! One can be a very eloquent and successful lecturer, but only the magnet of the spirit can uphold the results of success. But the spiritual magnet can be developed only when there is sincere aspiration and complete renunciation. The fruitfulness of every action is sustained by the magnet of the heart.

It is also very necessary to manifest the most careful, thoughtful and cultured attitude towards the press. Many articles written by our enemies which frighten you, bring joy to us because they rouse interest in readers; at the same time they cannot really belittle us.

The most to be dreaded is the colourless and "precise" (according to their consciousness) interpretation of facts of so-called "friendly" people. Perversion of facts by enemies is very striking and helps us greatly. Now is the time of the "hot" and "cold" - all lukewarm ones will be forced out. Revolt with all your spirit; be courageous; be conscious of the great time and of what you possess!

Realise your personal significance without self-conceit, self-sufficiency and arrogance. The pride of self-sufficiency diverts from the blessed seeking, and therefore, from further advancement. Without seeking, one cannot find, meet and accept the Ray of Hierarchy.

I hope very much that you do not spoil the growing warrior! Teach him to be studious, attentive and assiduous. Develop his sense of collaboration, sense of help and compassion towards animals and the needy. Let him learn to help from the earliest age. Children are so happy when grown-ups ask them to help. You can create the occasions for such help. You must teach him to be obliging and respectful towards adults. Let him learn to think about other people and to be happy if he can bring some cheer to others. The most terrible thing is to develop in a child, selfishness and stinginess, as these vices will limit the growth of a child's mind. There is nothing more fearful than a selfish or a mean person. No wonder that the literature of all peoples fixes the memorary of this terrible plague of humanity in immortal images. These vices have brought about the present degeneration of humanity and will bring a terrible catastrophe. A complete sterility of creative powers is the result of selfishness. Let us see what the Teaching of the Living Ethics says: "Individuality and selfishness are like birth and death. The formation of individuality manifests the begetting of a new world, whereas selfishness is as the dead volcanoes of the moon. Selfishness kills not only itself but also accordingly affects all the surroundings, while individuality kindles the fires everywhere. Collaboration is a crown of individuality, but shameful selfishness is like the sting of a scorpion. Is it possible to rely on selfishness?

No more than on a viper. But true individuality has in itself the foundation of the world's justice. We must collect individualities; diamonds need to be cut, but selfishness will have to go through many incarnations. Of course, even this law can be changed by the will of the heart. Therefore, we must suggest to the selfish ones that they kindle their hearts by following fiery souls. No wonder we love to kindle the light of a fiery heart; it is as a refuge for the traveller. It is not easy to possess a fiery heart, but verily, such hearts are sacrificing their lives for the sake of others. That is what the beatitudes tell us. Joy is a special wisdom."

Let us strive above all the difficulties, guilt and even treacheries. The broadened consciousness will help in everything; therefore let it be directed to where the Great Light will very soon be kindled. The Scale is in the hands of the Higher Will , and what do we care for the discordance which, in blindness, is directed against us? It is impossible to deceive the Justice of Space. The whole history of humanity proves this. What remains of those who considered themselves above those great workers who laboured for the good of humanity? Complete oblivion of their names and silent contempt. And now I would like to quote a few remarkable lines:

"In extreme suffering and privation, in starvation, in blood and sweat, Russia took upon herself the burden of seeking the truth for all. Russia searches and struggles, is looking for the Realm of Light . . .

"The pathos of history does not notice those who are content with their limited knowledge of truth, and who are conceited and satisfied. The fiery inspiration does not come to "Krat i possedentes", but to those whose spirit is in tension. The wings of the Angels disturb the water of the font.

"It seems there are no changes in the world . . . except that in the comfortable civilised world there is no more Russia . . . and in this absence there is a change, as in this particular 'non-existence', Russia, in a certain way, becomes an ideological centre of the world.

"If translated into the language of reality, this would mean that on the stage of the world's history appeared a new culturally-geographical world, which until now did not have the significance of a leading power. We may look into the future: does not the goddess of Culture move towards the East from the European West, where she was settled for such a long time? . . . does she not go to the starved, to the poor, to those who have suffered so much?

"Presentiment has a great power over us. There is a danger of conceit through presentiment - a certain type of self-conceit, conceit of suffering. To allow conceit means to be defeated. One should not conceal what one considers to be the truth. But it is impossible to be satisfied with mere presentiments. History is not made by quietism, but by the heroic achievements of those who seek perfection. Those who are self-conceited lose the bliss of searching And the self-conceited are condemned to sterility. There is no inevitability; there is possibility.

"Only by way of intensive creative work, not fearing to admit one's mistakes and weaknesses, only by the price of continuous efforts, which are materialised in the frames of 'Plastic World' (which is opened to our wills), will possibilities become Reality."

- Written in 1921.

Letter No. 24 30. 6. 31.

You write that even some good people do not understand the book "Hierarchy". This only shows us once more, how careful one must be in order not to frighten those whose consciousness is not yet sufficiently developed. The process of the growth of consciousness and the assimilation of new ideas is very, very slow; therefore, forcing is dangerous. Only a developed consciousness can completely realise and ardently accept the great law of Hierarchy. Let us recall that our own consciousness also was gradually prepared for accepting this great foundation of cosmic creation and evolution. Therefore, please try to practice the maximum tolerance, the maximum towards newcomers, and not to demand too much. We may expect extreme tension only from the nearest collaborators, whose consci ousness is ready for all the bliss of such tension, because their consciousness is growing together with their work. They know the significance of the cosmic battle that is going on. They know the more direct their path is, the more difficult and responsible is their achievement. They know the very difficulty is a sign of quick achievement. They are used to overcoming difficulties by the striving of spirit, and they know the meaning of victory.

Neither should you think there will be a swift bettering of the conditions of life. The predicted threatening time is here in all its full strength; therefore, possessing certain knowledge, be sure to treasure sacredly all the warnings, hints and indications. Only by the most intensive collaboration, by the urgent and precise fulfillment of the suggestions, will you b e able to succeed during this trying time.

Beware of collaborators with small consci ousnesses, as the small consciousness will try to be ittle everything. But we know that destruction results just from belittling and non-appreciation. Goal-fittingness is a quality which is most difficult and necessary to achieve; without it, it is impossible either to advance or to construct. The Teaching states that without the qulity of goal-fittingness a person cannot be considered spiritual.

Please realise the significance of the work that you started! How can you expect understanding from other people, if you yourselves do not possess this affirmation? How can we impart strength to our collaborators if we lack it ourselves? The Banner of Peace and Unity of Women in the name of the New Era of Culture are two of the gigantic historical tasks. Please try to realise how serious is the world situation and apply all your abilities in order to introduce these salutory ideas. Every step of yours should be thoroughly weighed, and should be in correspondence with your great tasks. But never listen to the advice of grey conventionalities! All delays will bring even worse wreckage. Uphold the Banner of Culture and the pure affirmations you received. "Sow widely; it is not right to spill the precious seeds only in your own garden." The most important is not to be afraid of any hostile condemnations, because all our offerings for the general welfare have not in them a trace of destruction or selfishness! Insist on your rights in the name of the offerings you brought to your own country!

I fear that many wonderful advices and declarations of N.K. are not applied and are not quoted in defence of your rights. Do not be lazy, and re-read them; remember not everything can be immediately assimilated. But if you will assimilate or even memorise certain formulae, you will simplify a number of things; also you will develop an alertness and vivacity of thinking that is most essential. Never forget that <u>we conquer by thought</u>.

Furthermore, do not be impressed by the superficial amiability which leads to nothing! Discriminate between real, true friendliness and hyprocritical amiability! A good battle may sooner bring victory than an oily amiability! Attack courageously; have your weapons ready - demand! Some of our collaborators did not experience a hard struggle for each achievement. They reached the heights too quickly. Therefore, they are not able to appreciate completely the achievements of the others who had to struggle very hard, and here is our difficulty. Grow - grow in your consciousness; remember the significance

of our time, which brings great possibilities. Be inspired by thought and every little boat will bring its cargo! Please remember that today we have to deal with large masses, because people are already able to assimilate the living fire of creative and constructive work. Among the common people, there are many searching souls who are capable of sacrifice in the name of the general good.

I enclose herewith some very essential councils:

Hierarchy, para. 345: "Do not be perturbed by the necessity of seeming repetitions. In the first place, nothing is repeated. Even the same words at different times, appear completely different. Secondly, one should reiterate day and night about Hierarchy. You are right that the hierarchy of thraldom is ended, but the revelation of a conscious Hierarchy is followed by human suffering. There is too much slavery in the world and each flame of consciousness is oppressed. Slavery and a conscious Hierarchy are as day and night. Hence do not be dissuaded from repeating - a conscious Hierarchy, Hierarchy of freedom, Hierarchy of knowledge, Hierarchy of Light. Let those who do not know the beginning of the New World scoff, for each concept of a New World frightens them. Is not Infinity terrifying for them? Is not Hierarchy burdensome to them? Being ignorant despots themselves, they do not understand the constructiveness of Hierarchy. Being cowards themselves, they are horrified before an achievement. Thus let us place on the balance the most urgent concepts of the great approaching Age - Infinity and Hierarchy."

Hierarchy, para 351: "Hierarchy must be adopted as an evolutionary system. To those spirits who have not yet outlived slavery it should be repeated that Hierarchy differs completely from despotism. But even a chimney-sweep must climb to the roof in order to clean the chimneys. This cannot be done from below. One cannot compose a symphony without a single key for all instruments. Many analogies may be quoted, beginning with a jest and finishing with the touching examples of bees, ants and swans. But the best example for contemporary humanity is the comparison with chemistry. It is easy to imagine that a reaction can take place only under precise conditions.

Hierarchy likewise corresponds completely to the astro-chemical principles, which even a neophyte of science will not deny. We already justly agreed upon the importance of the discovery of the psychic energy; for the co-ordination of its realisation Hierarchy is as indispensable as a helping chemical process.

Hierarchy, para. 347: "Many salt pillars are spread upon the face of the Earth. Not only did Lot's wife turn back to the past, but numberless are those who looked backwards. What did they expect to see in the conflagrant city? Perhaps they wished to bid farewell to the old Temple? Perhaps they looked for their cosy hearth or looked in anticipation of seeing the house of their hated neighbour collapse. Certainly the past chained them for a long time. Thus, one must strive onward for enlightenment and health and for the strength of the future. Thus it should be always; but there come cosmic knots when an impetuous onward motion is urgent. One should not be disconcerted, and mourn over the past. Mistakes are even obvious but the caravan does not wait and the very events press onward. The future is crowded but there is no darkness ahead."

Hierarchy, para. 354: "Some people cannot tolerate Our frequent reminders about battle. For them, let it not be a battle, but the opening of the gates. The process of opening also requires energy; but for you, without need of hypocritical palliation, it may be said that the battle of Light against darkness proceeds incessantly. Many warriors help in this battle, otherwise we again would be engulfed in chaos. Often the participants of the battle ask why they do not remember the achievements of their subtle bodies in their physical shells. But it would be criminal on Our part to permit consciousness. The heart could not withstand the realisation of so gigantic a battle. Only a specially flaming heart retains in its consciousness the black projectiles. The heart is stopped either through realisation of consciousness or through sclerosis. But the cosmic battle can destroy the strongest heart.

"Thus let us recall the battle. When the clash assumes such colossal scope, the subterranean fire is equilibrated with difficulty

and the layers of magnetic currents are intercrossed. But let us not deny that this perturbation brings renewed possibilities."

Letter No. 25 20. 7. 31

I was so sorry to see that our train again came off the rails. Can it be possible that so clearly explained a structure was not understood? Within two years, it has been daily repeated about the necessity to treasure every pearl (of knowledge) that was given to you. I heard recently: "One more pearl is lost." When shall we learn not to throw away these pearls, but carefully weigh each grain in order not to cheapen their value? Can you expect success, when the true values are thrown away and are replaced by cheap surrogates? In our affairs, cheap actions should be out of the question. Thousands of eyes, from all over the world, are watching our establishments. This obliges us to use the maximum of ability and determination for fulfilling the given programmes. Have we so little individual creativeness and alertness that any dull outsider can cut off our possibilities by his vulgarity and obsolete standards? Surely not. We need collaborators with a broad outlook, courageous and cultured. It seems to me that with your defenders you will not go far. Of what good are the advisers who give up everything at the first opposition!

We and our co-workers must know how to defend our rights immediately. We must find ten new points and attacks to each opposition. First of all, we must demand a complete understanding of our cultural activities. We must be able to unify the consciousnesses of our co-workers with our own. Of course, it is impossible to expect at once similar thoughts, but we must watch their ideas and when necessary, we must tactfully correct them. We have already experienced a successful example of such leadership; therefore, you must also be watchful and straighten out the thoughts of your advisers and co-workers. We must not only listen to the Teaching and agree with it, but we must become active and creative in our fulfillment of the tasks.

It seems that the requiem of the Banks as well as all present and coming events sufficiently prove how just, how wise and how

timely were all the indications. Let us remember how many of these indications were not applied in time, or else they were distorted! How I would like to see you fearless! How I would like to hear from you a lion-like roar! The power of spirit can conquer everything. Everything small and mean is afraid of power, while everything great has respect for it. Therefore, proceed like lions!

And then, please do not ciscuss with unreliable co-workers those ideas which you yourself have not yet completely assimilated. Every great idea can be easily ruined by tactless actions. Don't forget that we expect to be supported by the members of women's organisations and other cultural societies. So many good connections are already made, and it is possible to suggest the spreading of the series of postcard reproductions, "The Ruling of Culture". Three millions of buyers mean three million dollars! How many women would purchase a one dollar share in the name of their dignity!

Friends, I would like to tell you that what was promised will come about, and is really not so far from you! Only open wider your eyes and make an effort to broaden and to refine your consciousness! And what can be better for the growth of your consciousness than the alert and creative utilisation of the rules of the Teaching? Develop your creativeness just so! Penetrate deeper into each idea which was given to you! The ideas are growing together with the opening of possibilities, but these possibilities should not be missed. The time will come when the Banner of Peace and the Banner of Culture will cover the whole world. Do you sense the beauty and the power of this Symbol?

Letter No. 26 21. 8. 31

Please re-read often my letter of July 29th. In this letter you will find an urgent advice of the Teacher which should not be deferred. Assimilate this advice with all your heart and follow it, both in large and in small things. Who knows wherein lies the great and the small? Who knows where is the little blade of grass or a grain of sand which threw the giant into the abyss?

Therefore, let us be watchful and let us not belittle. Let us realise completely the danger of our time and the significance of that on which everything is based. Let us clearly remember that each disparagement and omission will bring the belittling and destruction of the work of all co-workers, as such revolts are against the affirmations of the Hierarchy. It was said long ago that "all the trunks will remain to be made of papers and the pens of copper if we shall not understand the affirmations of foundations. If the time when the school was established was difficult, it is a thousand times more difficult now. If the time was considered serious when you were on your way, it is a thousand times more serious now. If then the time was great - now, it is a thousand times greater" So was it said.

Thus let us remember this and not permit ourselves to be lulled to sleep or made quiescent and let us not rejoice in the flattery and pleasant words of the numerous dugpas. The circumstances will become more and more complicated; therefore, follow the Teacher. If you cease belittling, your garu will carry you over all dangers and will bring you to safety. There are certain times when belittling and concealing are even worse than the most ferocious vexations and slander. No wonder that belittling and concealing are considered by the Great Teachers as subtle betraying. Is it really possible that we could be so guilty? We may as well remember that the desire for self-glory at the expense of the belittling of the leader will not result in anything. By glorifying him we glorify ourselves. By belittling Him we destroy ourselves. The Cosmic law of correspondence is inevitable. The best pages of

history were written when at the head of a movement was a leader who was followed by devoted and conscious co-workers, ready at every moment to sacrifice everything for the glory of the work. And do we not also revere their names alongside the name of their leader? Even in schools we learn the names of the co-workers of the great Leaders, Teachers and Thinkers. And does not history point out the back-sliders? And are they certainly not regarded with contempt?

Let us always remember that all possibilities come only with the Ray of the Teacher, through the way illumined by this Ray. But if we are full of doubt, if we deviate in want of confidence and fear, then of course, we fall out of the path illumined by the Ray, and, falling into darkness, we at best stand to break our nose!

We received a book, a beloved book, indecently cheaply edited. N.K. was so unhappy about it that he immediately sat down and wrote an article about love of a book. Unless we understand that there must be refinement in quality, we shall never move farther in cultural growth. And how can we speak of refinement of consciousness and dulture if we fail to realise what that means? Of course, perfection never comes at once, but deterioration of quality is unworthy of disciples. Also, it is most vexing to see cheap post-card reproductions of some paintings. The admittance of such deplorable quality discredits the artist. And do we not know the old truth that the purchasing of things cheaply is dear in the long run? Do you not remember how, after certain expenditure, we were compelled once more to spend again for reprinting? All our beginnings should be introduced worthily. We must search and demand the highest quality; only in this way may we serve Culture.

We are also concerned about the popularisation of our books and editions. There must be a certain system, a certain organisation regarding this most essential matter. We must find a person who is fond of this work and who knows it well, and he should give an account regarding the exact destination of the books and the

amount of money received; also in what catalogues our books are included and where to find the best sale. Really, there are so many book-stores all over the world! We must also carefully watch that our editions come out without delay! So many possibilities have gone because of procrastination. The publishing must become a source of income.

I know that you will accept all this advice with the right spirit, because I have proof that you will, but could I say the same about certain other co-workers?! Some may be offended, but by being so touchy, they will only cast a slur upon themselves, for they will show they are far from self-perfection and that princeliness of spirit is unattainable for them. The prince of spirit is happy whenever he has an opportunity to perfect himself. He will never repeat his mistakes, and an eradicated, expiated mistake is a step forward, an approach towards predestination. Therefore, let us completely realise how severe and pressing is the present time; let us follow the Hierarchy and let us fulfil all Suggestions.

No weakness can be excused today, even if it is dictated by good motives. The stake is great and we shall pass only through affirmation. You must affirm, you must spread the benevolent thoughts. Use all your knowledge and all the strength of the messages you receive from the high sources for wide propagation. Try to realise in the name of Culture the great effort of creating the new principles, this epoch of refined consciousness, the discoveries in science and all the wide necessary collaboration.

The saturating of space must take place in all directions. Not a single possibility should be missed. You must be able to utilise a small hint for creating a great deed! The power of saturating space is very great. Let the image of your Garu be manifested in the world's scale. Do not allow it to be lessened in the smallest degree. Do not be afraid to look ridiculous as you can always tell a scoffer: "You are laughing at yourself." Scoffing is a sure sign of ignorance, and nobody who really knows would ever ridicule anything.

We were very happy to hear about the approach of a new co-worker. We welcome him most heartily in this service for human welfare. His name will live in our hearts, because we appreciate one who at the beginning offers a willing hand. When the tree grows there will be plenty of those willing to find protection under its shade. But very few can note the significance and growth of the seed. Therefore, let us particularly appreciate the first-comers. Joy and greetings of the heart to the new co-worker.

We received letters from American from which we learned that even well-known business leaders cannot maintain their influence and cannot balance events. The same is true all over the world. The old formulae are outlived, while the new, constructive ones are not yet assimilated. The consciousness of the masses outgrows their leaders. Those who seek to hold back the growth of consciousness always are terrifying; inevitably however, they are overthrown by terrible upheavals. And as the law of correspondence is immutable, the more tenanious is the resistance, the stronger is the final overthrow. The true leader is always in the forefront of events, but, verily, he should hold fast to the Hierarchy of Light.

The salvation of the World is in new formulae, in a new spiritual and cultural approach towards all questions of life, whether it be in government or private life.

The Banner of Peace and Culture, when completely realised, will become a foundation for new creativeness. From school-days the future generations should learn about the vital significance of constructive and creative work in all its aspects. In the new world there can be no room for the luxury of destruction; ignorant, wild violence cannot exist there. Of course, such achievements will not come at once, and everywhere, but it is already possible to see where the dawn breaks.

Even now, the idea of peace and culture is so differently understood! The majority associate culture just with superficial civilisation, with all the frivolous luxury which goes with such civilisation, while by peace they mean "a peaceful invasion" of

markets and discussions about disarming. By this they mean the replacing of old, obsolete weapons by new and more powerful ones. It is burdensome to ponder upon the condition of the world! The situation is terrible, and of course, it will get even worse, as it is impossible to stop those who, in their blindness, are willing to fall into the abyss. By the law of gravity they will fall faster, the nearer they are to the bottom. But we know there is the Stronghold of Knowledge and Spirit and that those who are searching for Light will always be helped. Therefore, let us most ardently call our still unknown spiritual brothers to join us under the Banner of Culture. The Fire of Spirit and the enlightened consciousness will stop all the terrors of destruction. Thus, let us sow the benevolent seeds, and in due time, they will bring forth fruit. The answer you received in regard to the Banner of Peace and Culture is very characteristic. In such an answer is contained all the impotence, all the inability to understand the offered possibilities, and reveals complete irresponsibility. What a handsome gesture could be made by and written down into history by participating in the conference of the Pact and the Banner of Peace. But small and ordinary minds are satisfied to be in the rear. What do they care for history since their consciousness does not embrace the idea of responsibility, to say nothing of responsibility on a world scale. Their whole idea of responsibility does not stretch beyond their desire to keep for themselves a warm, comfortable place. And for this purpose, ordinariness, dullness and ignorance are considered the most suitable. But they forget one thing: conditions change, and sometimes only extraordinariness and fiery readiness of mind can save them and preserve for them their beloved comfort and felicity. Yes, the world is full of automatons, of shadows and of the active assistants of evil. The automatons, who thoughtlessly repeat the outlived formulae, and the shadows who do not protest against evil, should they not also be put alongside the assistants of evil?

Thus, let us struggle against every bit of dullness and

ignorance in ourselves and in our nearest co-workers, and let us not be depressed by the accidental first-comers, but, with a smile, let us write into our records one more page about ignorance and stagnation which together are building the Karma of a whole country.

It is true, we should not accept flattery. Great is the contempt of a flatterer when he sees how easily we fall for his sometimes rather crude stratagems. Let us not be as bribed slaves, but let us develop the pride and independence of lords of spirit, for whom flattery does not exist. Nothing lowers and destroys a person so much as his acceptance of flattery. Certainly, the one who loves flattery is a slave of yesterday. A person who is guilty of flattery, or one who accepts it, can never become a close collaborator Great is the mercenariness of such people: let us remember this.

I was glad to hear about the attempts towards a closer co-operation and sense of justice among the collaborators. A strong spirit will know how to rid itself of certain atavisms, while common sense and realisation of the great Image of the Teacher will remind that a conscious collaboration is noble and joyful. A heart, warmed by love, will emanate the most beautiful power of attraction. Aspiration of spirit brings courage and justice.

All of you are dear to us and are we not united by the same Teaching, by the same Teacher? If we are able to drive away the whispering shadows, irritation, touchiness and a careless attitude towards work etc., we will move ahead with gigantic steps. Really, is it not distressing to remain static in the same place. The worst obstacle is touchiness, which holds us back, which destroys all sense of striving; wonderful possibilities flee from us when we are busy analysing outrages against us which, in any case, are mostly imaginary and self-suggested. Let us discard these destructive habits and let us give all our hearts to the fulfilment of the entrusted work. Let us put all our interest, our whole lives into our work, and a miracle will occur. This very self-denial will bring us most unexpected, most lofty joys.

A selfish person condemns himself to dreadful loneliness and completely consigns himself to oblivion. Happiness is in giving love, and happier is the one who loves rather than the one who is loved. When this truth is realised all happiness will materialise. Therefore, learn how to love, become accustomed to love everything beautiful and develop active compassion to everything that is not yet perfect. Be kind and polite to your subordinates as such is a privilege and beauty of a lord of spirit!

I love the legend about Akbar. In the days of solemn feast, when all the dependent Rajas and folk brought their gifts, Akbar, amid loads of costly gifts, would pick up the humblest, and, holding this simple gift near his heart, he would appear in front of his people. In such a manner he expressed solicitude towards the humblest of his subjects, emphasising that he appreciated not luxurious gifts, but those given by a devoted heart. Let us do the same, and judge not by outward appearance and position, but by the inner thought and the inner quality. And of course, the best thoughts and the most devoted heard are more often hidden under poor cloth and modest position. Appreciate your humble co-workers! Punctuality, as well as politeness, in the ancient days, was considered a privilege of kings.

Letter No. 27 7. 10. 31

We are glad that you understand the importance of dates, and we are grateful for each hastening. It becomes more and more pressing to hasten the development of our work in view of the accumulation of events. Only a developed spirit can fully realise this necessity to proceed with rhythm of the Cosmic Magnet. All who are retarding or hindering belong to the lower grades of consciousness and we can only be sorry for such states of thought. We should try to transpose part of their burden to those who are looking ahead and striving towards evolution.

Prepare co-workers for yourself; don't forget what is said about the replacing of faded roses by wild flowers! Every day, try to learn something, and be grateful to each co-worker who can help you to develop the right attitude towards petty personal affronts and thereby liberate you from them. Only when we try to understand the main point, can we learn to ignore the antics of an uncultured heart. N.K. always recollects his most hostile opponents because those were the ones who helped him to develop his vigilant eye, his readiness of wit and the essential firmness and discipline of spirit. Thus, you too must learn to regard the conduct of captious people as fancies that cannot insult you, but that only make you feel sorry for those who return to the nonsensical habits of childhood. We know how complicated is life today, how difficult it is, and we feel distressed about each lack of understanding, about each delay, about everything that complicates the progress. The neglect of one's duties can never be restored. Your task is not an easy one, but with easy things one will not perfect oneself. Pure striving is always supported by the Great Teacher; therefore, be victorious. The Great Teacher is always ready to give a helping hand to the striving disciple, but such help usually comes only after all the possibilities have been used by the disciple himself. And herein lies the greatest wisdom and a great Cosmic law of evolution. Only at the very limit of tension are our forces transmuted into the finest energies. Our thoughts are with you, and we know that all

will come about safely unless we ourselves sever the silver cord by our selfishness, sluggardliness and superficial attitude towards the Advices.

In order to be able to judge about the height of a mountain one must move away to a certain distance. The same with work. Sometimes it is advisable to get away from it in order to realise its cultural significance. It is necessary to realise the cultural movement in its world scale, and this is the most important thing because if we do not realise it, our actions will be lacking commensurability and without the latter, success is quite impossible. Why do all Teachings insist so much upon the necessity of faith, or complete understanding of a given task? Just because the intuitive knowledge or faith make a giant out of a man. By destroying doubt such faith creates an invincible persistancy, which inevitably leads to aim. We, being limited by our physical bodies, cannot see through the accumulating events; therefore we cannot, by ourselves, fulfil the pre-ordination. And thus, if we are lacking in faith, we withdraw from the direction indicated by the Teacher, or by misunderstanding the terms, we break the outlined indications by which eventually we were supposed to act. Faith is great knowledge and wisdom. A person who lacks faith or knowledge is like a weather-cock; he depends on conditions which are constantly changing, which, in his blindness, he cannot foresee and cannot avoid.

It is correct to affirm "the principles of the Banner of Peace wherever it is possible. Please remember that possibilities issue suddenly. Resisting evil by itself brings the new possibilities." The articles written against the Banner of Peace are so petty that one can only be surprised that people can produce such thoughts. I am a little puzzled as regards the League of Nations: why should one be so interested in the opinion and support of such an organisation? It seems that the movement of cultural unification and the development of a true understanding of spiritual achievement in art among the younger generations is so extremely essential that there

is absolutely no necessity to wait on the approval of such unspontaneous, artificially-created organisations as the League of Nations. Each far-seeing government should notice in the Pact and Banner of Peace just the very movement towards protection, order and constructiveness. Therefore, whether or not the League approves the Banner, this should by no means influence the establishment of the great Banner of Culture.

Could it be possible that the women's organisations in America will remain indifferent and will not support the League of Culture? I do hope that we are not exaggerating their spiritual receptivity. Long before the first Conference in Bruges, I learned about the real value of many modern organisations, and I understood how much one must work in order to awaken the consciousness of the masses to make them understand the true values and cultural creativeness. This can be achieved only by the persistant and systematic spreading of ideas, but not by convulsive bursts. Therefore, let us not be discouraged by the attitude of indifference shown by governments and certain civilised societies, but let us use all our efforts for destroying superficial thinking among the nearest collaborators, as well as for deepening their understanding of the pressing necessity to fulfill this idea.

"Thus My advice is once again to transform the Teaching into the daily necessity. My advice is to observe the extent to which one's surroundings will become successful. In small groups one should especially watch mutual thoughts in order not to burden and interrupt the current. Many teachings advise this simple discipline, but each book should give a reminder of it, because that which is most vital, most needed is not applied to life. And it is a great happiness for Us when We have as complete confidence in some one as in Ourselves. Thus powerful is the citadel of the open heart."

"Unceasingly and during all times, the Teaching of Life is poured upon the Earth. One cannot imagine earthly existence to onself without this link with the Invisible World. As the anchor of salvation, as the guiding light, the Teaching strengthens our

advance in the darkness. But amidst the shower of Benevolence, as with sea waves, one may notice the rhythm with special definite expansions, then the Teachings appear. Thus, one may explain the rhythm of this entire world by the growth and submergence, all together inscribing the evolution of existence."

"Interruption of rhythm is due to many conditions, but the essential means of avoiding this perturbation is in unity, to direct oneself to Us, where there is the decision of all. In comparison - as the grain of dust arrests a tremendous wheel, so the breaking of rhythm interrupts the current. Whereas just now is the date of the great tension. Thus the possibilities are so near, the events already gather as a rolling ball and the terror will appear as salvation."

Let us not break the salutary current!

Letter No. 28 21.10.31.

The last mail brought us the description of a most characteristic conversation. What an illustration of feeble-mindedness and decay! What can one do if the official representatives of various organisations fail to comprehend the significance of education, and for them the word "culture" is synonymous with everything they despise - what they call "abstract ideas", or else they associate it with something that may interfere with their beloved habits!

Yes, it would be out of place to mention to such people the names of Pavlov, Bechterev, Abel, Millican, Rutherford, Einstein, Jagadis, Bose or Tagore.

The words of Lord Buddha that "ignorance is the greatest crime, because it brings all miseries to humanity" should be, by now, assimilated by the consciousness of people. Until the leaders of the countries possess brilliant intellects and especially a spiritual synthesis, which helps to embrace all the planes of existence, there will be no real progress. But as there is no such thing as immobility in nature, all ignorant humans must retrogress, followed by the usual degeneration and decay. Are we not already witnessing such facts? Some outstanding scientists have already pointed out the threatening signs of such degeneration, which is demonstrated in increased numbers of psychic diseases and feeble-mindedness amongst the younger generation. And many people begin to wonder whether such sad abnormalities are not due to wrong education and upbringing. Generally speaking, modern education is lacking a cultural basis, which should include, first of all, a development of the abilities of man in synthesis. Onsided specialisation always leads to a loss of balance and results in the psychic diseases which we observe today.

Can it be that we shall not fear mockery and shall boldly march to victory under the Banner of Culture! But always keep in mind that you are taking part in a most responsible preparatory stage, which requires the manifestation of a refined intuition and close attentiveness, so that not a single detail, either useful

or harmful, shall escape the vigilant eye. It is also necessary to show the maximum amount of tact in dealing with people. Remember that hidden enemies are far more dangerous than open ones! The firmest steps can slip in this mire.

Let us apply patience as well, because without patience nothing can be achieved. Verily, very often people give up a brilliant commencement only because of lack of patience. They forget that all great tasks are accompanied by difficulties, but by shunning those difficulties, they condemn themselves to a fatiguing and endlessly reiterative course. One cannot skip over the following steps without mastering the first ones; certainly, we can run swiftly through all the steps by great striving. Even so, however, our feet should touch each step. The degree of striving will determine the amount of time spent on each step. Therefore, with all our strength, let us prepare ourselves for a new and higher step, remembering that our time is limited. You must know that our patience is supported by our knowledge: we know that there is a crowning step. We also know that our wait will not be too long. But preparatory stages require the maximum sharp-sightedness, carefulness and tact. Make all possible speed, and fly on the wings of the great epoch of the Equilibrium of the Dual Origins, and of the broadest co-operation and Culture, based on Spiritual Knowledge.

The eyes of the heart will not miss anything, but will sense and will direct. Blaze like a torch; kindle everything with purifying flames; illumine the right direction! Unify your hearts in this wonderful action, in this spiritual aspiration. Try to resound to all calls, all strengthening of thought, all the fluids of the heart's energy, all that strives towards you in a fiery motion and is ready to bring you help!

By unified efforts, let us raise the heaviest Burden. The raising of this Burden is only difficult at the beginning; when once it is raised from the Earth, it will become lighter than a feather.

Let us not forget that the main success of the dark ones is in their methods of creating disunity: they succeed when the co-workers fail to realise the seriousness of the moment, and when they neglect and put aside urgent matters. We must remember that irritability and touchiness are the easiest channels through which everything dark can approach.

"You understand quite correctly that the attack in its final form will result in nothing but benefit; however, you must learn to wait till the flower of satan has blossomed. The battle is intense; you must apply all your carefulness. Watch your health; do not weaken it by irritabilityL Hold tightly to the silver cord and purify your thoughts!"

N.K. is finishing his "Introduction" to Spinoza and Goethe. It is wonderfully written, and it should be translated in such a manner that the beauty of the original is not lost. When we read the description of Spinoza's life, we can see once more how necessary were all the attacks and slanders against him, and how they have strengthened and made clear his image in the consciousness of the following generations. Yes, in this stage of our evolution, unfortunately, all sorts of Judases and all the dark forces of ignorant resistance are absolutely unavoidable. But do not these very forces of darkness give us the possibility of tensifying all our forces and our alertness and to broaden our opportunities for action? Are they not the ones who spread information about us and in such a manner that they attract the attention of valuable people? At first, such people may approach merely from curiosity, or even indignation, but later their breadth of mind will enable them to realise the true value of things, and they will become our friends. There are many friends who are temporarily masked as enemies. Such metamorphoses are not so rare in life.

Let straight-knowledge be especially developed in these days. Let nothing valuable be neglected. One must remember that often the most insignificant trifle may turn out to be a strong weapon against the enemy. How many beautiful and ready to hand formulae

are in your armoury! Learn how to use them so that you can disarm your adversaries! Talk effectively; consider the mentality of your interlocutor and always base your speech on positive facts, of which you have a considerable amount! The trouble is that we do not always assess events in the right proportion, and often a certain detail or fact, not very striking but of great significance, we do not take into consideration at all. It is necessary to remember that everything that is being formed alongside the constructive work for the Hierarchy has the profoundest significance, and if today it is as yet not evident, tomorrow everybody may exclaim about it. Who knows the ways of evolution? Who can predict how chaos may end? Who knows what forces will be raised? Therefore, act boldly but with discernment and complete confidence in the Hierarchy of Light! Let all the co-workers stand the battle till its end. Difficult will be the fight, but there will be continuous help if, for your part, you show constant determination, and you will go through everything triumphantly. Only one condition is absolutely essential; complete confidence, to the very end, to the very bottom of despair. The invincible tacts of Tacita Adversa will lead the enemies to madness, and as a result all hostile aggression will be vanquished, by the very reason of its evident madness. So remember this when the evil and ugliness accumulates and reaches its maximum; then you can pierce through its centre with "just one arrow". Remember also that only by the contrasting of light with darkness comes the possibility of creation. All cosmic laws are reflected and reproduced in human life. Thus, courageously and carefully bear a little longer the burden of these times, and help will come to you in due course.

Furthermore, please make sure that publicity regarding us is not presented in a flowery and artificial manner, but is based on real facts. When talking about the personality of N.K., it is very important to point out how N.K. gives to everyone who comes into contact with him a creative stimulus and how he demands the highest quality of work. Point out his wonderful ability to get the best out of everyone, and what powerful results are achieved

by such guidance! How he teaches to draw benefit from every circumstance by concentration on the positive aspects! N.K. is not only a benevolent prophet who calls for pure thinking, abstinence and all-forgiveness, as some people would like to see him, but he is a true leader and active constructor because he knows the battle of life and he arms his co-workers for participation in this battle. He is a destroyer of everything dark and ignorant. Sometimes, it seems that his wisdom and foresight are endless, and his near ones can confirm how he has predicted events which later come to pass and were witnessed by many. Has he not also, so often, pointed out the right direction humanity should choose in order to avoid misery.

The main condition for salvation is his call for the unity of the whole cultural world, of educating the young people in a new understanding of creative thought and broad collaboration based on great Culture, the Cult of Ur, the Cult of Light. Much could be utilised for the better understanding of N.K's personality by reading his "Introductions" to Spinoza and Goethe. N.K. is the same "Sun-carrier" as Goethe in the interpretation of him by N.K. Can you sense all the power, the invisible power of this man, who builds life full of sunlight? The sun of his life burns up all that is dark, malicious and destructive. So one can collect many strong and beautiful facts. But it is better to avoid comparisons. Let every great spirit stand in his own power and in the beauty of his own achievements. We really are not the ones who should compare. Every great spirit fulfills his own task and every individual manifestation is beautiful in its inimitability. Long ago, it was said: "How can we compare the light of distant stars?" This formula is applicable in many cases.

Letter No. 29 8. 11. 31

I received your sweet and sincere letter and I want to tell you that I was especially touched by the feeling of joy which you experienced on your approach to the Teaching. The degree of this joy is, in fact, the true measurement of our readiness to assimilate the foundations of the Teachings of Light. Preserve this joy and gratitude throughout all the grey days of life, because this is the quickest way to broaden your consciousness and is this not the aim of the Teaching?

Judging by what I know about you from the letters of close co-workers, I feel that you will not remain on the first steps after the Call, but that you will find enough courage to follow the very difficult path which may be before you. When reading the books of the Teaching, please apply everything that is said there, first of all to yourself. Many are reading the Teaching but mostly people think that what is written there is meant for someone else but not for them! But a true disciple will apply everything first of all to himself. And really, who can be sure that he or she has not certain good or bad qualities just as yet in their embryo state? But if we apply everything first of all to ourselves, we shall be able to penetrate into the depths of our nature and we shall find such things which may be very surprising to us. These unexpected discoveries, provided we are firmly prepared to follow the path of self-perfection revealed by the Teaching, will be most helpful in our further advancement.

It is absolutely necessary to realise that the disciple must demonstrate complete confidence even if something is not clear to him. With the further broadening of his consciousness, everything will become clear. My favourite formula is: a complete confidence to the very end. Accept it - this is the shortest way! By following this path, joy will come to you!

I can also tell you that if one seriously devotes himself to the service of Light, one is never alone spiritually. In all moments of your life, learn to remember that you are watched continuously by the Eagle Eye and the Flaming Heart of the One Who called you! Our gross body and the insufficient refinement of our

senses are the only obstacles which prevent us from realizing His Presence. But if you have already had the beautiful experience about which you wrote to me, it is a good sign: it means that such experiences may increase. But be patient, as really "You know neither the day nor the hour" - a profound truth is in these words. The aim of the Teacher is not to weaken our organism, but to harden it for the highest receptivity, which requires extreme care. Joy, gratitude and confidence are the best aids.

Love and help others to love!

And thus, I greet you on the Path of Light and send all the joy of my heart to the dear new co-worker.

Letter No. 30. 12. 31.

In this difficult moment of your life, my heart sends you all the firmness and striving of my spirit. You know that the hour of a Great Battle has struck. Many prophecies and revelations have been given at various times in all Teachings. The great Armageddon started at the end of the year thirty one, opening with the Great Battle for which the Teacher was preparing you. We must understand the proportions of this Battle which takes place on all planes or worlds. We must understand the rigour of our time and that the heavenly battle is followed by the earthly one. Therefore, let us not be surprised by the accumulation of events. So much has been said about the Heavenly Forces, about the Arch Stratagist Michael, and the manifestation of a promised Guide, and all the disturbances. Therefore, I say: caution!

We are already not just on the outer fringe of the battle, but are marching in the van. Therefore, while carrying the Banner entrusted to us, let us hold close to the leading Hierarch. Remember this as the hostile projectiles are bursting only in the midst of the last ranks, as was shown in the wonderful vision of the victorious army, led by the Leader. Let not your hearts tremble under the heavy aggression of the dark ones, as the nearness of the Great Heart will give you the necessary strength of resistance. Let us manifest intrepid kingliness of spirit. Let us inscribe a valiant page, a great deed into the history of our lives! Let it not be said of us: Verily the Great Battle is hardly yet mentioned before someone already expresses weariness. What will such a one say when he sees the numerous host of the enemy?

In this connection, I shall mention several prophecies regarding this Great Battle: "With each Yuga a considerable time is necessary as a preparatory period, but there must be acceleration which unusually tenses all the forces. The greatest and final Battle should not be understood just as a military war. The manifestation of this Battle is far deeper. It will pass through all the earth as well as the subtle world; it will be expressed not

only in outer conflicts but also in unprecedented collissions of the races. The boundaries between the combatants will be as refractious as between good and evil. Many decisive combats will appear incomprehensible to the earthly eye. Fearful collisions of the subtle world will be reflected as catastrophes in earthly life. Even so, the earthly courage will be reflected in the subtle and fiery worlds. The Great Battle will be the first link in the unification of the worlds. Thus, swift actions can be expected from all directions. Collaboration has a tremendous significance in this Battle. Already, the star of the burning heart brings great help. Even if this help is not always to be seen, it nevertheless exists, just as the influence of a writer exists regardless whether he knows his readers or not. Exactly the same takes place in the collaboration between the two worlds. During the days of this Battle a great tension is required. It does not mean that one should give up other duties and work, but during each task, one should mentally dedicate his efforts to the Light. Even so, each hostile arrow should be considered as a blow in the name of the Great Battle. I would like the present time to be the turning point in your life. What was possible yesterday, may not be possible tomorrow. Even so, courage unthinkable yesterday may be attained tomorrow. The Battle on Earth will be as terrible as it is in subtle worlds. The world is broken into numerous factions. Only complete striving towards Us will save you. Of course, the least little sign of disorder and hostility among you will be painful for me; remember this. Thus, I confirm the development of our work in spite of the unheard attacks! But in this Battle there is no reconciliation. We shall note the disturbance in Europe; we shall witness many treacheries, but the Battle will solve the problems of the world. We also should realise that Light is invincible. The manifestation of darkness is a sign of ignorance. Again I repeat: tomorrow we shall awaken entirely renewed. In the subtle world collisions are taking place because of the dead hearts. You will shortly see the results of these actions on the earth; everywhere there will be incoherence. The

fall of countries, epidemics and poor harvests will also be manifested and the world will split into new divisions.

Thus all forces are at variance with each other; the situation of the world is terrible and it is important to be firm until the new circumstances contribute their help. Everyone should be firm.

"Besides the fact that the dark forces are active in all countries and are influencing their allies in various classes, some of ours are weak because of their narrowness. It is absolutely necessary to maintain the positions until we prepare the new circumstances. This present period is unavoidable, but one must accept it as a path towards the future. However, great care must be taken . . . "

Letter No. 31 5. 5. 32

You experience a terrible time and you should make a great effort in order to maintain internal unity. Verily, only unity of heart can overthrow the enemy; he can never penetrate this armour! And all hostile attacks will be warded off by the bountiful energy which emanates from hearts that are unified. This not an abstraction, but a great scientific truth. Let us not be light-minded and ignorant. You know already from the books of the Teaching what a terrible, destructive whirl results from human irritation and disharmony, and how the most negative forces, including disease, are attracted from Space by this whirlpool.

Is it possible that one of us, because of the shameful weakness of his will, would allow ruin to overthrow the successfulness of the work? This would involve himself in misfortune, and he would realise it only after the opening of the eyes of his heart. Unity now is the order of the battle and there cannot be complete victory without the précise fulfilment of this essential order. It is most beneficial to re-read the indications, as they are given not just for a particular day, and it is good to have them always in mind. Last year, for example, the significance of the Banner for the Defence of the Treasures of Art in Times of War was constantly emphasised, so that the idea could finally be assimilated. Let us remind those who doubt, how the Red Cross was started, what difficulties this movement had to go through in dealing with ignorant officials, through whose hands this highly humane project had to pass. Really, sometimes one could think that the human conscience is going backwards and not forwards.

I beg you with all my heart: remember about unity. My heart is concerned about every one of you. I would like so much to releive the hardship of the present time, but such periods are absolutely necessary. Let us apply our most vigorous efforts in helping each other as much as possible. Let the very difficulties beautify and uplift our deeds which are meant for the general welfare.

My courageous fighters, remember about unification!

I sign this letter: "Woodpecker"!

Letter No. 32 23. 6. 32

Just as we must be able to give to everybody who comes to us everything that can be assimilated by him, even so we must be able to receive from everyone what he can offer for the general work. Do not drive away the new-comers!

Do not be afraid of extreme tension; only tensed strings can sound melodiously. And we know that by cosmic law, energies can be transmuted and forms can be refined only in extreme tension. This law sets two fundamental rules for all the Teachings: first, that for spiritual perfectionment the disciple must use all his strength, within certain limits, so that the Teacher can guard against injury of health; secondly, every particle of conscious psychic energy is most precious, and therefore the Great Teacher can give it out only in cases where all earthly possibilities and effects are exhausted. These two rules explain the fact why the help comes at the last moment, in time of despair. But what an awful number of feeble souls are unable to endure to this limit, and thus they condemn themselves to descent and then to a perpetually repeated burdensome ascent! There are many such Sisyphuses, rolling down with their stones of cowardice and doubt!

All perplexities and seeming contradictions are caused by the difficulty for the undeveloped consciousness to comprise the antitheses. But unless one realizes this, one cannot advance in spiritual life. The comprising of antitheses for the majority of people is the most difficult thing, but every spiritual Teaching considers this the most essential. For instance, a complete indifference to fame, but at the same time the ability of self-expression; renunciation of possessions, but at the same time, life in the midst of possessions. Complete freedom from worldly desires, but at the same time profound interest in the earthly work. All these antitheses should be harmonised in the consciousness of a disciple. The main thing to comprehend is that all renunciation is first of all achieved in Spirit. Remember how Buddha used to admonish one of his disciples for possessiveness who had sacrificed all his possessions; at the same time, He permitted another to

retain all his property. Why? Because one of them, in spite of outer surrender, was in thought constantly preoccupied with them, while the other, although still remaining in possession was unattached to them. There are so many people who appear indifferent to their possessions, yet in their thoughts they are constantly coverting more. And so many so-called unassuming people, who "would not even think of any publicity", in their inner selves are hoping that they will be noticed. And what about those who fast and who are yet longing for the renounced food! And also those who are hoping to be doubly compensated for their labour and sacrifices! Poor, self-deluded prisoners! Who can explain to them that their efforts are useless, and will never bring them joyous liberation, but will rather harden their hearts . . . Spiritual liberation is achieved not by force but by the realisation of the heart. A person who is free from all worldly attachments will not talk about them because his renunciation will be natural, simple and taken for granted. This "taken for granted" attitude is the most important achievement, because if there is left even the slightest regret, longing or condemnation (of others), all the efforts will be fruitless. The disciples should not struggle against their lower nature by torturing themselves but rather by the development of their hearts and by the breadth of wisdom which they should acquire from the Teachings of the New Life.

Of course, mostly, all condemnations come from people who themselves suffer from these attachments. These are the Pharisees, who expect great reward for their smoking candles! And if the reward were sent to them they would fail to appreciate it. Would they not treat it like the cock who found a pearl!

Even so, those who do not accept the Hierarchy should be reminded that according to all laws, physical and spiritual, there is no action or work which can be developed without a focus. Each country has its focus in a government, each political party has its representative, every firm, every establishment has its manager. Every energy should be focused in order to be manifested. Cosmos is built wholly on these focuses, bonds, links, ties - call them what you will! Point out to those of limited understanding the chapter

about Sacrifice in the book "Leaves of M's Garden". Renunciation is so joyous! But the reverse concept is verily dreadful. The Burden of the World, the Chalice of Redemption, thus do we name the various orders on the path of great responsibility and Light. And these extreme burdens are placed only upon those who understand spiritually the idea of liberation. It seems to me that further explanations are unnecessary.

Do not forget your cultural and international contacts! If we ourselves do not cultivate them, who will do it for us?! The time will come when things will be regularised, but now we have to continuously struggle and work. The proportions of the cultural tasks should be always in your minds. And please do not ignore the small details! They might seem little to you, but you can never tell how significant they may be! Remember that even the smallest flies can spread deadly infection! Always think of proportions. Only great thought can cover up all the contrivances of our enemies.

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Letter No. 33 7. 7. 32

Let the disciples firmly realise what terrible results are brought about by neglect of the wise adgice of the Teacher. Neither should they doubt or be disappointed if the fulfilment of the advice does not bring good results immediately. We should always remember that sometimes we have no idea what result the Teacher has in mind. Often it is something entirely opposite to our expectations! Sometimes the Teacher wants to throw a bridge across an abyss, and we can never tell where is the person, thing, thought or word, which can be used as a bridge! A careful fulfilment of the command - that is all that is expected of us; the significance and the result of the applied indication will be revealed in time.

Here is the first part of the paragraph 278 from the book "Agni Yoga":

"Often the Teacher finds himself in a very difficult relation with his pupil. The pupil promises to follow all the commands of the Teacher, but no sooner is one received, than immediately reasons are found to alter. Similar difficulty, the Teacher experiences, when He is blamed for inaction. Imagine to yourself the position of an archer when he is strained for his shot and behind him someone cries, 'Why does he not shoot?'

"Small children, even without perceiving the reason, obey the guiding hand. But adults attempt to add to the prepared reaction something fit to their mood. One may compare it to those who, visited by fire, neglect irreplaceable manuscripts, but save their cherished bedding.

"Whence comes this disreprect of the Command? Also from mistrust. It is incomprehensible how readily the gifts of the Teacher are accepted and how neglected are His best Commands. How many premeditated transmissions were rejected, how many effectual actions disrupted, because of lightmindedness! With one hand reverence is rendered. And the other scatters the pearls into the precipice, forgetting that permeating space by personal emissions is an infection of space; forgetting that the chosen Guide, through

his experience, will not demean his pupil. Then how must one value co-operation, firm in trust!

"When you yourself will become teachers insist on the immediate execution of a command. Do not give commands often. They become customary. But if the work demands it, give a concise command. Let it be known that a command is irrevocable. One must follow more simply, uniting self-labour with co-operation. The distortion of a command is like a train which has been derailed."

Letter No. 34 6. 10. 32

I am sending you the first pages of the book called "Fiery World", with the hope that that inexhaustible source of Wisdom will continually nourish your hearts. Take from this book all the power, all the protection, all the possibilities, as all this, and much more, is in this Treasury, which comes from the Eternal Source.

When reading about the great creative fire - the life giver - let us try to awaken in ourselves the fire which warms our hearts. Let us be like the ancient priests who, once the fire was kindled had to guard it even under the threat of death. In this guarding of the fire was a great symbol, as the extinguishing of the flame of the spirit results in the death of the soul. The fire of heart will protect us from delaying or distorting things, as well as from being frightened by anybody or anything, as it will enlighten our consciousness by awakening the fiery straight-knowledge. As it is said, "Let us be like those who are waiting for the great Arrival, and whose hearts are dedicated to the service of humanity. We shall not allow weakness or negativeness to enter our hearts, as these failings will turn the tongues of the flame against us." Let us, therefore, not be frightened by the battle for the culture of spirit and for the rights of existence, as it is only through spiritual values that the world is sustained. Let this call to the battle not confuse you. Those who remain static are a thousand times more in danger than those who strive. Of course, striving should be in your thoughts and in your hearts, rather than in your feet! And remember that on the great path it is better to be slandered than to go against the decision of the Forces of Light. Indeed, we should become accustomed to being slandered, as no fiery path exists without these flowers of Evil.

This concerns all the friends who are doubtful and uncertain and who do not understand from whence so many attacks come. Let us remind the bigots and hypocrites about the Teaching as well as the destiny of the Great Teacher whom, they ceaselessly continue to crucify.

The great burden is accepted voluntarily only by the fiery heart. Let us be these fiery hearts: let us accept the burden which will liberate us. And while those who did not accept the whole burden will have to return for the part left behind, we shall, with all the joy of our heart, fulfil the next coming task. Let nobody be so low as to allow himself to count his contributions or so-called sacrifices. This would be equal to the cutting of the path. All real contributions and sacrifices are weighed on the innermost scales of conscience which exist in everyone.

If we are calculating our contributions (even if it be in the depths of our secretive minds) we deprive ourselves of the privilege of giving something for the benefit of the world. The fire of such sacrifice will spread over the earth like the fire of sacrifice brought by the Biblical Cain. So vital are all the ancient symbols. The forces of Light value sacrifices made with joy as only such are productive and victorious. The book of sacrifice should be carried in our hearts.

Do not forget that the qualities of sacrifice are manifold. That is what we should remind those, who, from the very beginning of their approach to the Teaching, expect an immediate reward for their supposed sacrifices. Let them read the second part of the "Leaves of the M's Garden" page 99, paragraph 15 - "You already have the teaching about sacrifice. Sacrifice is Power. Power is Possibility. Therefore every sacrifice is first of all a possibility."

"It is time to drop the hyprocrisy which pictures sacrifice as loss. We do not regard it as a loss but as a gain in possibility . . ."

"Let us see what kind of possibilities are born from so-called sacrifices. Where is the true sacrifice which can weaken us? Our Treasury contains many sacrifices and every one was of value to the one who made it. We should not speak of sacrifices as losses since a sacrifice is the most beneficial act."

"Small shopkeepers love to bewail their expenses and to

pretend that they are the losers. But true merchants regard every expense as an investment. The loss is not in expenditure but in extortion!"

"Christ advised us to give away spiritual wealth. But as the keys to this wealth are too far away, people altered this advice and decided that they should give away their stolen wealth. First to plunder and then to give away, and to admire their own kindness . . . As if the Teacher had in mind their chairs and their old fur-coats when He spoke about giving! Subtle is the wealth meant by the Teacher. Only spiritual giving can turn the scales.

"Let us consider the group of co-workers - did not someone lose something? No, everyone gained. Is it not a gain to become a lord of the new kingdom? Therefore, wealthy is the kingdome which can afford to discard part of its goods without considering it a loss. Verily, its power increases, and such deeds are recorded in the book of gratitude.

"I advise merchants to have substitutes for all positions. In big enterprises, business is built on business, not on persons. And who dares to say that he has given something? We shall open our account books and shall prove the exact amount that everyone has received. Therefore it is not so easy to sacrifice, considering sacrifice as a possibility; and possibility is a benefit; and a benefit is an intelligent collaboration; and collaboration is the Alatir - the stone which can either give life or take it. But self-denial may open the gates of understanding and the pitiful sacrifice of unnecessary things will be akin to selfishness."

Letter No. 35 12. 10. 32

I was so happy to learn of that unification which you wrote about in your last letter. But it seems that even broader and more complete unification is needed, as I was asked to write to you that "the great unification is required. If the road is broad you need not push each other. It must not be forgotten that even a tiny stone can hit very hard. The battle against the darkest forces must evoke the most noble thinking. May we be pure and cautious."

Of course, the broadened mentality obliges us to be twice as careful of our thoughts and actions, first of all towards each other and the people who come into closest contact with us. Remember that thousands of eyes are watching us with great attention, and let us not deceive ourselves. This attention arises chiefly out of the desire to find our weak spot for their destructive purposes. It is most important that all the co-workers respect each other and do not belittle each other in front of employees and strangers. Little things, trifles like sharp words, sly smiles, etc. destroy the respect of other people. By no means should you allow strangers to lose their respect through hearing unkind suggestions. Respect, once destroyed, cannot be re-established, and it can be destroyed so easily by the most ordinary things such as unsuitable expressions. More than once, it has been said, "Even in jest you should not tease or criticise each other. It is time to realise the harm that small flies can do. The sting of a small fly can poison the whole organism. You must remember that the enemy tries to enter not through the door but through the smallest crack." Quarrelling with each other is not just a crack but a wide open door!

In dangerous attacks of the dark forces, even the slightest hint of condemnation is fatal. Imagine how many useful people may be driven away. It is said, "Useful people may be sent to you, but you should know how to keep them." Imagine the position of people who have heard about your cultural activities and, after

meeting you, have found out that you do not differ at all from other people! How will such a discovery affect their attitude towards you and your work? Think, too, about those who approach you through the books of the Teaching - what disappointment they will feel when they find that you do not practise the fundamentals of the Teaching! Think of your great responsibility! I shall not enlarge on the diversity of this responsibility, as it should be clear to all who have the seven books of the Teaching. But you must think about it more often, as well as about all the results of spiritual deafness and neglect.

Your life will become such a joyful fairy tale if only you are able to accept the daily High Guidance, and your own responsibility! So much joy if you accept the responsibility with all your heart and if your fairy tale is not covered with the dust of the commonplace. You must be able to remove the dust and look objectively at everything which is happening around you and your work.

Let us perfect ourselves, let us watch ourselves and, especially, let us enlighten with the fire of our hearts all the indications of the Teaching, and let us be closely united in the hour of danger. Only to a superficial mind does this demand remain an abstract ethical idea inapplicable to practical life, but a serious co-worker and particularly a disciple, will concentrate on this idea with all the fire of his heart because he should know that unification is the basis and strength of the whole work. Therefore, unification should be your first duty in all your steps. More than ever, all the societies should complement each other. Our first duty is to guard and advance the plan of all our cultural activities. Therefore, everyone should learn not to limit himself within his particular work and section but, most impersonally and wisely, should see which work of other disciples is especially urgent and therefore requires help, and which work may be temporarily put aside. Onesideness is not permissible among the disciples. We know the great plan of our work and such broad creativeness cannot be limited to two societies or to one country.

Letter No. 36 10. 11. 32

Lately, I have been greatly depressed, as I feel that the foundation is decaying. Could it be possible that the hearts of some co-workers have hardened so much and their consciousness darkened so that they do not see the abyss into which they are about to fall? Will they not realise the terrible danger of our time and stop serving the dark forces? Was it not said that "every bad word, every disagreement is already an encouragement to the darkness. The dreadful knife is not in your pocket but, verily, on the tip of your tongue. Some time you will have to realise that a word and a thought cannot be erased. Everyone who thinks of the general welfare may rejoice and vice-versa. The tastes of the dark ones are not to our liking."

For your own sake, consider what has been said and endlessly repeated. Only by our united efforts can we reach the goal. It is hard to think how many wonderful possibilities have vanished because of hidden discordance! What can be built on the aura of irritability, offence and unfriendliness? The idea of the magnet has been thoroughly discussed. We cannot make ignorance our excuse. From the very first day, the necessity of harmony was emphasised but, it seems, all in vain. But the most terrible thing is that the sense of honesty has been lost and each is ready to blame the other, forgetting that his inner soul is an open book to the Gurn. It is time to be ashamed of our childishness and to understand that when not following the advice, we behave no better than trators. Forgive the use of this word, but my heart suffers when I see what kind of difficulties you so obstinately continue to create on your path. Try to imagine what will become of you if the Teaching ceases to lead you? Where will you go? Which way will you turn? Who will hear you and help you in your misery? Who will point the way out of the difficult situation? The threatening time, the dreadful time is coming for all of us. And just think that you were the ones who were permitted to work for the salvation of

so much and so many! Is this the way to do it?! Is this the way to justify the confidence of the One who called you?!

I want you to feel all my pain, all my longing to see you working in complete harmony, in realisation of the tremendous responsibility of your work. What is the best way to make you understand it? How to strengthen in you this understanding? I hate to threaten, but how can I help warning you, when I see someone is falling into the abyss and pulling the others down. How to hold him back?

Some time ago, I thought that the endless calls for unification would be properly understood. I was hoping you would understand that friendliness is important, not when your authority is accepted and when your vanity is satisfied, but rather when you have to give in, in many things, for the sake of successful collaboration.

Heartfelt words are being written, but you should show friendliness and attentiveness in action - words are like running water. In my dreams I saw one of you as a faithful Standard-Bearer of the name of Our Gurn. I dreamt that the words of a Chosen One would be full of magnetic power and beauty. From the time when it was indicated that the New Society should be established, seven years have passed - a long time and a significant one in every respect. During this time, the complete spiritual change of an inner man could take place if the real aspiration was applied. It was precisely told in what lines this word should be spoken, what connections should be made. But if we look back, we must admit that the inner man was not ready. If in the first few years there were various obstacles, in 1926 there were many new possibilities. But the old not-outlived habits asserted themselves. I still do not lose hope that your hearts will kindle again and that you will express yourselves in fiery beautiful deeds. The achievements can be so great!

It is so sad to write accusing letters instead of sharing the joyful news of the successful work of other co-workers.

It is hearbreaking to know that most precious energy is spent on negative, corrective work, that all the warnings were useless and that all this is happening at a terrible time when the dark forces are at their strongest and most aggressive! At such a time when you should have developed maximum energy and inner stability for preserving all your achievements. In great distress, I beg you to help me: find the courage for patience and peace-making . . . "Blessed are the Peace-makers . . ."

Try at least to relieve my worry and grief a little. It might have been my own fault. Who knows - perhaps I could not unite you sufficiently, could not impress upon you the love to a Great Heart, the striving to selfless action. Perhaps I failed to show you by personal example how to apply the Teaching in your everyday life, and above all, I failed to kindle your hearts with the fire of self-perfection and tremendous responsibility. You cannot approach the Teaching and the Service without being responsible for all your actions.

Please do help me in my own responsibility for you all! My heart sends a call to each of you. Help!

Letter No. 37 17. 11. 32

It is hard to express my grief. Again I see that the inner decay continues its dreadful course. I see that the consciousness of some co-workers does not grow, and the treasures of the Teaching are accepted as empty words. Verily, it is the inner unsoundness which is so fatal. "You can win all actions, you can meet new friends, but this inner decay may drive away your best friend. When there is a lot of pepper in the air, people start sneezing. In the same way, imperil can spread. Many times you have seen how new circumstances arose, but one has to understand how to meet them. Therefore you should understand at last infec how infectious is imperil. You cannot treat decay carelessly. This process is as contagious as leprosy. There is either strengthening or decay - no third condition is possible."

Who would choose decay for himself? Now all events are happening with such fantastic speed that it is impossible to remain on the first steps. It is said, "We cannot suggest strengthening by force. Neither can we save from leprosy by force, nor can we hold back from imperil. Friendliness cannot be achieved by force. You cannot rudely compel the heart to grow, but the beautiful garden will grow only through beautiful deeds. Slandering of the Hierarchy is irreparable." Knowing this law, I feel desperate that I cannot help anything, as what can I do if even the words of the Gurn are not accepted? How can I expect that the desire of my heart, intense and passionate as it is, will reach your hardened souls, your clouded consciousness?! It is dreadful to think that some of you will remain utterly alone; that the greatest privilege of the approach towards Light is given up for the sake of disgusting selfishness, this eternal enemy of Light. And to think that this comes after twelve years of discipleship! Apart from personal destruction, inner disharmony may result in the destruction of the whole work. The terrible danger is that instead of concentrating on the most essential - on our cultural construction which holds us all together - we

shall become accustomed to concentrating on trivial matters, disagreements, offences, envy. How can we guard all our positions? How can we expect to be successful? v Will not friends run away from us if they sense the polluted atmosphere?

I regret that I have to quote another sad page: "It is necessary to learn not to waste labour. Obstructed minds neglect the principal matters. Observe how the two letters which you received are lacking in sense. I do not blame the writers so much as those who caused the obstruction. Such neglect of the most important things is fatal. A person who confuses his brother is sinful. He will not make his own life happy either; dark will be his life, as his consciousness is distracted by the non-essential. To discern what is essential and to concentrate on it means to be on the path of victory. But to lose the path means to become a burden to those near to you. The connection between the most important and the least essential should be the experience which everybody must precisely hold in his consciousness. Nobody has a right to pierce the heart or to cause headache at the expense of the irreplaceable treasures! People do not consider irreplaceable what they do not notice.

To those who are full of doubt and are lacking in steadfastness, I suggest writing down from the books of the Teaching everything that is said about doubt, instability and suspicion. Nowadays, there is an especially large number of those real servants of darkness. It is very useful to have at hand the specification of all these hateful vices and to re-read about them often.

Although a merely formal unification is not very high, it is better than nothing. The animal nature of a man is a combination of habits; therefore, by watching oneself, it is possible to create certain good habits. Finally, you will kindly a little flame in your hearts and then this long torturing process of practising good habits may, ein one moment of illumination, become a joyous part of your enlightened consciousness.

And once more I ask you to be honest with your own selves. Lying to oneself is the most terrible sin. It injures the consciousness and leads to so-called death of the spirit . .

Letter No. 38 10. 12. 32

What must I write about? About the same old thing, about the great unification as the only salvation. In the meantime, everything has already been said, all reasons already stated, but the consequences of dis-unification are still present. Now to one of you is given the order to repeat all the time the Indications of the Teacher. I do not lose hope that from now on all the advices and indications will be written down and will be re-read with much love, much care, so that they will not be forgotten or distorted.

Turn a new page in your lives and begin to fill it up with beautiful deeds of tolerance, understanding, generosity! It is said, "There is no sense in stirring dust." All this digging in the dust of yesterday will not leat to anything, and it will infect your eyes and nose. Will you please abandon it as it is beneath your dignity. So much time will be saved for productive work, which is now more necessary than ever. So little time is left for the strengthening of our foundations and magnetising our deeds. Strengthening of the foundation is our first duty if we care for the promised success! Let no trivial thoughts and suspicions stop your victorious movement! With your hearts you should feel that there is nothing personal in my requests, but only my care for the beautiful plan! The indications should be accepted with your hearts. You must concentrate on them with all your determination; only then will come complete understanding which will simplify many things.

It is not right to overburden the Forces which carry on everything. It is hard to believe that the Eastern concept of and reverence for the Teacher is dead in the West. Try to understand what it means to overburden the Forces of Light and what price you yourselves pay for it.

"Those will come who extinguish, who slander and violate, they who, verily, are the darkest souls. Baseness once started, cannot be stopped. But the wise will not look back as they know

that the fire is endless when it is kindled. No wonder that I insist on repeating the indications of the Teacher. The mere repetition could strengthen the foundation. It is not right to dig in dust. It is not right to turn back when crossing the path on the edge of an abyss. I remind you that the main foundation is one anchor for all.

So father in the name of salvation, with simplicity. If we are able to count all the stars, if we are able to measure all the unseen depths, we will still not be able to improve the present time. With all the courage of our hearts, we must realise the terror of darkness which approaches when the fires are dying down. Many think that unification is an old, unnecessary concept. They consider that individuality is better preserved by separatism - such is the logic of darkness. But during dangerous epidemics, one sometimes thinks of simple remedies and finds salvation through them. Unification is this simple remedy; manifestly it defeats the darkness. Thus, let the sword pierce the dragon without delay."

"I can only advise you to remember the Indications. The times are complicated, and the thread should not be lost. Therefore, I ask you to remind them about the exact fulfilment of the Indications."

I trust that the clouds which darken your sight will vanish and that you will understand with your heart and your mind what is the result of dis-unification. Let us not dondemn anybody or anything, but with all honesty let us examine ourselves and eradicate all that retards our progress.

Letter No. 39 29. 12. 32

The Battle of Armageddon cannot be a straightforwardly victorious march because Great Forces are involved in it on both sides. The victory of the Light Forces, however, is evident, as they go together with the Cosmic Magnet. The latter attracts the greatest powers, against which, of course, the dark ones are helpless. The element of pure Fire burns them. But we must have patience. The battle is started by the dark ones because in their fury they try to destroy as much as they can before their days are over. From them, and from their best collaborators - the tepid and neutral ones - come all the terrors of revolutions, all the violence; they try to create a complete spiritual impoverishment and thus complete disorder. The heavy currents of Saturn and of other unfavourable combinations of the planets are especially helpful to them. At the moment, all the Forces of Light are directed on the regulation of the elements which are disturbed by the dark forces. Nobody can imagine how much divine energy is now being spent on just controlling the underground fire! The dark ones try everything possible to kill what is light and pure. That is why unification is so necessary. As it is said, "Notice the inexplicable attacks, which depress the whole planet. It is not accidental that the tireless Rays are sent for defence. Serious dangers are already avoided."

During the last week, there were prophecies in our valley about the great earthquake which was supposed to start on the 22nd December, to continue three days and ruin our whole valley. But on the 21st, suddenly a great snowfall took place, and the temperature dropped. This continued until the 27th December. We were told, "Pay attention to the people's prophecies, which very often correctly forecast the cosmic events." But of course, you cannot rely on them completely. We can confirm that the deadly danger is avoided. You know how many currents were used. Besides, the meteoric snow formed the ice vapours. It is quite understandable that you are feeling tension and indisposition. So the dark ones

did not succeed, but you helped by not disturbing our currents by being harmoniously united. It is essential to understand how even indirect resistance to the Rays is dangerous. To say nothing of real arguments and quarrelling which may paralyse the valuable currents. Many other horrible things are threatened by the satanists. Tightly hold our Hand. I speak to whom it may concern."

"So observe how alike in their action are paralysis and dis-unification. Paralysis does not come immediately after wrong actions. Paralysis requires a long cure, but often is incurable. Therefore, I demand unification. Be above all kinds of moods and recollections. I demand unification, otherwise I refuse to heal. Unification must be firm. Do not permit of mere hypocrisy - the times are much too dangerous. Who among the co-workers can say when and by whom the paralysis was caused? Where is that spot, that aura, i.e., that combination which caused the paralysis, and therefore the power of the salutary rays was paralysed? Who knows how much time will be required to cure the aura which cut the contact with the Hierarchy by its irritability? Meanwhile the enemy does not lose time and uses the black fire which, of course, is so easily assimilated by irritability. The black fire is nothing else than irritability, so beloved by the dark ones. At the moment, conditions for them are favourable. Therefore tremendous caution is required. Remember that where the Ray is accepted it is stronger than any shield. Therefore, the satanists are looking for the weak spots, so that they can pierce through these cracks. They do not care where and through whom and in what part of the world they look for these holes. They will use all opportunities, thinking that my Rays cannot fill up the whole world. They use the most fantastic masks in order to deceive our watchfulness. You are right, the satanists are spread all over the world. We know the traitors and we also know that only unification can defend us and lead us to victory. True, the right circumstances will come, but we must live up to them."

"I would like to concentrate all the energy on many outer events. Therefore, your unification is essential, so that the chalice may be sound. Unification is always good, but in certain cosmic circumstances, it is particularly necessary. Imagine that somebody is pushing the raised, brim-full chalice?! What fire may start from the spilled fiery drops! When I was warning about the time when the finest fulfilment of the Indications will be required, I meant this particular time. You can well imagine that I am accumulating the energy, so do not let out your scorpion!"

I hope that this loving and threatening warning will create the right impression and someone will be sorry if not for others and for the work, then at least for himself.

Please do find courage, and defeat the main inner enemy - dis-unification. Everybody patronises this enemy, but if instead, you would struggle with it, you would become victorious. Let us tell ourselves that hypocrisy is impossible among the co-workers and let us practise tolerance and friendliness, which is really not so difficult if the heart burns with striving towards our Teacher. But everybody, <u>without exception</u>, should do it. Let each co-worker first of all apply all that has just been said to himself, not discard it as something which concerns his neighbour and not himself. Frequently, the one who really should pay attention selfishly blames everything on to his neighbour. But the wise and true disciple will first of all apply everything to himself, and not to others, as otherwise how can he perfect himself? Also, once and for all, let us drive away all offences and consider them as real poison. Touchiness must not reach the disciple, as otherwise he is far from progress. Long ago, it was said, "There is not much honour in planting the garden of hard feelings." And also, "A person who feels himself offended attaches himself to the offence and loses mobility of thinking, and if we lose mobility we inevitably become dull. In everything we should have a sense of proportion, knowing the great scale of

our work! Where will be the place for offences? Four bases, which were given in the beginning of the Teaching, should always be in your memory." I shall remind you of them: 1. Reverence for the Hierarchy. 2. Unification. 3. Proportion. 4. Great Tolerance. Therefore, let us not look back to a dark corner, where all the bad habits are stored. They only deprive us of joy. With all our hearts let us strive to the light-giving teacher, who so tirelessly sends us His rays of joy and loving care. Let us open our hearts to accept this Benevolence.

Do not embarrass (by your dis-unification) new-comers and those who have already become part of your body. It is so harmful to you, to your deeds and to them. We can foresee the farm in this and are deeply grieved. The new-comers should be inspired and not confused by your absurdities. I suffer seeing that we, who proclaim the principles of unification, are practising dis-unification. How can we construct and unify this way?! Only personal example inspires and develops.

I believe that you will apply all your diligence to sympathetic, tolerant collaboration. I know that it is difficult, but so much more wonderful will be your achievements.