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New York City

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My dear Maurice Lichtmann -

As an adult student, where I am hardly a "kindergartner", perhaps you can explain to me the devious thoughts and the mystifying ways of the occultists. Here, for instance, is the unresponsiveness of Catherine Campbell and Mrs. Lichtmann - both of whom you must know better, as you certainly know them longer, than I - and me. To both of them, successively, I sent a simple inquiry regarding Agni Yoga Publications: why I have not (for such an extended period) been summoned to a meeting, and why (without consultation with me, as a member of the committee) the properties of the Agni Yoga S. were removed from headquarters - and where.

Neither of these hitherto very active fellow members of the committee has deigned to answer my inquiry! Perhaps, such action - or inaction - is deemed a proper expression of an occultist ideal unfamiliar to me. Somehow, I have always taken for granted that ideality and spirituality go hand in hand. Even an approach to the occult would seem (to an unsophisticated person like me) to involve such standards of conduct as Honesty, Integrity, Kindness, Courtesy - certainly at least the normal decencies of life. Surely, it is no tribute to any teacher or leader, to whom one may be devoted - if one allows such devotion to become the motive or justification for hostility, or hatefulness, or even mere ungraciousness, towards those who do not share your viewpoint.

To be perfectly frank and personal, I can differ from another, radically, and can even be engaged in virulent dispute or contentious litigation - and yet remain dispassionate and objective (certainly courteous) in personal relations. Is a similar decency too difficult for those who choose to concentrate their loyalty upon one who himself has chosen to be disloyal to a Cause greater than any of us? Are avowed - or professed - occultism and obvious ethics incompatible? Silence - as an "answer" - is only a confession of guilt.

With all good wishes - I remain

Sincerely yours,

Charles Fleischer