

Damodar

The Writings of a Hindu Chela

Compiled by Sven Eek

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Those whom we desire to know us will find us at the very frontiers. Those who have set against themselves the Chohans . . . — would not find us were they to go [to] L'hasa with an army. — The Master K. H.

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Preface

This volume is not a history of the early days of the Theosophical Society. No attempt has been made to produce a highly documented and exhaustive record, but by a careful selection of valuable material from the archives of the Theosophical Society (Point Loma), and from the magazine, *The Theosophist*, as well as from other sources, the aim has been to recreate for the reader the atmosphere of zeal and of devotion to the Masters and the T. S. which inspired the whole life of one of the outstanding characters in the early days of the Theosophical Society, Damodar K. Mavalankar. Unimportant matters, such as official notes and formal reports which contain nothing of permanent interest, though signed by Damodar, have been omitted.

No doubt many Theosophists have entertained the thought of compiling the writings of Damodar, but as far as we know, this is the only book of its kind that is at present available. It was some years ago that consideration was first given to the preparation of a book on Damodar, but it was not until this summer of 1940 that the Literary Executive Committee felt that our Press could undertake this additional work, the compilation of which has been done by Mr. Sven Eek, Manager of the Publications Department of Theosophical University Press.

Particular help was given to the Editorial Board by Professor C. J. Ryan, who has contributed the valuable Biographical Notes. Professor Ryan is well known to Theosophists as the author of *H. P. Blavatsky and the Theosophical Movement* and of innumerable articles in Theosophical periodicals during more than forty years.

The material for this present volume has been taken from original sources, and is literally transcribed with the exception of obvious typographical errors which have been corrected. In certain instances

such corrections appear in square brackets for the sake of absolute clarity. The Editors of this book are responsible only for those footnotes enclosed in square brackets and signed EDS.

Acknowledgment is due to A. Trevor Barker, Editor of *The Mahatma Letters to A. P. Sinnett* and *The Letters of H. P. Blavatsky to A. P. Sinnett*, for permission to include extracts from these two books. — THE EDITORS

*International Theosophical Headquarters,
Point Loma, California.*

September 6, 1940.

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Part I

Biographical Notes

[As the title of this chapter shows, no attempt is here made to present either a highly documented and detailed Biography of Damodar, or a critical study of his literary output. The facts of his life as here stated are all derived from authoritative sources. — EDS.]

"Took *bhat* [rice] in the morning, and proceeded from Kabi alone, sending back my things with the coolies to Darjiling."

These were the last words written by Damodar K. Mavalankar that have been made public. They were penned in a small pocket diary which was sent back to his friends as he set out on the last lap from Darjiling in British India on his pilgrimage to the lands beyond the giant crests of Kanchanjunga which tower 28,000 feet into the blue. Shigatse, the seat of the Tashi Lama, is twenty-five days march from Darjiling, and it was toward this goal that Damodar went in company with a party sent to meet him. We learn from Colonel H. S. Olcott that Damodar's record:

since joining H. P. B. and myself at Bombay is one of unbroken energy and unfaltering zeal in the cause of humanity. A nobler heart never beat in a human breast, and his departure was one of the hardest blows we ever received. As above remarked, he had almost broken down his constitution by incessant official work, and when leaving Adyar had begun to spit blood and show signs of a rapid decline. Yet, with undaunted courage, he undertook the hard journey across the Himalayas, indifferent to the biting cold, the drifted snow, the lack of shelter and food, intent upon reaching the Guru whom he had first seen in his youth when lying on a sick-bed, of whom he had lost sight for many years, but whom he had recovered soon after joining the

Theosophical Society, as his spiritual faculties developed and he was able to seek him in the *suksma sarira*. What made him so devotedly attached and unswervingly loyal to H. P. B. was the discovery that this Guru was one of the Adepts behind our movement, the intimate associate of "Upasika," as he always subsequently called H. P. B. From the chief coolie of his escort I [Colonel Olcott] got particulars about him of great interest. . . . Damodar would not keep any more clothes than the ascetic costume he was wearing, nor any of the rice, meal, pulse, or other dry provisions with which his friends had supplied him. The most he would do was to let the chief coolie bake him a dozen *chapaties*, or unleavened pancakes. The last that was seen of him by the coolies was when, with face turned towards the Tibetan frontier, he trudged painfully on and disappeared behind a turning of the road. — *Old Diary Leaves*, Vol. III, pp. 265-6

Without further explanation this description in Col. Olcott's *Old Diary Leaves* of Damodar's departure for the mysterious land of Tibet might leave the casual reader puzzled and wondering why anyone should wish to abandon relatives, friends, and the duties incumbent upon every responsible man, for a goal which promised little that the world holds dear. The old monastic idea of shutting oneself away from the world in order to pursue a life of devotion and spiritual exercises has lost its appeal in the West, and it would be no exaggeration to include a large portion of the East as well. But the case of Damodar throws a different light on the subject.

Damodar K. Mavalankar must have become a 'chela' or pledged disciple of one of the great Oriental Mahatmans or Masters of Wisdom very early in life, and it is clear that this was not the first incarnation in which he had stepped on the Path of Enlightenment. H. P. Blavatsky says:

Damodar was ready from his last birth to enter the highest PATH and suspected it. He had long been waiting for the

expected permission to go to Tibet before the expiration of the 7 years; . . . — *The Theosophist*, August, 1932, pp. 623-4

In Dr. G. de Purucker's *Occult Glossary* we read:

The chela-life, or chela-path, is a beautiful one, full of joy to its very end; but also it calls forth and needs everything noble and high in the learner or disciple himself or herself; for the powers or faculties of the Higher Self must be brought into activity in order to attain and to hold those summits of intellectual and spiritual grandeur where our Masters themselves live. For that, Masterhood, is the end of discipleship; . . . The more mystical meanings attached to this term "Chela" can be given only to those who have irrevocably pledged themselves to the esoteric life — to Esotericism and its School.

Damodar's significance in the Theosophical Movement lies largely in the fact that he became a high exemplar of the Theosophical life in spite of extraordinary difficulties, and that almost alone among hundreds of other earnest aspirants was he found qualified to proceed to the Tibetan mountain-home of the Founders of the Theosophical Society, the Mahatmans Koot Hoomi and Morya. These members of the Great Lodge of spiritual Adepts, one a Brahman from Kashmir, the other a Rajput, decided to launch the Theosophical Movement at a critical period when the sands of spiritual life were running low in the West, and when even the ancient home of Aryavarta showed signs of degeneration and decay. The glorious age of the Vedas, when inspired lawgivers stirred the souls of the people of India and a truly mystic civilization was in flower, was gone, seemingly for ever; and a caste-ridden people held in thrall by rigid forms and superstitious fancies needed a new impetus, a new inspiration, to re-create their lives. But the main purpose of the Theosophical Movement was to reawaken the spiritual intuitions and to promote the idea of universal brotherhood in the progressive nations of the West, where the need was great in that materialistic period. But the Orient was not overlooked, and Damodar, a patriotic Hindu, as well as a natural-born occultist and Theosophist

found in *Isis Unveiled*, H. P. Blavatsky's first book, a glorious picture of ancient India which filled his breast with a longing to lead his countrymen to a worthier mode of living so as to restore Aryavarta to its one-time splendor. After reading *Isis* he discovered the Theosophical Society and immediately became an active member.

Damodar belonged to a wealthy family of the Karhada Maharashtra Brahman caste. On August 3, 1879, he joined the Society at Bombay; several of his relatives, including his father and his uncle, also became members.

Little is known of his early life, but since the age of seven he had felt an urge to give himself to a life of devotion, and once, when he was brought near to death by fever, he had a vision of his future Teacher, the Master Koot Hoomi. This Master assured him that he would not die but would live to do a much needed work in the world. As already mentioned, Damodar afterwards recognised in one of H. P. Blavatsky's Adept Teachers the wonderful man who had awakened his inner vision when a child, and this for ever sealed his devotion to the cause of Theosophy. In H. P. Blavatsky he found one who was closely in touch with the Master in whom he trusted, and an older and more experienced chela than himself. He never wavered in his obedience to her.

Damodar joined the Theosophical Society nearly six months after H. P. Blavatsky's arrival in India in February, 1879, and he was soon ready to serve on her journal, *The Theosophist*, which was established in October, 1879. According to Brahmanical customs, he had to get his father's permission to live at the Theosophical Headquarters and to adopt the mode of life of a Sannyasin — one who abandons worldly bonds and attractions in the service of the spiritual nature. This he was allowed to do, but he went farther and abandoned his caste,* no trifling matter, as can be realized by reading an article that appeared in *The Theosophist*, and which is included in this volume (see "Castes In India," chapter II). According to the Hindu custom he had been betrothed in his childhood, of course without his consent, and the time

had arrived when he was expected to assume the responsibilities of married life. This would have seriously interfered with the realization of his hope of preparing under his Master in Tibet for self-mastery (the chela discipline) which must be undergone by those who aspire to become saviors of humanity. The higher degrees require a complete self-dedication. His father, a man of generous feelings, sympathized with Damodar's aspirations and consented to the abandoning of the marriage obligations, a proceeding recognised in India as perfectly honorable in the case of a Sannyasin. Damodar assigned his share of the ancestral estate to his family under the understanding that his wife should be properly cared for. She fully agreed to this arrangement and took up her residence in her father-in-law's home.

*The Mahatman Morya, referring to difficulties facing certain Hindu Theosophists, wrote: ". . . unless a man is prepared to become a thorough theosophist *i. e.* to do as D. Mavalankar did, — give up entirely caste, his old superstitions and show himself a true reformer . . . he will remain simply a member of the Society with no hope whatever of ever hearing from us." — *The Mahatma Letters to A. P. Sinnett*, p. 462

Unfortunately, however, when Damodar, along with H. P. Blavatsky and Col. Olcott, was formally received into the Buddhist communion during their tour in Ceylon in 1880, his orthodox Hindu relatives were greatly disturbed and they demanded that he return to his caste. As he absolutely refused, they left the Theosophical Society and became its open enemies. Of course, neither H. P. Blavatsky, Olcott nor Damodar accepted the notion that sectarian Buddhism was the only true religion. Their action was chiefly an outer expression of kindly support to the Buddhists in Ceylon who were struggling to preserve their national faith, as well as a demonstration that Theosophists believe that every religion contains the same spiritual teaching, more or less hidden by the obscuring veils of dogma. Col. Olcott wrote his highly successful *Buddhist Catechism* soon after this Ceylon journey, and through his efforts the Buddhists in that island were given complete protection by the British Government. Damodar was very busy during the tour with

his duties as Assistant Recording Secretary in connection with the new Branches and other activities that were being started, but at the same time his occult development was being assisted by the Masters as we learn from 'A Hindu Chela's Diary' and four letters to W. Q. Judge dated Jan. 24, 1880, and June 14, 21, and 28, 1881, printed in this volume. The few occult experiences he was permitted to mention in those letters are exceedingly interesting as they throw a vivid light on the method by which an accepted chela may receive personal instruction and spiritual benefits from the Masters even while he is working hard at the ordinary duties of everyday life.

It will be seen by the letter to W. Q. Judge, in January, 1880, that even then valuable opportunities for learning had been provided for the young aspirant. He had already entered upon the intensive spiritual discipline prescribed for chelas of his degree who have to live in the outer world. He observed some simple rules of diet and meditation, but above all he proved his sincerity and love for humanity by tireless work for Theosophy. He threw up a Government appointment and other interests to labor literally from dawn to midnight for the Cause, in his official capacity as Assistant Recording Secretary of the Theosophical Society and in many other ways, especially in helping H. P. Blavatsky to get out *The Theosophist* under the greatest difficulties. For the magazine he wrote many book reviews, 'open letters,' long and thoughtful comments on letters from contributors, reports of activities, and, of course, original articles. For some time before he left for Tibet he held the responsible place of Manager. The Master Koot Hoomi said he was "indispensably necessary at Headquarters" and that for his unselfish labor and devotion he was receiving their help, "silent though it be." In regard to the difficulties in producing *The Theosophist* with such a small staff, H. P. Blavatsky wrote to A. P. Sinnett, her friend and the editor of an important and flourishing Anglo-Indian journal, in reply to some criticism he made:

Do you forget that you are addressing two European beggars with two Hindu other beggars to help them in the management and not the rich *Pioneer* with lakhs behind it? I would like to see

you undertake the management and editing of *Phoenix* with two pence in your pocket; with a host of enemies around; no friends to help you; yourself — the editor, manager, clerk, and even *peon* very often, with a poor half-broken down Damodar to help you alone for three years, one who was a boy right from the school bench, having no idea of business any more than I have, and Olcott always — 7 months in the year — away! . . . please remember that while you in the midst of all your arduous labours as the editor of the *Pioneer* used to leave your work regularly at 4 after beginning it at 10 a.m. — and went away either to lawn tennis or a drive, Olcott and I begin ours at five in the morning with candle light, and end it sometimes at 2 a.m. We have no time for lawn tennis as you had, and clubs and theatres and social intercourse. We have no time hardly to eat and drink. — *The Letters of H. P. Blavatsky to A. P. Sinnett*, p. 57

It must not be forgotten that Damodar had a very fragile physical body and suffered from chronic ill health, but he never let up on that account. The spirit of unselfish devotion that inspired him brought about a rapid spiritual and even psychic unfolding. His intellect was already well developed as is seen by his writings. Without forcing, occult powers began to appear quite naturally as they should in such cases, according to Theosophy. He soon became able to transmit astral messages on his Master's business and even to take astral journeys at will when called upon in the line of duty. He was occasionally instructed to heal the sick, and at such times he was endowed with the necessary 'magnetism.' Some of the communications from the Mahatmans, published in *The Mahatma Letters to A. P. Sinnett*, in 1923, were transmitted through Damodar.

The ignorant and prejudiced critics who denied H. P. Blavatsky's ability to transmit or 'precipitate' letters, etc., from the Masters by occult methods because the proceedings were not conducted under what they called 'test conditions' such as they would dictate to a paid medium, were utterly unaware of the special conditions necessary before an 'astral mail service' could be inaugurated or sustained. Harmonious

surroundings were the first requisite, and a unified 'magnetism' in the auras of transmitter and receiver had to exist. The process bears some resemblance to radio transmission, but the likeness must not be pushed too far; it is, however, equally 'scientific.'

Damodar, like H. P. Blavatsky, possessed a 'magnetic' aura congenitally sympathetic with that of the Masters, and so he could be employed as a focus of energy for astral transmission, but such phenomenal activities cannot be forced when disharmony prevails. The periods of stress and bitter controversy in India seriously interfered with them, and so far as India was concerned they ceased when H. P. Blavatsky and Damodar left the country in 1885.

Col. Olcott relates several striking instances of Damodar's awakening powers, but, probably owing to his weak health, he was rarely employed to produce the so-called 'phenomena.' We quote in part two interesting accounts of his activities on the inner planes in November, 1883, during his tour with Olcott and others in Northern India when his occult powers were rapidly developing. According to Col. Olcott:

... Damodar gave me another proof of his acquired power of travelling in the astral "double." He went to Adyar, conversed with H. P. B., heard the voice of a Master speak a message to me, and asked H. P. B. to telegraph me the substance of it so as to satisfy me of his veracity in these matters. On reporting the facts to me, he dictated the message as he heard it, and all present in my room signed a certificate as to the facts. The next morning the expected telegram from H. P. B. was delivered to me by the postman, this being the rule in India as to the class of "Deferred" messages. The despatch corroborated Damodar's dictated and certificated message, and again the witnesses who were present signed their names on the back of the Government despatch. — *Old Diary Leaves*, Vol. III, pp. 29-30

Here is the other case. Olcott writes:

On putting his body to sleep as usual, he made a dash for the

home of the Master among the Himalayas, but found, on arriving, that he too was away in the astral body; and, by the power of his attraction for his pupil, the latter was swept away as powerfully and instantaneously as though he had ventured into a deep and impetuous river current and been carried off his footing. The next minute Damodar found himself at Adyar, in the presence of both his Master and H. P. B. On going to sleep he had held Mr. Ward's letter in his hand, and it had, it seems, gone along with him on the astral plane — itself, of course, changed from ponderable into astral, or etheric, matter. On telling the Master about the letter, he perceived it in his hand, gave it over to him, and was bidden to return to his place. By the radical power of the occult chemistry or physics, the astralized letter was restored to its solid state, taken by H. P. B., and the next day duly posted to my Aligarh address; the sequel is known. — *Op. cit.*, p. 31

Col. Olcott describes another astral visit by Damodar to H. P. Blavatsky which took place a week or so later in the train on the way to Lahore, and before long while Damodar and Olcott were in Lahore they both had the privilege of meeting and conversing with the Mahatman Koot Hoomi in his *physical* body. W. T. Brown also saw him.

The time was approaching when Damodar's period of probation, considerably shortened because of his rapid advance, would end, and he would be allowed to begin his training in Tibet. On November 25, 1883, shortly after the meeting with the Mahatman at Lahore, and when Olcott and Damodar were spending a few days at Jammu in Kashmir, as guests of the Maharaja, the Masters called Damodar to one of their forest retreats (asramas) which was not far away. Damodar instantly departed without notifying Olcott, who was alarmed by his disappearance until H. P. Blavatsky telegraphed from Adyar that the Master told her he would return. In less than three days he came back, a changed man, "seemingly robust, tough, and wiry, bold and energetic in manner: we could scarcely realize that he was the same person," writes Olcott.

Damodar's experience at the Master's asrama was evidently a preparation for his journey to Tibet, which has already been mentioned, but before he could be granted this inestimable opportunity he had to be tested in a new and quite unexpected way in connection with the disgraceful attacks on the Theosophical Society by Mme. Coulomb.

After Damodar's visit to the Master's asrama near Jammu, mentioned above, he returned to Adyar and took up his arduous duties again. H. P. Blavatsky and Col. Olcott departed for Europe on February 20, 1884, and stayed away till December. During this time the Headquarters was left in charge of a Council which contained many discordant elements, and in a few months the Indian section was in the midst of the turmoil of the 'Coulomb affair,' details of which first reached Olcott when he was in Germany with H. P. Blavatsky in September, 1884, through a letter from the ever faithful Damodar. Owing to the opposition Damodar had to meet from more or less disaffected members and owing to the complications of the Coulomb trouble, his health broke down again.

It would be out of place to consider the Coulomb-Hodgson case here except in so far as it concerns Damodar. Mme. Coulomb charged him with supporting in public the claim that the Mahatmans are real persons, living men, while privately not believing it; and that he had conspired with her to deceive the members of the Society and the public in this matter. Of course there was no basis for this preposterous accusation, and the absurdity of her case was exposed when the illogical and self-contradictory nature of its contents was revealed. For example, she admitted that she and her husband tried to deceive *Damodar himself* by methods that would have been utterly useless and unreasonable if they really thought that he disbelieved in the Masters! (For information on this subject see *H. P. Blavatsky and the Theosophical Movement* by C. J. Ryan; or *Defence of H. P. Blavatsky*, and *The New Universe* by Beatrice Hastings.)

In view of this Hindu Chela's intense devotion to the Master Koot

Hoomi, the glorious ideal of his childhood vision, and the great help he had received from him and the other Mahatmans, Mme. Coulomb's charges are so ridiculous that an apology for mentioning them is almost called for! The purity of Damodar's life, the flavor of his writings, his sacrifice of all the world holds dear — family, wealth, high social position, country, etc.— to work indefatigably for Theosophy (in which the existence of Mahatmans is an indispensable factor) make the charges actually grotesque.

When the names and personalities of the Mahatmans Morya and Koot Hoomi began to be disrespectfully treated by the Coulombs and other enemies of the Theosophical Movement, Damodar and the other chelas suffered far more acutely than from the personal charges against themselves. They found that the affair was very difficult to handle, not from any lack of evidence but for a reason not easily appreciated outside India or certain other Oriental countries. According to the unwritten code of the Indian Occult Schools the honored names of the *Gurus* or spiritual Teachers are never dragged into any kind of controversy; in fact, few if any true chelas will mention the name or dwelling place of the Master to outsiders, or even admit their connection with a Guru.* Therefore, when the prospect arose of having to give evidence concerning the existence of such Teachers, statements which might break this immemorial and wise tradition, the situation became critical and tragical. Handicapped by this difficulty the defence was naturally weakened, and through the excessive zeal of Damodar and others in protecting their trust from profanation, as they regarded it, serious errors of judgment were committed. These are referred to by H. P. Blavatsky in Letter L, quoted in Chapter VI of this volume where she says that the Master was seriously displeased by the mistaken methods of Damodar and other chelas in handling the case.

*H. P. Blavatsky says that "as in the case of Subba Row (the well known writer, a learned chela of the Mahatman M.) they will sooner die than speak of their Masters." It may be asked: How could H. P. Blavatsky, a high chela, or Damodar, speak of the Masters and give out information hitherto preserved with great secrecy, without

breaking the rules? She explained that at this critical period in human history the Masters had decided that it was time to open the door a little wider, and therefore she was given authority to reveal certain matters that were formerly forbidden. But far more, of course, is reserved until mankind is ready, mentally and morally, to understand it and to employ it wisely.

In June, 1886, about a year after Damodar had reached Tibet and affairs were settling down again at Adyar, the Master K. H. wrote to Col. Olcott giving him the reason why Damodar had suffered so deeply. He says:

The poor boy has had his *fall*. Before he could stand in the presence of the "Masters" he had to undergo the severest trials that a neophyte ever passed through, to atone for the many questionable doings in which he had over-zealously taken part, bringing disgrace upon the sacred science and its adepts. The mental and physical suffering was too much for his weak frame, which has been quite prostrated, but he will recover in course of time. This ought to be a warning to you all. You have believed "not wisely but too well." . . . — *Did H. P. Blavatsky Forge The Mahatma Letters?* by C. Jinarajadasa

H. P. Blavatsky knew of this, for she wrote, shortly after he reached Tibet: "The poor boy . . . has no happy times now since he is on probation and this is terrible."

Damodar's errors, however, did not arise from wrong or selfish motives — quite the reverse, but his Master well knew that even the most promising candidates for initiation must take the consequences of their acts, wise or foolish, just like anyone else. Before the Coulomb troubles the Master had spoken of the misunderstandings that Damodar aroused by his excessive zeal, but for all that he was found worthy of the high training of the Tibetan Mystery School, a rare distinction.

H. P. Blavatsky and Col. Olcott had the greatest respect and affection for

him, and the high estimation in which the Masters held him is proved by a remark in a letter from Olcott to Miss Francesca Arundale dated February 9, 1885. He says Damodar is starting for Tibet and that the Master has arranged that if H. P. Blavatsky, who was very ill, should die *before Ddamodar returned to take her place as the link between the Masters and the Society*, he, Olcott, would have to fill the gap for the time being. Modestly he adds, "These are His orders, but I should be a sorry substitute." Olcott said that he loved Damodar as a son, and he was terribly missed by both H. P. Blavatsky and Olcott when he was called to Tibet.

William Q. Judge corresponded frequently with Damodar and thought highly of him. In one letter to Damodar he writes: "And as to having made greater progress than you, I think I have some positive knowledge on that point. At one time I *may* have been further than you, but not now." Judge was inclined to think him "too humble" in contrast to some of his critics who considered him too plain-speaking!

On March 31, 1885, H. P. Blavatsky sailed for Europe in order to write her great work, *The Secret Doctrine*, in relative peace. Damodar left Adyar on February 23 on the first stage of his longed-for journey to the Mystery School of his Master in Tibet. He stayed, on his way, at Calcutta, Benares, Darjiling, and Sikkim. At Benares he had long talks with the woman ascetic, Maji, a highly respected friend and almost, we might say, colleague, of H. P. Blavatsky. She is mentioned in one or more of Damodar's letters. Damodar had to wait at Benares for about a fortnight until the decision came that he was to start immediately for Sikkim, where he would meet the distinguished personage under whose protection he was to travel to the 'Forbidden Land.' On April 23, 1885, they began the perilous crossing of the Himalayas.

For a considerable time no news was received from Damodar, and many thought that he had not survived the hardships of the journey. Olcott writes to Miss F. Arundale on July 8, 1885, that in the absence of authentic information rumors had arrived that he had perished, but Olcott is certain that this is false. H. P. Blavatsky had good reason to

believe he was alive. He had told her that he would arrange so that no one would search for him, and it would appear certain that he was lost. She gave him a few things to throw away on his journey as if he were overcome by fatigue. His object was to give no further cause, so far as he was concerned, for any discussion about the Masters whose names had been so desecrated.

From time to time, during H. P. Blavatsky's stay at Wurzburg in 1885-6, the Masters and some of their chelas would visit her in the astral. Countess Wachtmeister, herself a remarkable clairvoyant, also saw them. On January 4-6, 1886, H. P. Blavatsky wrote to A. P. Sinnett, "I saw Damodar last night. . . . About the same time she wrote to Dr. Franz Hartmann that she knew Damodar was alive and probably in Tibet at that moment. Evidently thinking of the persecution she was still enduring and of her longing to go "Home," she cried to Sinnett, "Happy Damodar! He went to the land of Bliss, to Tibet and must now be far away in the regions of our Masters." Maji reported, from statements made by pilgrims returning from Tibet, that Damodar was there, and in *The Theosophist*, July, 1886, Supplement, a notice was issued, signed by H. S. Olcott and T. Subba Row, that news had arrived as recently as June 7 that Damodar was safely "under the guardianship of the friends he had sought" but that his return would probably be uncertain for a long time to come.

Another very interesting reference which settles the matter occurs in a letter from H. P. Blavatsky to her old friend Khan Bahadur N. D. Khandalavala, dated London, November, 1889, more than four years after Damodar's departure. She writes:

. . . Damodar *is not dead*, and Olcott knows it as well as I do. I had a letter from him not more than 3 months ago, and *his* opinion of his countrymen at the present juncture is a caution. . . . It is a *base falsehood* that he was driven away from Adyar. *I* was driven away, by the cowardice of those for whom I had risked my whole life, reputation and honour, and he was the only true, devoted friend I had in all India, the *only one* who

having the Masters' and my secret, knew the *whole* truth and therefore knew that whatever people thought being blinded by appearance I had never deceived anyone — though I was bound on my oath and pledge to conceal much from everyone, even Olcott. Damodar was ready from his last birth to enter the highest PATH and suspected it. . . . — *The Theosophist*, August, 1932, pp. 623-4

Among the host of members who have enrolled in the Theosophical Society since 1875, few have exemplified the true Theosophical life so well as Damodar, but he was also equipped with 'technical Theosophy' without which the highest ethics lack the philosophic and scientific foundation which answers the question of Why and Wherefore.

Damodar could express his ideas clearly in writing. His literary output was not large but it is valuable. It did not wander from the 'Original Lines' as laid down by the Masters, and therefore it is as 'modern' today as it was sixty or so years ago, for true Theosophy does not grow old. Damodar's range was wide, as the reader will find on perusing the contents of this volume. Of special interest are his lively but not exaggerated accounts of 'historical' events in which he took part, particularly those which reveal, within permitted bounds, his personal experiences with the Mahatmans. Having received a good training in English he wrote the language with ease, and if his style lacked polish in his earlier period it quickly improved, and when occasion required it eloquently proclaimed the intensity of his belief and trust in the saving message of Theosophy.

Damodar was only one of a group of Indian and Tibetan chelas who helped H. P. Blavatsky in India, but none of them worked so closely beside her, and with the exception of Damodar and Subba Row we know little of their personal lives. Damodar's story arouses a vivid impression of the early days of the Theosophical Society in India, permeated with the enthusiasm and devotion of the few sincere workers who carried the Movement safely over apparently unsurmountable obstacles, from attacks by open enemies, and from

the more dangerous onslaughts from within by the disappointed ambition, jealousy, cowardice and plain treachery for selfish ends of fairweather friends. Though the guidance of the Masters was naturally more apparent in the early days when the Society was in its infancy, the same inspiration has never failed throughout the sixty-five years of its checkered history, and today Theosophy, the Light from the East, is widely recognised as a powerful factor in the thought of the age. — C. J. RYAN

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Part II

Articles: Metaphysical and Occult

[This chapter contains the main body of Damodar's writings on metaphysical and occult subjects, written between the years 1880 and 1884. Very little of his appeared in *The Theosophist* in the ensuing months, before his departure to Tibet in February, 1885. The chronological order of publication has been preserved except where a secondary article continues a subject already under discussion. In such cases, articles bearing on the same subject are grouped together. — EDS.]

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The Swami of Akalkot

[From *The Theosophist*, January, 1880.]

A book entitled "Swami Charitra" (The life of Swami) has just been published in Marathi, in two parts, by one Narayan Hari Bhagvat. It contains the life of one of the most remarkable among modern Hindus, the Swami of Akalkot,

from the time he became known under the name of Digambar Bawa, in a town called Mangalvede near Akalkot. Nothing is known of this wonderful man before that time. Neither did any body dare question him about his antecedents. One named Babajipant, who was one of those who had lived with the Swami since the time his public career as an ascetic began, urged him once to give information about his name, native place, and family. Swami gave no direct answer, but simply said "Datta Nagar," and "Chief person" — "the Vata tree." No other attempt to elicit information was made. The reason that led the author to commence this biography is very astonishing. He says that one night he went to bed as usual, but could not sleep for a long time, being oppressed with various thoughts. In this frame of mind he at last fell asleep, but was startled by a most unexpected dream. He saw a Sannyasi approach his bed. This reverend man, unlike persons of his avocation, wore clothes, had kundala" [a sort of ring usually worn by the Sannyasis in the lower part of their ears] in his ears and carried with him a "dand" [a three or seven knotted bamboo of the wonder-working ascetics] and kam andalu [the gourd which Brahmacharies, Sannyasis and others use for holding water]. A man who accompanied him asked the author to get up and see the Swami. He seemed to obey and Swami then said: — "It is a well-known fact that I took Samadhi* at Akalkot. [*When a great Sadhu is dead, this phrase is usually used. Samadhi is the highest stage of Yog training, and when a Yogi is in that state he loses consciousness of this world and sees nothing but his own Divine Spirit.] Write my biography as will suit the present times, in accordance with my instructions. I now disappear." This seen, the author awoke, got up, and was at a great loss what to do, especially as he had never seen the Swami, and was consequently unable to obey the instructions conveyed to him in the dream. Neither had he ever felt any sincere desire to see the Swami during his lifetime. Unlike many, he had never regarded him as an incarnation of God. While in this state of mind he slept for the second time, and again in his dream saw the same person in the same dress and with the same marks about him, who said "get up, why are you thus puzzled? Begin writing and you will have the necessary materials." The author thereupon resolved to at least make the attempt, and wrote to all the persons who knew the Swami well, to supply as much information as they could. The facts mentioned in the book are therefore authenticated. They are moreover credible, because the author says he got many of these from persons he had never written to. Moreover it is not likely that a person

like Mr. Govind Vishnu Bhide, who is well informed and experienced, would talk at random without considering well upon the matter. He says that once when he went to see the Swami in fulfilment of a vow made by him, he had also a desire that Swami should advise him in regard to spiritual matters. No sooner did he stand before the Swami than the latter turned his face towards him, and repeated the following verse in Marathi:—

उपासनलो दृढ चालवावे ॥ सत्कर्मयांगी वय घालवावे ॥

भूदेवसंतोषि सदा लुचावे ॥ सर्वां मुखी मंगल बालवावे ॥

No less credible is the fact mentioned by Mr. Vishnu Chintamon Bhopatkar, Sheriff of the Sessions Court at Poona. Some ten years ago, when he served as Sheristedar of the District judge, his wife suffered from a very severe attack of fever. Every day the sickness increased and the doctors pronounced her incurable. He was therefore ready to try any remedy suggested to him. He saw a friend of his who advised him to make a vow that he would take his wife to the Swami of Akalkot, if she should improve, and in the meantime to keep her under the treatment of a native doctor named Gunesh Shastri Sakurdikar. He accordingly prayed to the Swami, and promised to offer a cocoanut to his idol on his behalf. But unfortunately he forgot his promise when he went to bed. And although this fact was known to nobody, his brother-in-law saw in a dream the Swami rebuking him for having forgotten his promise to offer a cocoanut on Swami's account. As he was not aware of the promise made by Mr. Bhopatkar, he was at a loss as to what his dream meant, and consequently communicated the fact to all the family, in great astonishment. When Mr. Bhopatkar heard this, he repented having forgotten his promise, but immediately after taking a bath he offered the cocoanut on Swami's account, and made a vow that if his wife was cured he would go with her in the month of January to Akalkot to see the Swami. Then he sent for the native doctor mentioned to him by his friend, but found that he had left for his Inam village and was not in Poona. But nevertheless, to the great surprise of Mr. Bhopatkar, it happened that while he was returning home from the office he met on his way the very native doctor whom he was searching for. He then took him home and the latter gladly undertook to treat Mr. Bhopatkar's wife. The medicine administered proved a success, and she went on improving gradually. And, although she was pretty well by the month of January, Mr. Bhopatkar did not think it advisable for her to travel as she was

still very weak, and consequently did not take her with him when he left Poona. But he had no sooner left Poona without her, than her sickness recurred so seriously that the next day he was telegraphed to return. Since she had been all right at the time of his departure the sudden receipt of this telegram made him suspect that all this was due to his not having fulfilled his vow to take his wife with him to Akalkot. He then invoked the Swami, asked his pardon, and promised to go with her to Akalkot in the month of July if she should recover. She at once began to mend so rapidly that by the time he reached home he found her all right. In the month of July, although she had recovered, she was in too feeble a state to face the cold of the season. He however resolved to abide by his vow this time, and accordingly went to Akalkot with his wife and the doctor under whose treatment she was. When they reached their place of destination it was raining very hard, and the place where they had put up was very damp. Her constitution however received no shock, but on the contrary she continued to improve. When they all went to the Swami he ordered a certain book to be brought him, and after finding a certain chapter gave it first to the doctor and then to Mr. Bhopatkar, thereby intimating without speaking a word, that their object in coming was gained.

There are many such facts as the above mentioned in the book, all going to confirm the Swami's claim to the knowledge of Yog Vidya. He was a practical example to show what a man *can* do, if he *will*. If anybody had taken advantage of the opportunity thus offered to him and gone to the Swami purely with the intention of studying philosophy, how much good might he not have done himself and his country! During the twenty years or more that the Swami was at Akalkot, no less than 500,000 persons must have gone to see him. But of this large number it would seem that scarcely any had within them an honest desire to study philosophy. Almost all were actuated merely by selfish worldly desires. If they had gone to him with a sincere aspiration to learn how to obtain control over bodily passions, he would have bestowed favours on them, of which no robber in the world could have deprived them. But they sought but these worldly enjoyments with which fools are satisfied. They had never given a moment's consideration to the thought of what their state would be after the death of their physical bodies. In the whole book under notice are given but two or three instances of persons who went to the Swami with a desire to obtain knowledge. The course which he adopted to fulfil the desires of such persons is very curious. One named Narsappa, an inhabitant of Mysore, had gone to Akalkot with a view to receive some

instructions on spiritual matters. He was at a great loss how to explain his intentions to the Swami, as he knew neither Marathi nor Hindustani. He however would regularly go and sit silently by the Sannyasi. Once while he was sitting near a Puranik, (A person who reads any of the 18 works of Puran and explains the meaning.) Swami made him a sign to approach and upon his obeying, Swami took a blank book that was lying by him, and, after turning many of its leaves, gave him a certain page to read. He there found, to his great astonishment and joy, an injunction printed in Kanarese characters, that he should read Bhagvat Gita if he would have his desires fulfilled. He then gladly communicated the fact to a Puranik friend and asked him to read the book to him. The Puranik approached the place where the Swami was sitting, and taking the blank book which had been placed in the hands of Narsappa, looked for the page on which Narsappa said he saw Kanarese characters. He also examined all the other books, as well as all the papers lying there, but nowhere could he find Kanarese characters. This fact is an illustration to show that this singular being communicated his instructions only to those who sincerely desired them.

The book teems with facts illustrative of the power obtained by a Yogi. There are very few persons in this country, who being in search of the ancient Aryan Philosophy, have obtained control over the bodily passions which trouble ordinary men beyond measure. Fewer still who like one now living in India, whom I dare not mention, are known. Almost all who have thoroughly studied or are studying that ennobling philosophy, keep themselves out of the public view in compliance with wise and inexorable rules. It is not through selfishness, as too many imagine. Though unseen, they none the less are continually working for the good of humanity. In thousands of cases what they effect is ascribed to Providence. And whenever they find anyone who, like themselves, has an ambition above the mere pleasures of this world, and is in search of that Vidya which alone can make man wise in this as well and [as] happy in the next, they stand ready by his side, take him up in their hands as soon as he shows his worthiness, and put in his way the opportunities to learn that philosophy, the study of which has made them masters of themselves, of nature's forces, and of this world. It is apparent that the Swami of Akalkot was one of such persons. A man peculiarly oracular and sparing of speech, and eccentric to a degree, he nevertheless did a world of good, and his life was crowded with marvels. Many facts might be quoted that would tend to show the great knowledge possessed by him, but the few

above related will suffice to introduce him to the reader, and to indicate his familiarity with the occult side of nature. While he was alive, very few learnt the Vidya from him; now that he is gone forever, his death is lamented, as is usually the case with the sons of India. Their eyes are at last opened to the injury they have inflicted upon themselves by neglecting a golden opportunity.

The account of his death given in the biography is pathetic, and worth repetition. On the last day of the first fortnight of the month of Chaitra [the first month of the Hindu year according to the Shalivan Era], in the year 1800 of the Shalivan Era, people suspected that the health of the Swami had begun to fail. While he was sleeping in the afternoon of that day, at the place of Tatyasaheb Subhedar he suddenly got up, and ordered a square earthen tile which was lying there to be placed on somebody's head. He then went to a tank outside the skirts of the town, followed by a large crowd, as well as by the person who had the earthen tile on his head, and seated himself on the steps of the tank. He afterwards ordered the man to place the earthen tile in water without injuring it, and asked the crowd to make a loud noise [according to the Hindu custom when anybody loses his nearest relation or one he dearly loves, he turns round the dead body and makes a loud noise by pressing his hand against his mouth; such a noise is here meant]. He then removed to the temple of Murlidhar in the evening until which time he was all right. But at about 9 in the night he had a severe attack of cold and fever. But without communicating the fact to anybody he got up early in the morning and went to the burning ground where he showed two or three funeral piles to some of his followers and asked them to remember them. He then directed his footsteps towards the village of Nagannhalli which is about two miles from where he was. And although it was past noon he had taken neither his bath nor meals, but nobody dared ask him to do anything. On his way he rested in a shed reserved for cows. His followers as usual began to prepare him a bed, when he said — "Henceforward I do not require any bed. Burn it on that tree opposite to me." This startled some of his followers, but they did not even suspect that the Swami thereby meant anything in regard to himself. The next day he returned to Akalkot and stopped under a Vata tree behind the palace of Karjalkar. And notwithstanding that he then suffered from fever, he carried on his conversation in his usual tone. Neither did he show any change in his actions. Shortly afterwards he had an attack of diarrhoea, and his appetite failed him. But he did not omit his customary

bath, and if any body raised objection to his doing so, on account of his sickness, he answered, "What will your father lose if I die?" He was cured of diarrhoea by Hanmantrao Ghorpade, the doctor of the dispensary at Akalkot, but continued to suffer from fever and shortly afterwards had paroxysm of coughing. He was then placed under the treatment of a native doctor named Nana Vaidya, all of whose attempts to cure him failed. If asked not to bathe or expose himself to air, he would pay no attention. Neither could he be persuaded to take the medicine prescribed for him. Two or three days afterwards he began to breathe very hard, and he sank rapidly. But still he made no complaint and he did not permit his outward appearance to show any symptoms of what he internally suffered. When his sickness was at last too apparent to be concealed some of his respectable friends thought it advisable for him to distribute alms before his death. This he did most willingly, himself repeating all the necessary mantrams. He gave, with his hands, his own embroidered shawl to Ramacharya. As his cough increased every moment, he was advised to remove from an open place into the inner part of the house. But all the entreaties of his friends proved in vain. The same answer was repeated to them. At noon on the 13th day of the latter fortnight of the month of Chaitra, he ordered his cows and other animals to be brought before him. He then gave away all the food and clothes offered to him. Seeing that by that time his voice was almost gone, one of his good disciples asked him if he had any instructions to communicate. In reply he repeated the following verse from the Gita:—

अनन्यश्चित्तयंतो मां यजनाः पर्युपासते ।

तषां नित्याभियुक्तानां योगक्षेमं वहाम्यहं ॥

He then turned from the left to the right side and ordered himself to be seated. No sooner was the order obeyed than he was. . . !

Now, as was above remarked, people have begun to appreciate his greatness. They have erected a sort of a temple on the spot where he breathed his last, to commemorate his memory. But if they had held him fast in their hearts while he was alive, and if they had studied the Vidya with him, then they would have raised themselves above base passions and the pursuit of pleasures, and obtained that kingdom from which the gainer is never dethroned. To such as may ask how he could have assisted them in making

themselves masters of self, let the author speak. — "As all the facts mentioned in the book relate to others, it is quite plain that readers would have the author say what may have happened to himself. It would be unjust for him to shrink from relating his own experience in deference to unworthy fears. It is thirteen months since he saw the Swami in his dream, and he does not now feel the infirmities of age. All his senses are in proper order and not decayed by age. By degrees he gains possession of the secret that enables him to control practically the passions which trouble ordinary men. And whenever he cannot, with all his efforts, check any improper desire, he sees, in an inexpressible way, some event which shows that the Swami is determined upon driving all improper thoughts from the author's mind by bringing him face to face with strange events. This is the only experience which the author has had until now of Swami's greatness." — But it suffices to how that the author is in the right path.

Castes in India

[From *The Theosophist*, May, 1880.]

No man of sincerity and moral courage can read Mr. G. C. Whitworth's Profession of Faith, as reviewed in the April *Theosophist*, without feeling himself challenged to be worthy of the respect of one who professes such honourable sentiments. I, too, am called upon to make my statement of personal belief. It is due to my family and caste-fellows that they should know why I have deliberately abandoned my caste and other worldly considerations. If, henceforth, there is to be a chasm between them and myself, I owe it to myself to declare that this alienation is of my own choosing, and I am not cut off for bad conduct. I would be glad to take with me, if possible, into my new career, the affectionate good wishes of my kinsmen. But, if this cannot be done, I must bear their displeasure, as I may, for I am obeying a paramount conviction of duty.

I was born in the family of the Karhada Maharashtra caste of Brahmins, as my surname will indicate. My father carefully educated me in the tenets of our religion, and, in addition, gave me every facility for acquiring an English education. From the age of ten until I was about fourteen, I was very much exercised in mind upon the subject of religion and devoted myself with great ardour to our orthodox religious practices. Then my ritualistic observances were crowded aside by my scholastic studies, but until about nine months

ago, my religious thoughts and aspirations were entirely unchanged. At this time, I had the inestimable good fortune to read "Isis Unveiled; a Key to the Mysteries of Ancient and Modern Religion and Science," and to join the Theosophical Society. It is no exaggeration to say that I have been a really living man only these few months; for between life as it appears to me now and life as I comprehended it before, there is an unfathomable abyss. I feel that now for the first time I have a glimpse of what man and life are — the nature and powers of the one, the possibilities, duties, and joys of the other. Before, though ardently ritualistic, I was not really enjoying happiness and peace of mind. I simply practiced my religion without understanding it. The world bore just as hard upon me as upon others, and I could get no clear view of the future. The only real thing to me seemed the day's routine; at best the horizon before me extended only to the rounding of a busy life with the burning of my body and the obsequial ceremonies rendered to me by friends. My aspirations were only for more Zamindari, social position and the gratification of whims and appetites. But my later reading and things have shown me that all these are but the vapours of a dream and that he only is worthy of being called man, who has made caprice his slave and the perfection of his spiritual self a grand object of his efforts. As I could not enjoy these convictions and my freedom of action within my caste, I am stepping outside it.

In making this profession, let it be understood that I have taken this step, not because I am a Theosophist, but because in studying Theosophy I have learnt and heard of the ancient splendour and glory of my country — the highly esteemed land of Aryavarta. Joining the Theosophical Society does not interfere with the social, political, or religious relations of any person. All have an equal right in the Society to hold their opinions. So far from persuading me to do what I have, Mme. Blavatsky and Col. Olcott have strongly urged me to wait until some future time, when I might have had ampler time to reflect. But the glimpse I have got into the former greatness of my country makes me feel sadly for her degeneration. I feel it, therefore, my bounden duty to devote all my humble powers to her restoration. Besides, histories of various nations furnish to us many examples of young persons having given up everything for the sake of their country and having ultimately succeeded in gaining their aims. Without patriots, no country can rise. This feeling of patriotism by degrees grew so strong in me that it has now prepared my mind to stamp every personal consideration under my feet

for the sake of my motherland. In this, I am neither a revolutionist nor a politician, but simply an advocate of good morals and principles as practised in ancient times. The study of Theosophy has thrown a light over me in regard to my country, my religion, my duty. I have become a better Aryan than I ever was. I have similarly heard my Parsi brothers say that they have been better Zoroastrians since they joined the Theosophical Society. I have also seen the Buddhists write often to the Society that the study of Theosophy has enabled them to appreciate their religion more. And thus this study makes every man respect his religion the more. It furnishes him a sight that can pierce through the dead letter and see clearly the spirit. He can read all his religious books between the lines. If we view all the religions in their popular sense, they appear strongly antagonistic to each other in various details. None agrees with the other. And yet the representatives of those faiths say that the study of Theosophy explains to them all that has been said in their religion and makes them feel a greater respect for it. There must, therefore, be one common ground on which all the religious systems are built. And this ground which lies at the bottom of all, is truth. There can be but one absolute truth, but different people have different perceptions of that truth. And this truth is morality. If we separate the dogmas that cling to the principles set forth in any religion, we shall find that morality is preached in every one of them. By religion I do not mean all the minor sects that prevail to an innumerable extent all over the world, but the principal ones from which have sprung up these different sects. It is, therefore, proper for every person to abide by the principles of morality. And, according to them, I consider it every man's duty to do what he can to make the world better and happier. This can proceed from a love for humanity. But how can a man love the whole of humanity if he has no love for his countrymen? Can he love the whole, who does not love a part? If I, therefore, wish to place my humble services at the disposal of the world, I must first begin by working for my country. And this I could not do by remaining in my caste. I found that instead of a love for his countrymen, the observance of caste distinction leads one to hate even his neighbour, because he happens to be of another caste. I could not bear this injustice. What fault is it of anyone that he is born in a particular caste? I respect a man for his qualities and not for his birth. That is to say, that man is superior in my eyes, whose inner man has been developed or is in the state of development. This body, wealth, friends, relations and all other worldly enjoyments that men hold near and dear to their hearts, are to

pass away sooner or later. But the record of our actions is ever to remain to be handed down from generation to generation. Our actions must, therefore, be such as will make us worthy of our existence in this world, as long as we are here as well as after death. I could not do this by observing the customs of caste. It made me selfish and unmindful of the requirements of my fellow-brothers. I weighed all these circumstances in my mind, and found that I believed in caste as a religious necessity no more than in the palm-tree yielding mangoes. I saw that if it were not for this distinction, India would not have been so degraded, for this distinction engendered hatred among her sons. It made them hate and quarrel with one another. The peace of the land was disturbed. People could not unite with one another for good purposes. They waged war with one another, instead of devoting all their combined energies to the cause of ameliorating the condition of the country. The foundation of immorality was thus laid, until it has reached now so low a point that unless this mischief is stopped, the tottering pillars of India will soon give way. I do not by this mean to blame my ancestors who originally instituted this system. To me their object seems to be quite a different one. It was based in my opinion on the qualities of every person. The caste was not then hereditary as it is now. This will be seen from the various ancient sacred books which are full of instances in which Kshatriyas and even Mahars and Chambhars who are considered the lowest of all, were not only made and regarded as Brahmins, but almost worshipped as demi-gods simply for their qualities. If such is the case why should we still stick to that custom which we now find not only impracticable but injurious? I again saw that if I were to observe outwardly what I did not really believe inwardly, I was practising hypocrisy. I found that I was thus making myself a slave, by not enjoying the freedom of conscience. I was thus acting immorally. But Theosophy has taught me that to enjoy peace of mind and self-respect, I must be honest, candid, peaceful and regard all men as equally my brothers, irrespective of caste, colour, race or creed. This, I see, is an essential part of religion. I must try to put these theoretical problems into practice. These are the convictions that finally hurried me out of my caste.

I would at the same time ask my fellow countrymen who are of my opinion, to come out boldly for their country. I understand the apparent sacrifices one is required to make in adopting such a course, for I myself had to make them, but these are sacrifices only in the eyes of one who has regard for this world of matter. When a man has once extricated himself from this regard and

when the sense of the duty he owes to his country and to himself reigns paramount in his heart, these are no sacrifices at all for him. Let us, therefore, leave off this distinction which separates us from one another, join in one common accord, and combine all our energies for the good of our country. Let us feel that we are Aryans, and prove ourselves worthy of our ancestors. I may be told that I am making a foolish and useless sacrifice; that I cut myself off from all social intercourse and even risk losing the decent disposal of my body by those upon whom our customs impose that duty; and that none but a visionary would imagine that he, even though chiefest among Brahmins, could restore his country's greatness and the enlightenment of a whole nation, so great as ours. But these are the arguments of selfishness and moral cowardice. Single men have saved nations before, and though my vanity does not make me even dream that so glorious a result is within my humble grasp, yet a good example is never valueless, and it can be set even by the most insignificant. Certain it is that without examples and self-sacrifices there can be no reform. The world, as I see it, imposes on me a duty, and I think the most powerful and the only permanent cause of happiness is the consciousness that I am trying to do that duty.

I wish it understood — in case what has preceded has not made this perfectly clear — that I have neither become a Materialist nor a Christian. I am an Aryan in religion as all else, follow the Ved, and believe it to be the parent of all religions among men. As Theosophy explains the secondary human religions, so does it make plain the meaning of the Ved. The teachings of the Rishis acquire a new splendour and majesty, and I revere them a hundred times more than ever before.

The Vedantasara*

[From *The Theosophist*, September, 1883.]

[*THE VEDANTASARA in Sanskrit with the commentary of Nrisingha Saraswatee, and with English, Hindi and Bengali Translations, Price Rs. 6-4 in India, and Rs. 7 in Foreign countries. THE PANCHADASI in English embodying the Vedanta and explaining the Aryan views of Cosmos, the Soul and the Parabrahma. In monthly parts. Annual subscription Rs. 6 in India; Rs. 7 in Ceylon, Straits Settlements, China, Japan and Australia; 14 Shillings in Africa, Europe, and U. S. America. *Cash to accompany orders invariably.* Drafts, hundis, and postal orders to credit of H. DHOLE, 127

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This journal owes an apology to the publisher of the *Vedantasara* for not noticing the book earlier, although it has been lying on the office table for over four months. But a sufficient excuse will be found in the fact that as the work begins with an undue personal praise of the Founders of the Theosophical Society individually, and admittedly contains some ideas taken from the *Theosophist*, it was a puzzling question how to review this able and useful work in these columns, without being forthwith accused by our "well-wishers" of labouring in a "mutual admiration club." But that the silence of this magazine may not be mistaken for discourtesy, I now hasten to acknowledge receipt, by the Editor of, and to thank sincerely Babu Heeralal Dhole for the copy he has kindly sent us.

The work is in three languages and bound together in one volume. Each might be made to form a separate work, and it is to be regretted that the idea should not have struck the able Authors or the Editor, to place it thus before the public. It seems unfair to charge people acquainted with only one tongue for the other two languages they neither know, nor perhaps care to know, anything about. Had our learned colleague, Babu Dhole, issued each part separately, charging for it Rupees two, or so, for a copy in each language, no ground for complaint and dissatisfaction would have arisen in any quarter, as it has now in more than one. The views, — at any rate in its first English part, — being avowedly those expressed in the columns of our magazine, very little has to be said of this portion, except that the author has made uncommon good use of it and elaborated very cleverly the whole. One point, however, may be noticed, as it is found to be constantly contradicted and picked holes into, by the theists as well as by all the supporters of independent creation — viz., the "definition of matter."

"Kapila defines matter to be eternal and co-existent with Spirit. It was never in a state of non-being, but always in a state of constant change, it is subtle and sentient," &c., &c., (p. 2.)

This is what the Editor of this journal has all along maintained and can hardly repeat too often. The article: "What is Matter and what is Force?" in the *Theosophist* for September 1882 [see *The Complete Works of H. P. Blavatsky*, Vol. IV, pp. 82-95. See also *The Letters of H. P. Blavatsky to A. P. Sinnett*, p. 8, for authorship. — EDS.], is sufficiently lucid in reference to this

question. It is at the time pleasant to find that our learned friend and brother, Mr. T. Subba Row Garu, the great Adwaitee scholar, shares entirely with all of us these views, which every intuitional scholar, who comprehends the true spirit of the *Sankhya* philosophy, will ever maintain. This may be proved by the perusal of a recent work on "*Yoga Philosophy*" by the learned Sanskritist, Dr. Rajendra Lala Mitra, the *Introduction* to which has just appeared, showing clearly how every genuine scholar comprehends the *Sankhya* in the same spirit as we do.*

*In his *Introduction* to the above named work, the able Orientalist shows plainly the nearly perfect identity of Kapila's *Sankhya*, Patanjali's Yoga, Buddhism and, by indirect inference, of the Adwaitee or Upanishad philosophy. Moreover the author corroborates in it that which we have ever maintained, even against such a learned but rather too bigoted theist as the Pundit Dayanund — namely, that Kapila recognized no personal god, no more than did Patanjali. Says Dr. Rajendra Lala Mitra, L. L. D., C. I. E., . . . "Patanjali has contented himself by tacking a theistic appendage of no direct utility to a positively atheistic model (Kapila). . . . Hence it is that the Hindus call it *Ses'vara Sankhya* or *Sankhya cum deo* (with god), as opposed to the former which is *Nirisvara Sankhya*, or *Sankhya sine deo* (without god)" (p. xxii). "And we have enough in these facts to infer that the Yoga text-book is posterior to the Sankhya text-book, and that both the text-books are later than Buddha; but that the doctrines of both are very old, and now these (*Sankhya* and *Yoga* philosophies) are the immediate ancient Hindu archetypes of the nihilist theory of Buddha, and indirectly of the Pessimism of Schopenhauer and Hartmann." (p. xxiii. *Preface*.)

The ONE LIFE of the Buddhists, or the Parabrahm of the Vedantins, is omnipresent and eternal. Spirit and matter are but its manifestations. As the energising force — Purush of Kapila — it is Spirit— as undifferentiated cosmic matter, it is *Mulaprakriti*. As differentiated cosmic matter, the basis of phenomenal evolution, it is *Prakriti*. In its aspect of being the field of cosmic ideation, it is *Chidakasam*; as the germ of cosmic ideation it is *Chinmatra*; while in its characteristic of perception it is *Pragna*. Whoever presumes to deny these points denies the main basis of Hindu Philosophy and clings but to its exoteric, weather-beaten, fast fading out *shell*. The main point of the work under review seems to be to indicate how in this basic doctrine, upon which the whole structure of philosophy rests, both the Aryan and the Arhat tenets

meet and are identical, in all, except in forms of expression, and how again Kapila's *Sankhya* supports it. The author has in this respect admirably succeeded in condensing the whole spirit of the philosophy in a few short pages. And a close study of the same is sufficient to bring the intelligent reader to the same sense of perception. For a superficial reader, Dr. N. Dhole, the English translator, seems to hold that Spirit is something quite apart and distinct from Matter, and quite a different substance or no-substance, if you please. But such readers can only be referred to the following extract:--

". . . And since the recognition of this *First Principle*, call it *Prakriti*, *Purush*, *Parabrahma*, or Matter, Spirit, the Absolute, or the Unknowable, clashes not with the cherished ideas of the most inveterate Freethinker." . . .

The above passage clearly proves that like all true *Adwaites*, the learned Doctor holds Spirit and Matter to be but different phases or aspects of the ONE LIFE which is every thing or NO *thing*, if you prefer. It would be a pertinent question to ask, how it is then that the author expresses himself a Dualist? The simple explanation will be found in the consideration that so far as the *phenomenal*, or the *manifested* world is concerned, the idea of duality is launched into the discussion to indicate the two aspects of THE ONE ETERNAL WHOLE, which together set the machinery of evolution into working order. But once turn from the manifested into the *noumenal*, the unmanifested LIFE and the erudite author will most probably cease to call himself a dualist, as is made very clear from the above quoted extract from his work. The article "What is Matter and what is Force?" already referred to above, will fit in here most appropriately. It is therefore inexplicable how a certain class of people presume to call the *Vedantasara* "a theistic book," when it is far more:— a philosophical treatise. Before, however, pronouncing a final judgment, the terms *theism*, *atheism*, *pantheism*, *materialism*, must be clearly defined, every person understanding them in his own way. Some call themselves believers in an Impersonal deity, which, no sooner are their views analyzed, seems to grow into a gigantic human being with every thing of good in him, and when still further dissected every thing bad in him. It would be interesting to know their doctrine concerning the origin of evil in a universe under the control of a perfect, conscious, omniscient, omnipotent and omnipresent intelligent *Creator*. Whatever is illogical or unmathematical will have to be entirely rejected some day, since truth can never be opposed

to logic or to mathematics — the only two *exact* sciences. The next question put in connection with the work under notice by its theistic reviewers in *The Arya* is as follows: —

"Nor do we see what analogy can there exist between Buddhism and Vedantism. We know that the great Shankarya was an implacable enemy of Buddhistic; and he, being the great propounder of Vedantic Advaitism, would not have supported the claims of Buddhism."

A Daniel come to judgment! I challenge the irresponsible writer of the above lines to point out in what respect the *esoteric doctrines* of Gautama Buddha and Sankaracharya differ. It is hard to explain on any other ground but theological unscrupulous cunning the origin of the current false belief that Sankaracharya was an enemy of Buddhism. This is a separate line of study for one who devotes his special attention to the historical development of occultism. This point, however, does in no way detract from the value and importance of the fact that Sankaracharya throughout his works keeps wisely silent about the esoteric doctrine taught by *Gautama* Buddha. He who studies *and reads between the lines* the *Brahmasutra Bhashyam*, of the former, will practically find for himself that Vedantic Advaitism *is identical with esoteric Buddhistic Arhatism*. In my turn, I moreover ask the writer of the above . . . extract to show wherein lies the difference between Buddhism and Advaitism, and then it can be shown that this difference exists but in the imagination of a few wise-acres who do not care to study the subject thoroughly for themselves but depend upon the testimony of a few interested parties. Once that it is shown that there is no difference, the analogy is clearly established. The same writer promises us to prove further on that Advaitism is the result of the *distorted interpretations of the sacred VEDAS!* As however the promised contribution has not yet appeared, I may just as well retort by reminding him of the fact that there are far wiser and abler persons who can prove that his interpretations will never stand the test of the "recognised Sciences of the day" as will what he calls the "distortions" of the *Adwaitees*. It must be remembered that these so called "distortions," antedating as they do by innumerable ages the discoveries of the "recognised Sciences of the day," cannot be said to have been copied from the latter to suit the times. We cannot however dismiss the writer without showing to our readers his ignorance of Advaitism — a subject he so confidently presumes to criticize. Our ('Adwaitees') fourth argument, he says, (naming the so called

Mahavakyams in order) rests upon the authority of the sentence *Ekmevadvityam*. He seems to be ignorant of the *Atharvanaveda Mahavakya*. "Ayam Atma Brahma" is the Mahavakyam in question which the writer very prudently refrains from interpreting from his own *Dwaitee* standpoint. The translations of our texts given in the *Arya* are equally absurd and extravagant. *Pragnanam* [**Sanskrit characters**] he interprets to mean "intellect"! Our readers who have studied carefully the learned articles on this subject by Mr. T. Subba Row, need no telling how grossly misunderstood and misrepresented are the *Adwaitee* tenets by this theistic self-called "Aryan" reviewer of the *Vedanta-sara*. It was necessary to answer here that Review since on the whole the philosophy of the work under notice, is in main what we consider to be Vedantic Adwaitism, which is precisely the same as Buddhistic Arhatism.

These somewhat lengthy remarks may be concluded with a hope that Babu Heera Lal Dhole will act up to the suggestion herein made to divide the work by issuing each text in a separate volume, thus making it within the easy means of all, as the present price is prohibitive for many. At the same time it is to be regretted that the learned author should have limited his researches mainly to the *Theosophist*. Had he searched more deeply into the lore of the ancient Aryan Literature, he would have increased immensely the value and the influence of his book and made our own case stronger too, since we could then have shown more forcibly that our doctrines are not the phantoms of our imagination, but are directly drawn from, and supported by, the ancient writings, within the reach of him who would search for them diligently and with necessary qualifications. It is needless to say again that every student of Adwaitism ought to possess himself of a copy of the work under review.

Vedantism and Buddhism*

[From *The Theosophist*, August, 1884.]

[*Comment by "An Enquirer" on "The Vedantasara" with Damodar's Note appended. — EDS.]

In the review of the *Vedantasara* on page 318 of Vol. IV of the *Theosophist*, I find the reviewer asserting that Sankaracharya's Adwaita teaching is identical with the Buddhistic exposition of Gautama Buddha, and that Sankaracharya "throughout his works keeps wisely silent about the

esoteric doctrine taught by *Gautama Buddha*." He further challenges the *Arya* to disprove his statements. I now beg to draw the attention of the reviewer to page 76 of the *Arya* for this month, where a translation of Sankaracharya's remarks against Buddhism is given, and would like to know how he can reconcile this with his assertions.

9th June 1884. An ENQUIRER.

Note. — The translation in the *Arya* is of Sankaracharya's *Commentary* on the *Brahma Sutras* of *Vyasa*. The *Bouddhas*, therefore, referred to therein, could not have been the followers of *Gautama Buddha* who lived only about twenty-five hundred years ago, while *Vyasa*, who mentions the *Bouddhas* in his *Sutras* — against whom only does Sankaracharya argue — preceded him by several thousand years. Consequently the fact that Sankaracharya remains silent throughout his works about the esoteric doctrine taught by *Gautama Buddha*, remains perfectly sound and unassailed. Probably the so-called "Buddhist" religion in the time of *Vyasa*, the writer of the *Brahma Sutras*, was degenerated as we find the Vedic Religion in our times. *Gautama* was one of the reformers, and although his followers may have been known by the same name, it does not follow that the opposition to a religion called Buddhistic necessarily means antagonism to the teachings of *Gautama*. If that were the case, *Gautama* himself might be called an opponent of Buddhism, for he went against its abuses, and thus against the degenerated system known as Buddhism before his time. We maintain that the Arhat Doctrine of which the *latest* public expounder was *Gautama Buddha*, is identical with the Adwaitee Philosophy, whose *latest* public exponent was Sankaracharya. Hence the latter Philosopher's silence about the former's teaching. The objections urged by "An Enquirer" were already anticipated and answered by Mr. Subba Row in his article on "Sankara's Date and Philosophy." (See Vol. IV, *Theosophist*, page 306.)* — D. K. M.

*[Republished in *Five Years of Theosophy*, pp. 278-308. See also 1st footnote in "The Metaphysical Basis of 'Esoteric Buddhism' " below. — EDS.]

Kavya Dosha Vivechana*

[From *The Theosophist*, October, 1883.]

[*An exposition of faults in the Marathi poems taught in Government

Schools. By Simeon Benjamin. Price seven annas. Can be had from the Author; House No. 26, Payadhooni, Bombay.]

We have to thank Mr. Simeon Benjamin, the author, for a copy of his *Kavya Dosha Vivechana*, an exposition of faults in the Marathi poems taught in Government Schools. By Simeon Benjamin. Price seven annas. Can be had from the Author; House No. 26, Payadhooni, Bombay. This is an essay read by him before a meeting of the *Arya Samaj*, and subsequently republished by him at the request of its leaders. The work before us purports to point out the faults in Marathi poems taught in Government Vernacular and Anglo-Vernacular schools. The subject being of some importance, we shall, with the author's permission, examine minutely his analysis of the poems. His main contention is that some of these verses being unfit to be taught to children, should be eliminated from the Government school text-books. It is therefore necessary to examine carefully his reason in support of the contention. The first verse he takes objection to, is in the *Marathi* primer, which reads: —

मुके आंधळे पांगळ आणि थोटे ॥

अशद्गुर्बळांला करा साह्य मोठें ॥

जरीत्यांसहांसाल हातील तोटे ॥

तुम्हांलाचहोतां तसें जाल कोठें ॥

This he translates as meaning that if we were to laugh at the dumb, the blind and the cripple, we would ourselves become like them, &c., &c. Thereupon he argues the falsity of this teaching and shows how it frustrates the chief aim of bringing children to a correct mode of action and thought. When the children, he tells us, do actually laugh at such unfortunate creatures and find no such threatened retaliation, then they naturally lose all faith in, and regard for, such a teaching; and the principal object of giving them sound instruction is foiled. There would be a good deal of truth in this reasoning, were the verses to really mean what the above translation indicates. With every deference, however, to the profound learning and scholarship which the author seems to possess, we submit that the verse yields quite a different meaning, or, at least, another meaning might more appropriately be attached to the verse than the one given by the erudite author. May we not translate

the poem in question to mean that we should assist the invalids therein mentioned, not because such an act would recoil on us by making us like them, but because we would in the end be the sufferers: and for the second consideration that, should such a misery befall us, we may find no sympathisers. Or may it not also mean that in case we should be the sufferers in that way, there would be no one to look up to, we having estranged the sympathies of good people by laughing and scoffing at the poor unfortunates when we were in good circumstances. This is not, of course, the literal translation: but neither is that of Mr. Benjamin. In our humble opinion, however, this interpretation is more warranted by the words of the poem than the other. Our first rendering would teach the doctrine of *Karma*, a scientific and axiomatic truth. The latter construction would be a check upon untrained minds from doing anything wrong. Where then lies the harm? The next verse to which objection is taken, is:—

विद्या नमं ज्या पुरुषास कांहीं ॥ विचार निती तिष्ठमात्र नाहीं ॥
 अशा नरा काय अहो हिणाबं ॥ पशूमर्घ्यं सत्य तथा गणाबं ॥

This is interpreted in two different ways by the author. The first meaning, however, he sets aside. As to the second, he says, it is not fit to be taught to children, its meaning being: — "One who has no *Vidya* (knowledge) and is neither considerate nor moral (in the broadest sense of the term), should not be styled as *Aho* (you) but as *Aray* (thou) and reckoned among beasts." We think, however, that the word *Aho* is not correctly rendered. It does not refer to the man "without learning," &c., &c., since there is no such word as *Aray* in the verse to point the distinction as shown by the translator, and that it rather refers to the reader, or the person to whom the lines are made to refer. What the poet says is: — "Oh! You (addressing his readers)! What shall we call a man without learning, morals and consideration! Surely he ought to be classed with the brutes." The exception taken by the critic thus falls to the ground, for there is no direct insult implied in the above application. The student is not advised to *insult* the man by calling him "*thou*," but to avoid him rather, as one below the rank of average humanity. And we leave it to our readers to decide whether the advice to avoid a man without learning, *morals and consideration* (mark the italicized portion) is justifiable or not. The third verse, found fault with, is from the third book: —

नाम रूप हैं तूजला नसे ॥ त्य वंतुला मुखें वर्णवे कसें ॥

आदि अंत ना मध्यही तुला ॥ तूंच दाविशी मार्ग आपुला ॥

In this poem, in talking of what is loosely termed God, the poet says:— "Thou who hast no beginning, no end, and no middle." Our author is shocked at such a conception. The word *middle* has upset his ideas! We would however humbly enquire if an infinite something (and it *must be infinite* if it has no beginning and no end), according to Geometry, is divisible? If it is *indivisible*, it can have *no* middle. We beg to suggest to our learned author that if the Marathi poems under review are not meant to be taught only in sectarian, and purely theistic schools but are used in colleges where there may be as many Vedantins as Hindus of other denominations, and the term being perfectly applicable to Parabrahm, it has nothing either disrespectful or offensive in it; hence that it is quite fit to be taught to children. We might go on in this wise, and take exception to nearly every objection of the critic of the pamphlet before us; but we regret having neither the space nor time for it. The instances, however, here given are, we believe, sufficient to prove to the impartial reader that the fault lies more with the intolerance of the teacher, than the poems under his review. Mr. Benjamin tells us that these difficulties were not only experienced by himself, while a teacher in a Government School, but that they are complained of still, by many of his colleagues. If that be really the case, we are at one with him in advocating the elimination of all such verses from Government textbooks, rather than see a false interpretation placed upon them. If no one can be found to enter into the true spirit of the poet's meaning and expound the real significance of his ethical stanzas for the instruction of the students, it is far better for all parties to be without them than to have erroneous ideas inculcated, and impressed upon young minds incapable of forming an independent judgment. The work before us has at the same time its objectionable feature in other poems left unmentioned by the critic. Some are positively indecent; such, for instance, as the description of Damayanti, a conversation between Rama and Sita when meeting alone in a forest, and going over their past days of bliss. Such descriptions of marital relations are not precisely the scenes to be impressed upon plastic and undeveloped minds. No language is too strong to condemn the disgraceful carelessness of the tutors who have permitted for years such reading to be left in the hands of their pupils without a protest. In this

instance the *Marathi*-reading community is certainly under a grateful obligation to Mr. Benjamin for initiating this movement and laying a just complaint before the educational authorities. We also concur in his opinion that the poems relating to the struggle between Bheema and Duryodhana ought to be expunged from the school-texts, although my reasons are quite different from those advanced by the critic. Taking exception but to the dead-letter sense, he only deprecates an exhibition of cruel and brutal feelings between two cousins. Unfortunately, however, our *Puranas* are generally abused by "learned" critics without a proper understanding of the inner sense and the morality to be conveyed. If our readers will turn to the back pages of this Magazine, they will find the real meaning of the allegory of the war between the *Pandavas* and the *Kauravas*. If the former represent the higher (or spiritual) part of man and the latter the earthly (sensual), and if *Krishna* (the only manifested deity, the *Logos* in each man's heart) is spoken of as being the adviser of the former in conquering and killing the latter, where then, we ask, is the "disgusting brutality" fathered upon that most sublime of poems, the *Bhagavat Gita*? We are not, however, at present concerned with metaphysics or philosophy. And, as we are agreed that the poems complained of should not be taught to children promiscuously, since on the one hand the teachers themselves are as yet unable to realize the profound significance and the philosophical spirit of some of them, and that, on the other, there are some really indecent stanzas among them, we conclude our somewhat lengthy review of Mr. Benjamin's criticism with a hope that the proper authorities will lend an ear to his just complaint. We beg at the same time our learned author's pardon for dwelling at length upon the points of disagreement between him and ourself, since the necessities of the case demanded the present action. On the whole, the book supplies a deficiency which was long being felt; and every credit is due to Mr. Benjamin for interesting himself in the welfare of a people who are not of his race. We would recommend it to every person who has a real and earnest desire to improve the educational standard of Marathi children. As a Maratha we sincerely thank the erudite author for his advocacy in behalf of our children.

The Work of the Branches

MEMORANDUM

[Supplement to *The Theosophist*, January, 1884.]

Notwithstanding the repeated protest of the Parent Theosophical Society, there does yet seem to linger in the minds of individual members and of some Branches, a tendency to look upon the whole movement as a school where *Yoga Vidya* and Occultism may be learnt in a much more expeditious and easy way than heretofore. This arises out of an ignorance of the laws of Occult Institutions and those governing psychological development. Since the commencement, the Theosophical Society has tried to impress the fact that the Laws of Nature are immutable; and no living being, however high and powerful, can ever alter them to suit the convenience of students. The attempt, therefore, which is now being made is not to carry on the vain and profitless task of finding a short cut to *Brahma Vidya*, since this is an impossibility, but to revive once more its knowledge, and thus to stimulate a true aspirant to adapt his life and thoughts to that standard which will better him and lead him gradually to such ways as run their courses to the Divine Wisdom. It will thus be seen that the Theosophical Society promises no Teachers, no Gurus, to take every member, upon joining, under their special charge. Mr. Sinnett was distinctly warned on this point when he asked for the assistance of some adept as the guiding genius of the Simla Eclectic Theo. Socy., as will be seen on reference to his *Occult World*. No doubt there are individual members who have been fortunate enough to be accepted as *Chelas*, but their acceptance was due not to the fact of their being Fellows, but because they had been living the life and have voluntarily passed through the training and tests, enjoined upon aspirants for occult knowledge of every age and nationality. In their case the Theosophical Society was only the means of giving them the conviction of their intuitive beliefs, and thus urging them to follow the promptings of their inner consciousness. For the comparatively easy mode they thus had of gaining the conviction, they have to make up by helping the building up of the Theosophical Society and putting it on a secure basis. This explanation ought to make it clear that what the Society expects from all its Branches and individual members, is cooperation and help in its grand task of uniting the East and the West, the North and the South, in a Scientific Brotherhood armed against dissension and consequent failure by the principle of mutual Toleration and mutual Intellectual Sympathy. It is an unthinkable proposition that any man with average intelligence cannot contribute his quota towards the realization of this noble scheme. If each man were but to do his duty to search, to investigate, to study, to digest, and join with his fellow-men, actuated by the same noble aspirations, in giving to

mankind the benefits of their labour, the day would not be very far off when the Masters of Occultism might find the necessary conditions to enable them to once more live in the world as openly and freely as did their predecessors of times long, long gone by, and give to such a prepared people the benefits of THEIR knowledge. Until that blessed day comes, a duty is before us: we have to hasten its approach. And this cannot be done by merely joining the Theosophical Society and without preparation, training or qualifications, expecting the Adepts to place within our reach tremendous weapons of Power, FOR KNOWLEDGE IS POWER, which in the hands of the ignorant and the wicked is fraught with dangers to their holders and to Humanity at large. Enough has already been given out to bring home to any one, endowed with ordinary intelligence, fairness, and desire for knowledge — conviction of the truth of this Science and the Powers it confers upon its devotees. When once all this is clearly understood, the only question for solution is how best to promote the Cause, and thus by an unselfish effort for the good of our fellow-men and their regeneration, to fit ourselves for the higher life of a true co-worker with those who have devoted themselves to the amelioration of the moral and spiritual condition of Humanity. There are various ways of accomplishing this result, but as one man's meat is another man's poison, the Parent Theosophical Society has always endeavoured to leave the practical working of its Branches to their members, who are, or should be, the best judges of the circumstances they have to work under, and the material that can be utilized. Psychology is a vast field wherein many workers may employ themselves with advantage. The tastes of individuals must differ, but surely there can be found two or three in every Branch interested in the same subject. If a Branch divides itself into various Committees for the investigation of various subjects of Science, and communicates its results at general meetings, much good will ensue. Various articles in the *Theosophist* and other publications of the like nature might be taken up by different members, and the Society given the benefit of every individual exertion. Knotty questions arising out of such studies might be referred to the Headquarters in the form of an article, or in any other shape which may be found best under the circumstances. Every legitimate demand for help and assistance has been, and will always be, granted by the Founders to their co-workers in this cause of Humanity. Several other matters of Reform might be undertaken by other Committees, without, of course, infringing upon any individual's or people's religious or social right. For those who are capable of

an unselfish impulse to work for the moral and spiritual regeneration of Humanity, there is plenty to do. And it is men of this stamp that are the pillars of such a grand movement, which must necessarily depend upon their cooperation and zeal for its success.

These are the lines upon which Branches are expected to be organised and worked.

By order. DAMODAR K. MAVALANIKAR,
Joint Recording Secretary, Theosophical Society.
ADYAR (MADRAS), 15th December 1883.

The Work of the Branches

[Supplement to *The Theosophist*, March, 1884]

My esteemed friend and brother, Pandit Parmeshri Dass, President of the Branch Theosophical Society at Bara-Banki, writes to say that he finds the memo. on the above subject in the last month's *Theosophist*, has been entirely misunderstood. The following passage therein has been the cause of misapprehension: —

Since the commencement, the Theosophical Society has tried to impress the fact that the Laws of Nature are immutable; and no living being, however high or powerful, can ever alter them to suit the convenience of students. . . . It will thus be seen that the Theosophical Society promises no Teachers, no Gurus, to take every member, upon joining, under their special charge. . . . No doubt there are individual members who have been fortunate enough to be accepted as Chelas, but their acceptance was due not to the fact of their being Fellows, but because they have been living the life and have voluntarily passed through the training and tests, enjoined upon aspirants for occult knowledge of every age and nationality.

Upon this it is argued:--

One's own *Karma* is the essence irrespectively of his connection or non-connection with the Theosophical Society — in other words, all depends upon one's living the life enjoined upon aspirants for occult knowledge. The act of joining the Society is immaterial inasmuch as *the life* being an essential thing, fellowship in the Society carries no

weight with it. The Society thus confers no benefit as a prerequisite on its members, in addition to the result of their own *Karma*. This being so, a Theosophist and an outsider stand upon the same footing; hence no one should join the Society.

This strange logic passes my comprehension. "All appears yellow to the jaundiced eye," says the poet. One blinded by selfishness cannot therefore pierce through the thick veil before his eyes, and all his conceptions must therefore be narrow. My friend's reply to the above superb reasoning is: —

It is true that living the life is essential — but the life lived by a Fellow of the Theosophical Society has an advantage over that lived by an outsider. A fellow, by the act of joining, places himself in a position wherein the essential qualification can immediately and directly attract the notice of the MAHATMAS. A Theosophist has to exert less in point of *attractive force* than an outsider, for the latter is not so near the MAHATMAS as the former. Both of them do not therefore stand upon the same footing. All that the passage in the Memo. on the *Work of the Branches* meant to convey was that the Theosophical Society was not an improved sort of Miracle Club or School of Magic wherein for ten rupees (or any sum whatever) a man could become a Mahatma between the morning bath and the evening meal; but that in addition to merely joining the Society, a man should live the requisite life and wait patiently for the results which will come in due time.

The Pandit's reply is correct so far as it goes, but it is incomplete. It does not give the reasons why a Theosophist is nearer to the MASTERS than an outsider. It also omits certain other important considerations. With a view to avoid any further misunderstanding, I shall go a little fuller into the subject, being at the same time as brief and concise as possible. If the critics had read carefully the whole of the memo. and digested it thoroughly, they would probably have not been led into such curious conclusions as they now put forth. It is admitted that the Theosophical Society has been engaged in doing good, with unparalleled success, to Humanity; that, had it not been for its exertions, people would have gone in their own ways as heretofore, would have paid no attention to the writings of the ancient sages and would have remained in entire ignorance of the glorious truths contained therein, not because they could not have been found if properly searched into, but because the earnest spirit of enquiry which has now been raised could never

have asserted itself. It is therefore a duty we owe to the Theosophical Society to encourage and support it by all possible means, if we have the least sense of gratitude within us. Moreover, it is within almost every one's mouth that more and more important facts of the Esoteric Philosophy are being gradually given out through the instrumentality of the Theosophical Society. Have the critics reflected to what causes this fact is due? It is because the leaders and promoters of the Association find that their labour is not being thrown entirely upon barren ground, but that their work is being more and more appreciated, as is proved by important additions to its ranks; they thus feel encouraged to continue their arduous task more and more cheerfully. But let it be once proven that the work has created no interest, and that those for whom exertions are being made prefer to stubbornly remain blind to all higher considerations, and the theosophical leaders will be compelled to drop the work in spite of themselves. Is not the fact that the moral if not the active support given by people to the Society by joining it acts as a stimulant for renewed work — is not this fact a sufficient inducement for right thinking men not to keep aloof from the movement? Again, the Theosophical Society being a Universal Brotherhood embraces all Humanity: as such it may very well be recognized as one complete organism. All its doings are *its Karma*. And just as the different organs derive nourishment from the joint work of the whole body; so also each member of this huge organism has a part of its nourishment from the accumulated store of the *Karma* of the Theosophical Society as a whole. And who will dispute the fact that that Association has been acquiring an immense amount of good *Karma* by its beneficent work of increasing human happiness by promoting knowledge and by uniting together different people into one bond of an Intellectual Brotherhood? Still further: it is a well-recognized principle that *Union is Strength*; and therefore if any Association could afford large opportunities for doing good, it is the Theosophical Society. Selfishness having sealed the eyes of the critics to the fact that they form but a part of the INTEGRAL WHOLE, they fail to perceive that the good of their Fellowmen is their own good. The cloud of self-benefit darkens their mental horizon, through which their sight cannot pierce to have a glance at the future results of their attitude. They see no superior advantage within the narrow range of their vision, and therefore they conclude no such advantage exists. They cannot understand that of all the Associations now existing in the world, the Theosophical Society is the only one that can be employed to the best advantage for promoting human

happiness by bringing people to realize the common foundation of all Religions. And that the *Illuminated* have therefore adopted it as the channel of communication between themselves and the outer world. As such, it forms the centre of light, and he who steps into its sphere from the outer darkness, comes within the radius of vision of the BLESSED ONES. To advance further depends upon his *active* goodness and work. By joining he has got his reward of giving an expression to his sympathy and thus affording moral support — and that reward is that he puts himself in a prominent position whence he can be more easily perceived than those who prefer to remain in the outer darkness.

DAMODAR K. MAVALANKAR,

Joint Recording Secretary, Theosophical Society.

ADYAR (MADRAS), 3rd February 1884.

Oxford Mission Shots at Occultism

[Supplement to *The Theosophist*, January, 1884.]

Out of the clear sky of a correspondent's remarks on the comparative merits of Buddha and Christ, the thunderbolt has been hurled against Occultism by the Indra of the *Epiphany*. The startled Theosophist but meekly enquires how his humble self could be suspected of intrusion in such sublime regions as the arena of discussion of our contemporary's correspondent — "A. B. C." In the meantime, however, as Great Indra threatens to bring his *Meghastra* into play, it is necessary to avert the impending downpour by pointing out its unseasonableness. It is but proper that the misconceptions, so unmistakably glaring, should be, if possible, removed. The *Epiphany* thus begins what is meant to be a reply to its correspondent's remarks: —

"I never grumble when Theosophists tell me that in order to experience the power of the invisible worlds vouchsafed to them I must first practice *Yogi* [the learned Editor of the *Epiphany* probably means *Yoga*. *Yogi* is the person who practises *Yoga*]. It is quite clear to me that there is a power working in them, to be attained only by certain processes. The only questions with me are (1) is the power of a kind worth attaining? (2) what is the nature and source of the power? (3) what is the trustworthiness of its result? To these questions I answer something as follows. 1. The power of supreme wisdom or of

working what men call miracles is to my mind worthless compared with the power of love. I must learn to love, to labour for others, to desire their good more than my own, before I can be fit to be trusted with occult powers, which at present would only tempt ME to pride, and be ill-used. . . ."

The erudite critic is manifestly unaware of the fact that the true *Yogi* does not study Occultism for the purpose of acquiring powers. In his onward spiritual progress toward deliverance from the shackles of *Maya*, the *Siddhis* come to him of themselves. There can be no psychological perfection so long as the *Ego* is in the least affected by the trammels of *Avidya*, and these *Siddhis*, however high they may be, are yet within the domain of illusion. Every student, even a tyro, of occultism knows that the acquisition of *Brahma-Vidya* is dependent entirely upon the development of a feeling of universal love in the mind of the aspirant. For his final goal, the attainment of *Mukti* is the very identification of the *Jivatma* with *Paramatma*, the Universal Spirit, which manifests itself in ALL — which can never be accomplished except by one's putting one's-self *en rapport* with Nature through a cultivation of the feeling of unselfish Philanthropy. It will thus become apparent to a mind free from preconception that the *Yoga Siddhis* are only the accessories of *Brahmavidya*, i. e., Esoteric Theosophy, the acquisition of which is guided only by unselfish philanthropy and universal love. The misconception in the above extract is evidently due to the Reverend writer's confounding the path, pursued by a *real Yogi*, with that of ordinary jugglers and sorcerers. While the powers of the former are psychological, those of the latter are physical, pure and simple. If the writer had carefully studied the important articles in the *Theosophist* on this subject and various other publications on Rosicrucianism and Esoteric Theosophy, before hastily penning his remarks, the present controversy would have been saved. He says that he must "labour for others and desire their good" more than his own. The *true Yogi* replies: — "We postulate that the good of others is our own, since we are a part of the integral whole, and therefore it is not logical or wise to think of mere relative good to others." When the student has once realised this important fact — and until he has, he is not a fit student — where then is there room left for "pride" from which the Reverend writer shrinks with such pious horror? Self-conquest is the first step on the ladder of *Brahmavidya* leading to *Nirvana* or *Mukti*. If it is thoroughly comprehended that *Avidya* in every shape is to be got rid of, and if the way to achieve that object is found to be as stated in the

preceding remarks, the basis on which the Reverend gentleman has raised a structure of fears concerning *Yoga* is necessarily removed, and the whole edifice thus must tumble down. One or two more points may also be noticed, with advantage. He says: —

"The trance consciousness in me may be the gateway to imperfect and distorted visions, the creations of brain in an unnatural tension, and not free from its own preconceptions."

Precisely so: this is just what the occultist guards himself against by first passing through the process of unlearning before beginning to learn. He rests neither upon the deductive nor the inductive method solely, but employs both before accepting any fact. More than this: he practically and experimentally demonstrates to himself the truth of the conclusion he arrives at, before taking them as final. Human will is merely the manifestation of the *Divine Will* or rather *Paramatma*. But its action or expression depends upon its associations and the medium through which it has to act. It is all these disturbances or the veils of *Maya*, that the occultist guards himself against in his studies, and it will be admitted that this mode of procedure is a purer source of knowledge than any other where the counteracting influences are allowed their full sway. In conclusion, the Reverend gentleman adds: —

". . . His (Buddha's) noblest merit is that he never claimed to be God. If Christ did so claim to be without being so in reality, He must have been one of the world's least souls, its most deluded Prophets. Do you believe this?"

Before answering this query, it is essential to enquire whether Christ's Divinity is to be assumed on blind faith, or is the reason of the reader appealed to above? In the former case, silence is gold, but in the latter, the question becomes serious. In the first place, we defy the Christians to point out to us one sentence, one word, in the *Four Gospels* proving in plain and unambiguous language that Christ ever claimed or declared himself to be God. On the contrary — "Why callest thou me good? There is none good but *one*, that is, God" (Matt. XIX 6) — is a rebuke showing plainly that Christ, far from considering himself God, looked upon any attempt to attribute Divinity to him as blasphemy; no amount of ecclesiastical sophistry can successfully distort the meaning. "I and my Father are one," is entirely weakened by "I ascend to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God." Moreover,

the present writer very much doubts whether Christ, even if he did claim to be God, could ever have claimed divinity, *as generally understood*, if he was, as he is represented. What was there more, indeed, in Christ, not possessed by Buddha? Nay, the *impartial* student, whether Occidental or Oriental, must admit that in moral grandeur and unselfish philanthropy, Buddha is unequalled, at all events not inferior to Jesus. The whole question of divinity must, therefore, rest either upon their personal claims and powers, or those of their later followers, namely their respective clergy. Pride is inconsistent with genuine greatness, and humility is the essential qualification of a true philosopher. In this respect too, Buddha shows his superiority in not claiming divinity which might more appropriately be attributed to him by his unphilosophical followers than to the Galilean Prophet by his. As regards their respective powers, or (so-called) "supernatural" gifts, the question can very well be decided by those possessed by their respective followers at the present day. The readers of *Esoteric Buddhism* and the *Occult World* need, of course, no further dilation on this point.

Before concluding, an instance of the wonderful argumentative powers of the learned writer in the *Epiphany* may as well be noticed. While admitting the philosophical force of the defence of Vedic Pantheism and Idolatry by Babu Ishan Chandra Ghose, he remarks: —

"It may be very true that a mind capable of grasping only one million out of thirty-three millions of idle personifications would have a very complex idea of God. But we would ask for an honest and candid answer as to whether the uneducated masses do not rather worship one or a few of these personifications. The Rishis made the analysis: what idol-worshipper, except an educated one like yourself, ever makes the corresponding synthesis?"

The fallacy of this argument is self-evident and needs no comment. The Babu may well retort by asking in his turn how many Christians, even of education and culture, understand the teachings of their religion in that high sense, put upon them by the philosophical few? The perversions and misconceptions that a religion suffers at the hands of its ignorant followers are no argument against the religion itself. The vices and superstitions of the lower order of the Hindus do not injure their philosophical faith any more than the following incident degrades the high moral worth of the teachings of Christ. Only the other day the papers published the account of an English husband

having *sold his wife for a quart of beer!!* And the parties to the contract, witnesses and all, were so strong in a sense of their innocence, that each and every one acknowledged the fact freely in open court. The excellence of a religion depends upon its intrinsic philosophical value and its moral influence upon its followers. It is only Statistics and History that can show which Faith has acquitted itself most honorably of its task.

Rejoinder*

[Supplement to *The Theosophist*, March, 1884.]

[*Rejoinder to an Editorial in the *Epiphany* which discusses Damodar's "Oxford Mission Shots at Occultism." This Editorial was republished in the Supplement to *The Theosophist*, March, 1884, page 49, under the title "Theosophy and Love." — EDS.]

I shall briefly reply to the remarks of the *Epiphany*. I am sorry I failed to gather from the words, "the power of Supreme wisdom or of working what men call miracles," even in the light of the parallel phrase "the power of the invisible worlds," that by "what men call miracles," was not meant "simply physical marvels, but marvels both physical and psychical," as, otherwise some waste of words would have been prevented.

We maintain that the highest ideal of love is to be found only in *Brahmavidya* or Esoteric Theosophy; our ideal of love being a perfect union with the ALL by an utter abnegation of the self and by ardent sleepless endeavours for the good of all sentient beings — even the brute creation, whose sufferings, and wholesale slaughter, are made entirely subservient to the pleasure of Christians and Mahomedans. If the ideal of the Christians is different, — they are welcome to it; only let them not place it higher than ours, unless they are prepared to support their action by the force of arguments. I am glad to find an attempt has been made in this direction by my friendly critic, and proceed to examine it with the attention it deserves.

"It is in no spirit of pride" says the *Epiphany*, "that we state it as a part of our Creed that, however unloving nominal Christians may be, perfect love is only attainable by man through union with Christ, nay, the very gateway to love for the mass of men must be in Christ's love for us. Such a theory has nothing to do with any estimate of persons, but is a necessary corollary of our belief that God became incarnate

for love of us. For, if that be a true doctrine, the recognition of the fact of such tremendous love must be the natural preliminary to being intoxicated and transformed by it, the first step in the true Yoga."

The great incentive to love among Christians is, we are told, the realisation of the fact that Christ, or, in other words, the perfect God, incarnated himself, moved by love, for the redemption of man. Without stopping to question the necessity of such a step in one who, if God, might have avoided it by suppressing the original act of injustice — namely, the "apple incident," — we may here say that there are other doctrines in the Christian faith, and regarded as equally true, which are calculated to weaken if not to completely neutralize the force of this argument. How can we say the Christian "God is love," when he delivers up helpless Humanity, brought into existence without its consent, to the mangling tooth of sin and suffering for a small transgression of its first parents? Even human justice does not hold a son liable for the debts of his father beyond the extent of that father's assets. And how is it that not even the blood of Jesus could restore man to the "blissful seat" from which he had fallen? It may here be urged that the all-Merciful Father has ordained evil but for the ultimate good of man. But the other side may with equal justice contend that an Omnipotent cruel Ahriman has created all apparent good for the ultimate destruction of his creatures, not unlike the Satan of the Middle Ages, granting a short festive season to his servants as a prelude to the eternal damnation of their souls. The real fact is, that our inner self perceives, although the perception in very many cases is clouded by preconceived notions, that love and charity are but the law of our being, and that the violation of the law is always attended with suffering. It is no argument against this proposition that the general mind is not conscious of such being the case, any more than it is necessary for the miser to be aware of the true worth of riches when counting his unsunned hoards with a greedy eye.

Our friendly critic then charges me with a *petitio principii*: --

If you then require "unselfish philanthropy" as a "guide to the acquisition of Brahmaildya," you are from the point of view of the positive experience of millions, indulging in a *petitio principii*.

Nothing of the kind. It is enough if I am supported by the "positive experience" of one man — and such a man is always to be found in the

person of the Great Beggar Prince of Kapilavastu. The only logical misdemeanour committed in the present transaction is that of hasty generalisation chargeable on the critic himself, in deriving a general proposition from a particular one, however extensive that particular proposition may absolutely be.

The subordination of love to power, attributed to Theosophy, is due to the learned critic's misconception of what is said in *the Elixir of Life*, [an article by G..... M..... F.T.S. (Godolphin Mitford), in *The Theosophist*, March and April, 1882; republished in *Five Years of Theosophy*, pp. 1-32; he was an English occult student] which has never been claimed as a complete exposition of the subject. The objections now raised clearly show that the article on "Morality and Pantheism" in the *Theosophist* for November last [by Mohini M. Chatterji; republished in *Five Years of Theosophy*, pp. 212-220], has not been properly considered. There it is distinctly said: —

Inactivity of the physical body (*Sthula sarira*) does not indicate a condition of inactivity either on the astral or physical plane of action. The human spirit is in its highest state of activity in *Samadhi*, and not, as is generally supposed, in a dormant quiescent condition. And, moreover, it will be seen by any one who examines the nature of Occult dynamics, that a given amount of energy expended on the spiritual or astral plane is productive of far greater results than the same amount expended on the physical objective plane of existence. When an adept has placed himself *en rapport* with the Universal Mind, he becomes a real power in nature. Even on the objective plane of existence, the difference between brain and muscular energy, in their capacity of producing wide-spread and far reaching results, can be very easily perceived. The amount of physical energy expended by the discoverer of the steam engine might not have been more than that expended by a hardworking day-labourer. But the practical results of the cooly's work can never be compared with the results achieved by the discovery of the steam engine. Similarly, the ultimate effects of spiritual energy are infinitely greater than those of intellectual energy.

To pass to the concluding remarks of the *Epiphany*. My arguments with reference to Hindu idolatry have been misunderstood by the critic. What I mean is this: — That, as no idolatry is sanctioned by the Hindu Scriptures, it is quite unjust to condemn the symbols of Hindu Religion, which are not

without a certain similarity in principles to the Christian Eucharist, simply on the ground that the ignorant masses cannot always perceive the underlying spiritual truth. It would be as reasonable to charge the grotesque eccentricities of the Salvation Army on the purity of the Christian faith. — D. K. M.

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White and Black Magic

[Supplement to *The Theosophist*, February, 1884.]

Having just had a little leisure I was going over Mirza Moorad Alee's [i.e. Godolphin Mitford, an English occult student. — EDS.] letter in the *Philosophic Inquirer* of the 6th Instant. Col. Olcott's reply covers the whole ground in essentials, and I would have remained contented with it, especially that I may not be the cause, directly or indirectly, of any more exciting the nervous system of one upon whom I once looked with great respect and affection for his intellectual powers and what seemed to be unflinching devotion to Truth — had it not been for the fact that I apprehend the readers of the *Philosophic Inquirer* will not form correct ideas concerning white and black magic, were not the subject entered into a little deeper than Col. Olcott had the leisure to do.

The first time that Mirza Moorad Alee came to the Headquarters of the Theosophical Society in Bombay to stop with us a few days, the very first thing he told me was: — "If you ever want to progress on the right path, beware of sensual appetites dragging you down, and above all take care of the *Brothers of the Shadow, the Sorcerers*, with some of whom I have had personal dealings, to which fact I trace all my present suffering, struggle, and misery." These are not his exact words, but this is the idea he conveyed to me, and confirmed in all his subsequent

conversations. I therefore stand aghast now at reading: — "The Theosophist leaders never 'discouraged' but rather encouraged me in such practices (of black magic)" — as Mirza Moorad Alee says in his letter under consideration. I cannot believe he is wilfully misrepresenting facts, but will fain attribute his present forgetfulness to mental aberration, caused by nervous exhaustion brought on by his futile struggle to get over the horrors of black magic and rise up to the spiritual glories of an Adept. When he joined us he had already opened the door and was gone too far to be able to shut it against the workings of the sorcerers with whom he had had "personal dealings." I only pity his fall and hope he will not have to share the fate of all black magicians. He is misrepresenting the meaning of *Nirvana* when he uses it as a synonym for *annihilation*. Yes: it is annihilation, not of the spiritual Ego, but of the lower principles in man, of the animal Soul, the personality which must perish. The powers of black magic are due to the will-power engendered by a concentrated form of selfishness. This is possible only when the *Manas* — the fifth principle of man, as the occultist calls it — resides very firmly in his lower principles. A careful study of the *Fragments of Occult Truth* [by "Lay Chela," a series published in *The Theosophist*, October 1881 to May 1883. Republished in *The Complete Works of H. P. Blavatsky*, Vol. III, pp. 98-142. Consult *Index of The Mahatma Letters to A. P. Sinnett* for references indicating the source of this material. — EDS.] and other literature on Esoteric Theosophy shows [shows? — EDS.] that these lower principles are destructible and must therefore be annihilated. Of course, the greater the powers of a black magician, the greater must be his selfishness. The energy of cohesion being thus very powerful, it must take a very long period before annihilation is complete. For aught we know, it (not his physical body which cannot live so long) may extend over thousands — nay a million — of years. The tendency for evil is there; the desire for mischief is strong; but there are no means for the gratification of sensual appetites: and the miserable being suffers the throes of dissolution for a very, very long period until he is totally annihilated. While, on the other hand, the white magician, by his training as described in the *Elixir of Life*, gradually kills his lower principles,

without any suffering, thus extending over a long period their dissolution; and his *Manas* identifies itself with his higher — the sixth and seventh — principles. Every tyro in Occultism knows that the sixth principle being but the vehicle of the seventh — which is all-pervading, eternal essence — must be permanent. From the foregoing remarks it is evident that it is the black magician whose lot is annihilation; while the *adept*, the white magician, enjoys the blissful condition of absolute existence where there is no pain or pleasure, no sorrow or joy, since these are all relative terms, and the state is one of supreme bliss; in short the latter enjoys an immortality of life. It is therefore amusing to see how Mirza Moorad Alee Beg has endeavoured to represent black as white and *vice versa*. But his sophistry will be plain to every student of the Occult Philosophy.

Contemplation

[From *The Theosophist*, February, 1884.]

A general misunderstanding of this term seems to prevail. The popular idea appears to be to confine oneself for half an hour — or at the utmost two hours — in a private room, and passively gaze at one's nose, a spot on the wall, or, perhaps, a crystal. This is supposed to be the true form of contemplation enjoined by *Raj Yoga*. It fails to realize that true occultism requires "physical, mental, moral and spiritual" development to run on parallel lines. Were the narrow conception extended to all these lines, the necessity for the present article would not have been so urgently felt. This paper is specially meant for the benefit of those who seem to have failed to grasp the real meaning of Dhyān, and by their erroneous practices to have brought, and to be bringing, pain and misery upon themselves. A few instances may be mentioned here with advantage, as a warning to our too zealous students.

At Bareilly the writer met a certain Theosophist from Farrukhabad, who narrated his experiences and shed bitter tears of repentance for his past follies — as he termed them. It would appear from his account

that the gentleman, having read *Bhagavat-Gita* about fifteen or twenty years ago and not comprehending the esoteric meaning of the contemplation therein enjoined, undertook nevertheless the practice and carried it on for several years. At first he experienced a sense of pleasure, but simultaneously he found he was gradually losing self-control; until after a few years he discovered, to his great bewilderment and sorrow, that *he was no longer his own master*. He felt his heart actually growing heavy, as though a load had been placed on it. He had no control over his sensations; in fact the communication between the brain and the heart had become as though interrupted. As matters grew worse, in disgust he discontinued his "contemplation." This happened as long as seven years ago; and, although since then he has not felt worse, yet he could never regain his original normal and healthy state of mind and body.

Another case came under the writer's observation at Jubbulpore. The gentleman concerned, after reading Patanjali and such other works, began to sit for "contemplation." After a short time he commenced seeing abnormal sights and hearing musical bells, but neither over these phenomena nor over his own sensations could he exercise any control. He could not produce these results at will, nor could he stop them when they were occurring. Numerous such examples may be multiplied. While penning these lines, the writer has on his table two letters upon this subject, one from Moradabad and the other from Trichinopoly. In short, all this mischief is due to a misunderstanding of the significance of contemplation as enjoined upon students by all the schools of Occult Philosophy. With a view to afford a glimpse of the Reality through the dense veil that enshrouds the mysteries of this Science of Sciences, an article, the "Elixir of Life," was written. Unfortunately, in too many instances, the seed seems to have fallen upon barren ground. Some of its readers only catch hold of the following clause in the said paper: —

Reasoning from the known to the unknown meditation must be practised and encouraged.

But, alas! their preconceptions have prevented them from comprehending what is meant by meditation. They forget that it "is the inexpressible yearning of the inner Man to 'go out towards the infinite,' which in the olden time was the real meaning of adoration" — as the next sentence shows. A good deal of light will be thrown upon this subject if the reader were to turn to the preceding portion of the same paper, and peruse attentively the following paras. on page 141 of the *Theosophist* for March, 1882 (Vol. III, No. 6): —

So, then, we have arrived at the point where we have determined, — literally, *not* metaphorically — to crack the outer shell known as the mortal coil, or body, and hatch out of it, clothed in our next. This 'next' is not a spiritual, but only a more ethereal form. Having by a long training and preparation adapted it for a life in this atmosphere, during which time we have gradually made the outward shell to die off through a certain process . . . we have to prepare for this physiological transformation. How are we to do it? In the first place we have the actual, visible, material body — man, so called, though, in fact, but his outer shell — to deal with. Let us bear in mind that science teaches us that in about every seven years we *change skin* as effectually as any serpent; and this so gradually and imperceptibly that, had not science after years of unremitting study and observation assured us of it, no one would have had the slightest suspicion of the fact. . . . Hence, if a man partially flayed alive, may sometimes survive and be covered with a new skin, — so our astral, vital body . . . may be made to harden its particles to the atmospheric changes. The whole secret is to succeed in evolving it out, and separating it from the visible; and while its generally invisible atoms proceed to concrete themselves into a compact mass, to gradually get rid of the old particles of our visible frame so as to make them die and disappear before the new set has had time to evolve and replace them. . . . We can say no more.

A correct comprehension of the above scientific process will give a clue

to the esoteric meaning of meditation or contemplation. Science teaches us that man changes his physical body continually, and this change is so gradual that it is almost imperceptible. Why then should the case be otherwise with the *inner man*? The latter too is constantly developing and changing atoms at every moment. And the attraction of these new sets of atoms depends upon the Law of Affinity — the desires of the man drawing to their bodily tenement only such particles as are *en rapport* with them or rather giving them their own tendency and colouring.

For science shows that thought is dynamic, and the thought-force evolved by nervous action expanding itself outwardly, must affect the molecular relations of the physical man. The *inner men*, however sublimated their organism may be, are still composed of actual, *not hypothetical*, particles, and are still subject to the law that an 'action' has a tendency to repeat itself; a tendency to set up analogous action in the grosser 'shell' they are in contact with and concealed within. (*The Elixir of Life*.)

What is it the aspirant of *Yog Vidya* strives after if not to gain *Mukti* by transferring himself gradually from the grosser to the next more ethereal body, until all the veils of *Maya* being successively removed his *Atma* becomes one with *Paramatma*? Does he suppose that this grand result can be achieved by a two or four hours' contemplation? For the remaining twenty or twenty-two hours that the devotee does not shut himself up in his room for meditation — is the process of the emission of atoms and their replacement by others stopped? If not, then how does he mean to attract all this time, — only those suited to his end? From the above remarks it is evident that just as the physical body requires incessant attention to prevent the entrance of a disease, so also the *inner man* requires an unremitting watch, so that no conscious or unconscious thought may attract atoms unsuited to its progress. This is the real meaning of contemplation. The prime factor in the guidance of the thought is WILL.

Without that, all else is useless. And, to be efficient for the

purpose, it must be, not only a passing resolution of the moment, a single fierce desire of short duration, but *a settled and continued strain, as nearly as can be continued and concentrated without one single moment's remission.*

The student would do well to take note of the italicized clause in the above quotation. He should also have it indelibly impressed upon his mind that

It is no use to fast *as long as one requires* food. . . . To get rid of the inward desire is the essential thing, and to mimic the real thing without it is barefaced hypocrisy and useless slavery.

Without realizing the significance of this most important fact, any one who for a moment finds cause of disagreement with any one of his family, or has his vanity wounded, or for a sentimental flash of the moment, or for a selfish desire to utilize the divine power for gross purposes — at once rushes in for contemplation and dashes himself to pieces on the rock dividing the known from the unknown. Wallowing in the mire of exotericism, he knows not what it is to live in the world and yet be not of the world; in other words to guard *self* against *self* is an incomprehensible axiom for nearly every profane. The Hindu ought at least to realize it by remembering the life of Janaka, who, although a reigning monarch, was yet styled *Rajarshi* and is said to have attained *Nirvana*. Hearing of his widespread fame, a few sectarian bigots went to his Court to test his *Yoga*-power. As soon as they entered the courtroom, the king having read their thought — a power which every *chela* attains at a certain stage — gave secret instructions to his officials to have a particular street in the city lined on both sides by dancing girls who were ordered to sing the most voluptuous songs. He then had some *gharas* (pots) filled with water up to the brim so that the least shake would be likely to spill their contents. The wisecracks, each with a full *ghara* (pot) on his head, were ordered to pass along the street, surrounded by soldiers with drawn swords to be used against them if even so much as a drop of water were allowed to run over. The poor fellows having returned to the palace after successfully passing the test,

were asked by the King-Adept what they had met with in the street they were made to go through. With great indignation they replied that the threat of being cut to pieces had so much worked upon their minds that they thought of nothing but the water on their heads, and the intensity of their attention did not permit them to take cognizance of what was going on around them. Then Janaka told them that on the same principle they could easily understand that, although being outwardly engaged in managing the affairs of his state, he could at the same time be an Occultist. He too, while *in* the world, was not *of* the world. In other words, his inward aspirations had been leading him on continually to the goal in which his whole inner self was concentrated.

Raj Yoga encourages no sham, requires no physical postures. It has to deal with the inner man whose sphere lies in the world of thought. To have the highest ideal placed before oneself and strive incessantly to rise up to it, is the only true concentration recognized by Esoteric Philosophy which deals with the inner world of *noumena*, not the outer shell of *phenomena*.

The first requisite for it is thorough purity of heart. Well might the student of Occultism say, with Zoroaster, that purity of thought, purity of word, and purity of deed, — these are the essentials of one who would rise above the ordinary level and join the "gods." A cultivation of the feeling of unselfish philanthropy is the path which has to be traversed for that purpose. For it is that alone which will lead to Universal Love, the realization of which constitutes the progress towards deliverance from the chains forged by Maya around the Ego. No student will attain this at once, but as our VENERATED MAHATMA says in the *Occult World*: —

The greater the progress towards deliverance, the less this will be the case, until, to crown all, human and purely individual personal feelings, blood-ties and friendship, patriotism and race predilection, will all give way to become blended into one universal feeling, the only true and holy, the only unselfish and eternal one, Love, an Immense Love for Humanity as a whole.

In short, the individual is blended with the ALL.

Of course, contemplation, as usually understood, is not without its Minor advantages. It develops one set of physical faculties as gymnastics does the muscles. For the purposes of physical mesmerism, it is good enough; but it can in no way help the development of the psychological faculties as the thoughtful reader will perceive. At the same time, even for ordinary purposes, the practice can never be too well guarded. If, as some suppose, they have to be entirely passive and lose themselves in the object before them, they should remember that by thus encouraging passivity, they, in fact, allow the development of mediumistic faculties in themselves. As was repeatedly stated — the Adept and the Medium are the two Poles: while the former is intensely active and thus able to control the elemental forces, the latter is intensely passive, and thus incurs the risk of falling a prey to the caprice and malice of mischievous embryos of human beings, and — the Elementaries.

Contemplation*

[From *The Theosophist*, April, 1884.]

*[Comment by "F. T. S." with Damodar's Note appended herewith. — EDS.]

In the article on the above subject in the February *Theosophist* occurs the following: —

1. Without realizing the significance of this most important fact, any one who for a moment finds cause of disagreement with any one of his family, or has his vanity wounded, or for a sentimental flash of the moment, or for a selfish desire to utilize the divine power for gross purposes — at once rushes in for contemplation and dashes himself to pieces on the rock dividing the known from the unknown.

I cannot understand how an ordinary man, who has, on one hand, the above-mentioned defects in his nature, (which he generally tries to

control, though sometimes with questionable success; and who, on the other hand, tries also to practise contemplation as explained in the article, runs the danger of being ruined. What are the dangers? Can they be named, and the particular causes which give rise to them?

2. To have the highest ideal placed before oneself and strive incessantly to rise up to it, is the only true concentration recognized by Esoteric Philosophy.

This passage is too learned for an ordinary man. Can an example of "the highest ideal" be given? How is the ordinary man of the world to strive after it?

Suppose an ordinary man of the world rises in the calm hours of the morning after a moderate rest, what is he to do? What kind of ideas should he fill his mind with? How is he to sit? How is he to carry on the contemplation so as to steer clear of all shoals and rocks in the sea of occultism? The greatest aim of the man in question is to spiritualize himself as much as could be done *safely*, so that if he cannot eventually be accepted as a chela, in this life — he may at least have the *assurance* to lead the life of an ascetic in the next birth. An F. T. S.

Note. — I regret the whole article is totally misunderstood. All I meant to say was that temporary estrangement, from family or friends, does not constitute an essential qualification for advancement in occultism. This ought to be plain to one who weighs carefully my illustration of Janaka. Although *in* the world, to be not *of* it. Failing to realise the meaning of this important teaching, many a people rush in from a sentimental disgust of worldliness, arising probably out of some worldly disappointment — and begin practising what they consider to be a true form of *contemplation*. The very fact that the *motive* which leads them to go in for this practice, is as is described in the quotation given by my correspondent — this fact itself is a sufficient indication that the candidate does not know the "contemplation" of a *Raja Yogi*. It is thus impossible in the nature of things that he can follow the right

method; and the physical practice, which he necessarily undertakes, leads him to the disastrous results adverted to in the article.

Any reader, who has intuition enough to be a practical student of occultism, will at once see that to work up to perfection is the highest ideal that a man can have before him. That is not the work of a day nor of a few years. "The Adept *becomes*; he is NOT MADE" — is a teaching which the student must first realise. The aspirant works up to his goal through a series of lives. Col. Olcott says in his *Buddhist Catechism*: --

Countless generations are required to develop man into a Buddha, and *the iron will to become one runs throughout all the successive births.*"

That "*iron will*" to become *perfect* must be *incessantly* operating, without a single moment's relaxation, as will be apparent to one who reads *carefully the article as a whole*. When it is distinctly said that during the time that this contemplation is not practised, i.e., the iron will is not exerting, the process of the emission and attraction of atoms is not stopped, and that the desires, instinctive or otherwise, must be so regulated as to attract only such atoms as may be suited to his progress — I cannot understand my correspondent when he asks me what he should do at a particular hour in the morning. He should cultivate only such thoughts as would not be incompatible with the highest ideal he has to work up to. By perfection, which should be his highest ideal, (I must add) I mean that *divine* manhood which the Occult Philosophy contemplates the seventh race of the seventh Round will attain to. This, as every tyro knows, depends largely upon a cultivation of the feeling of Universal Love, and hence an earnest desire to do some practical philanthropic work is the first requisite. Even this state, I admit, is not *absolute perfection*: but that maximum limit of ultimate Spiritual perfection is beyond our comprehension at present. That condition can only be intellectually realized as a practical ideal by those *divine men* — Dhyān-Chohans. To be identified with THE ALL, we must live in and feel through it. How can this be done without the realisation of the feeling of Universal Love? Of course Adeptship is not within the easy

reach of all. On the other hand, occultism does not fix any unpleasant place or locality for those who do not accept its dogmas. It only recognises higher and higher evolution according to the chain of causation working under the impulse of Nature's immutable law. The article on "Occult Study" [*republished in *Five Years of Theosophy*, pp. 221-9. — EDS.] in the last number gives the necessary explanation on this point.

It is painful for me to find that the very thing I attempted to point out in that article to be mischievous in its results, is again put forward as a desirable attribute or adjunct of true contemplation. I would ask my correspondent to read again the same article, with these additional remarks, before thinking of the necessity of any peculiar or particular posture for the purpose of *contemplation*. I, at any rate, am unable to prescribe any specific posture for the kind of *incessant contemplation* that I recommend. — D. K. M.

Contemplation — II

[From *The Theosophist*, August, 1884.]

Notwithstanding the article on the above subject in the February *Theosophist*, many of its readers still seem to imagine that "contemplation" is a particular form of gazing or staring at something, which process, when undergone a set number of hours every day, will give psychological powers. This misunderstanding is apparently due to the fact that the main point discussed has been lost sight of. Instead of realising that there is but one chief idea meant to be conveyed by that article by arguing it through many of its phases, it seems to be imagined that almost every sentence expresses quite a distinct idea. It may not therefore be uninteresting or unprofitable to revert to the subject and put forward the same idea from another stand-point and, if possible, in a clearer light. It must first be borne in mind that the writer of the article did not at all mean to imply the act of gazing by the word "contemplation." The former word would have been made use of, were that the idea. "The Imperial Dictionary of the English Language," (1883)

— defines the word contemplation thus: —

(1) The act of the mind in considering with attention; meditation; study; continued attention of the mind to a particular subject. Specifically — (2) Holy meditation; attention to sacred things.

Webster's Dictionary thoroughly revised — also gives the same meaning.

Thus we find that contemplation is the "continued attention of the mind to a particular subject," and, religiously, it is the "attention to sacred things." It is therefore difficult to imagine how the idea of gazing or staring came to be associated with the word contemplation, unless it be due to the fact that generally it so happens that when any one is deeply absorbed in thought, he apparently seems to be gazing or staring at something in blank space. But this gazing is the effect of the act of contemplation. And, as usually happens, here too the effect seems to be confounded with the cause. Because the gazing attitude follows the act of contemplation, it is at once assumed that gazing is the cause which produces contemplation! Bearing this well in mind, let us now see what kind of contemplation (or meditation) the *Elixir of Life* recommends for the aspirants after occult knowledge. It says: —

Reasoning from the known to the unknown meditation must be practised and encouraged.

That is to say, a *chela's* meditation should constitute the "reasoning from the known to the unknown." The "known" is the phenomenal world, cognisable by our five senses. And all that we see in this manifested world are the effects, the causes of which are to be sought after in the noumenal, the unmanifested, the "unknown world": this is to be accomplished by meditation, *i.e.*, continued attention to the subject. Occultism does not depend upon one method, but employs both the deductive and the inductive. The student must first learn the general axioms. For the time being, he will of course have to take them as assumptions, if he prefers to call them so. Or as the *Elixir of Life* puts

it: —

All we have to say is that if you are anxious to drink of the *Elixir of Life* and live a thousand years or so, you must take our word for the matter, at present, and proceed on the assumption. For esoteric science does not give the faintest possible hope that the desired end will ever be attained by any other way; while modern, or the so-called exact science laughs at it.

These axioms have sufficiently been laid out in the articles on the *Elixir of Life* and various others treating on occultism, in the different numbers of the *Theosophist*. What the student has first to do is to *comprehend* these axioms and, by employing the deductive method, to proceed from universals to particulars. He has then to reason from the "known to the unknown," and see if the inductive method of proceeding from particulars to universals supports those axioms. This process forms the primary stage of true contemplation. The student must first grasp the subject intellectually before he can hope to realise his aspirations. When this is accomplished, then comes the next stage of meditation which is "the inexpressible yearning of the inner man to 'go out towards the infinite.'" Before any such yearning can be properly directed, the goal, to which it is to be its aim to run, must be determined by the preliminary stages. The higher stage, in fact, consists in realising practically what the first steps have placed within one's comprehension. In short, contemplation, in its true sense, is to recognise the truth of Eliphas Levi's saying: —

To believe without knowing is weakness; to believe, because one knows, is power.

Or, in other words, to see that "KNOWLEDGE IS POWER." The *Elixir of Life* not only gives the preliminary steps in the ladder of *contemplation* but also tells the reader how to *realise* the higher conceptions. It traces, by the process of contemplation as it were, the relation of man, "the known," the manifested, the phenomenon, to "the unknown," the unmanifested, the noumenon. It shows to the student what ideal he should contemplate and how to rise up to it. It places before him the

nature of the inner capacities of man and how to develop them. To a superficial reader, this may, perhaps, appear as the acme of selfishness. Reflection or contemplation will, however, show the contrary to be the case. For it teaches the student that to comprehend the noumenal, he must identify himself with Nature. Instead of looking upon himself as an isolated being, he must learn to look upon himself as a part of the INTEGRAL WHOLE. For, in the unmanifested world, it can be clearly perceived that all is controlled by the "Law of Affinity," the attraction of one to the other. There, all is Infinite Love, understood in its true sense.

It may now be not out of place to recapitulate what has already been said. The first thing to be done is to study the axioms of Occultism and work upon them by the deductive and inductive methods, which is real contemplation. To turn this to a useful purpose, what is theoretically comprehended must be practically realised. It is to be hoped that this explanation may make the meaning of the former article on this subject clearer.

The Philosophy and Science of Vedantic Raja Yoga*

[From *The Theosophist*, March, 1884.]

[*Edited by Babu Siris Chandra Vasu, B. A., F. T. S.]

I feel really obliged to my friend and brother, Babu Siris Chandra Vasu, B. A., for the presentation of a copy of a Treatise on "The Philosophy and Science of Vedantic Raja Yoga," edited by him. It is the reprint of a book which was first published about four years ago, and a notice of which will be found on page 147 of Vol. 1 of the *Theosophist*. At the time the curious autobiography of the author was published in these columns, his book was passing through the press; and although the account of the Swami's (the author's) life looked rather odd, and a trifle too fantastic, the Editor of the *Theosophist* naturally enough abstained from hazarding an opinion upon the merits of a work as yet unpublished. The neutral attitude has since been unfortunately misunderstood, one way or another; therefore, a few remarks on the book in its present form will not be uncalled for.

A careful and attentive perusal of the Treatise forces the earnest student of Philosophy to the conclusion that a large portion of it is either allegorical or that it is a mystification. But the latter is an untenable supposition. Would, it is asked, the highly educated Editor have undertaken the publication of a work, apparently so full of impossibilities — nay absurdities, had it no hidden merits? The alternative, therefore, to which one is reduced is, that the work is a parable, that it is purposely veiled, like so many other treatises on Occultism — in short an allegory. It is needless here to repeat the impracticability of certain occurrences given out by the author as his personal experiences; and it must be said that the Editor has, to some extent, in a special foot-note hastened to extricate his hero and himself out of a really perilous situation. Turning, however, to the philosophical portion of the work, two or three important points must not be omitted to be noticed. The author begins by taking Paramatma as the Guru, and Jivatma the disciple. The latter at the same time is defined to be "the reflected light or ray" of the former, *i. e.*, the *Jivatma* referred to in the work under notice is identical with the seventh principle of the Occultist. And yet a passage on page 2, reads: —

The *Jivatma* having reached the sublimest height of knowledge, both theoretical and practical, by perfectly understanding all the principles of righteousness and virtue in all the religions of this as well as of the world above, and having enjoyed all the worldly pleasures with great avidity, the pleasures of a kingly life for a short space of time in a corner of this vast universe of the Almighty, at whose call the royal heads even lie prostrate, the pleasures resulting from the voluptuous beauty of the fair sex and all other sensual pleasures, and strived hard for the accumulation of wealth, and giving himself to all kinds of whims and caprices of his unsteady and changeful mind, in short, after enjoying all the pleasures, both intellectual and sensual, of this world, and finding them worthless and vain, comes to the conclusion that no worldly pleasure is lasting and eternal. Being thus disgusted with all worldly enjoyments, the *Jivatma* feels

deep remorse and begins to repent sincerely.

An occultist who will have the patience to master this interminable sentence, need not be long in finding out that the author has used the word *Jivatma* in three different senses, namely, the animal soul, the human soul and the spiritual soul, or, the fourth, the fifth and the sixth (which is the vehicle of the seventh) principle. Atma — the seventh principle — is *alīpta*, and can neither enjoy nor suffer. It is the fourth principle which generates the desire for material enjoyment and the human soul which takes delight in sensual pleasures, but at the same time its upper strata, in which is reflected the light of the sixth, try through its own inherent powers to bring the lower principles under subjection. Otherwise, it is inconceivable how a principle, or substance, which has been immersed in one sort of enjoyment or suffering, can of itself turn its course into another channel. It may be argued that, after all, these principles are but different manifestations of the same *Paramatma*, and hence might be all included under the heading of *Jivatma*. A little reflection will, however, show that position to be indefensible. For the variety in the manifestation of the same essence must be due to the difference in the vehicles of manifestation. If these *vehicles* be different, how can they be called by one common name? Nor does it require a very deep thinking to find out that it is the *vehicles* of manifestation that are named, for *the manifested* being one, is absolute existence and shows no different attributes. It is therefore a matter of great regret that all throughout the book the word *Jivatma* is used to denote so many different principles, and thus is sure to mislead the unwary reader. The second important point to be noticed is the fact that *Asans* (bodily postures adopted in Hatha-Yoga. — Eds), &c., are enjoined for the practice of *Vedantic Raj Yoga*. To an occultist it is of course evident that the author has adopted the technical terms of *Hatha Yoga*, which will disclose the real *Raj Yoga* system, only when esoterically interpreted. In one place a process is described for subjugating the twelve kingdoms, beginning with the lowest one, which is situate in the *Kundalee*. A student of psychology knows that the method refers to the imperfections of the flesh which are to be

conquered one by one, beginning with the grossest. It is a matter, however, of great concern as to how many of the readers will feel disposed to give that attention to the work, which alone may, under favourable circumstances, lead them to a correct understanding of the underlying esoteric meaning — (I still persist in giving the author the benefit of the doubt, and feel ready to admit such a meaning in his work). Thirdly, the language put into the mouth of the Guroo is such as to confuse the reader greatly before he can find out whether by "preceptor" the Paramatma is meant, or — the author himself. These are among the chief peculiarities that permeate almost the whole of the Treatise; and hence it is very doubtful whether its perusal will do any good to the general public. For only those can understand it who have studied esoteric philosophy up to a certain point; and for them the work contains very little they do not know: while the ordinary reader will be misled by the exoteric phraseology adopted, and consequently find the Treatise positively misleading and harmful. However, the motives of the author and the editor being no doubt perfectly benevolent, it is hoped that these remarks may help to remove all grounds of apprehension in the future. The editorial notes and appendices added to the second edition are of a certain importance, and if properly understood, are calculated to throw light upon some of the most obscure passages in the text. They also help to a clearer understanding of the Adwaita Doctrine as propounded by Srimat Sankaracharya, which, unfortunately, the author puts in a very misleading form. The Editor is deserving of all praise and thanks for having, by his notes, attempted to rescue his reader, who, otherwise, would have been left hopelessly floundering in a sea of misconceptions. We would recommend the little Treatise to our students on account of its Appendix. We hope that they will carefully peruse it, for it does an infinite credit to the Editor.

Since the above Review was in type, Mr. R. C. Bary, the publisher of the Treatise, has kindly sent a copy of the same to the *Theosophist* office. In the absence of the Editors from Madras, I beg to thank Mr.

Self-Mesmerisation

[Supplement to *The Theosophist*, April, 1884.]

A brother Theosophist, writing from Midnapore, mentions wonderful cures by the process of self-mesmerisation. During an attack of choleric diarrhoea he perceived a nerve current rising up to the stomach in front and then descending along the spinal chord. By concentrating his attention on the current, he tried to change its direction. In an hour he was much relieved and fell asleep. After getting up, however, he found he had another attack. He took a dose of an opiate and then meditated as he did before. Although he did not go to sleep in the latter case, he got perfectly cured. He feels, he says, quite sure that a single dose of three grains of opium could never have cured a disease which the doctors had pronounced to be of a serious nature. On another occasion he had an attack of lumbago. The pain was so intense that he could not walk erect. He concentrated his attention on the part affected and imagined that the affected portion of the spinal chord had become curved, although in reality there was no such curvature. He then concluded that there must be some displacement of the spinal chord of the *Pranamaya* body. Efforts were made to restore that particular portion of the *Pran*. The effect of the imagination was to produce "a state of strain" on the afflicted part. This was done for some length of time before sleeping. The next morning the patient was all right. Our brother thinks these two instances of self-cure may prove interesting and instructive to his Fellow-Theosophists who can employ with advantage the same process, should they suffer from the same or similar complaints.

[The "Brother-Theosophist" may *possibly* have received enough training from some hatha-yogin to preserve himself from the dangerous reactions arising from interference with the delicate balance of the pranic currents in the body, but it is more likely that he was acting like a blind man walking on the edge of a precipice,

unknowing of his peril. Being well aware of what mental and physical dangers *pranayama* attempts lead to, Theosophy strongly discountenances it and it is practically certain that H. P. Blavatsky would not have allowed this article to appear, but she was traveling in Europe at this time with Col. Olcott. Its publication seems to be one of the errors of judgment into which Damodar occasionally fell and for which he had to suffer, as explained elsewhere. — EDS.]

The Metaphysical Basis of "Esoteric Buddhism"

[From *The Theosophist*, May, 1884.]

The pamphlet of Mr. C. C. Massey, an F. T. S., of the London Lodge of the Theosophical Society, is a valuable contribution to the discussion now being raised by the publication of Mr. Sinnett's *Esoteric Buddhism*. It is a trite axiom that truth exists independent of human error, and he who would know the truth, must rise up to its level and not try the ridiculous task of dragging it down to his own standard. Every metaphysician knows that Absolute Truth is the eternal Reality which survives all the transient phenomena. The preface to the *Isis Unveiled* expresses the idea very clearly when it says: — "Men and parties, sects and creeds, are the mere ephemera of the world's day, while Truth, high seated on its rock of Adamant, is alone eternal and supreme." Language belongs to the world of relativity, while Truth is the Absolute Reality. It is therefore vain to suppose that any language, however ancient or sublime, can express Abstract Truth. The latter exists in the world of ideas, and the ideal can be perceived by the sense belonging to that world. Words can merely clothe the ideas, but no number of words can convey an idea to one who is incapable of perceiving it. Every one of us has within him the latent capacity or a sense dormant in us which can take cognisance of Abstract Truth, although the development of that sense or, more correctly speaking, the assimilation of our intellect with that higher sense, may vary in different persons, according to circumstances, education and discipline. That higher sense which is the potential capacity of every human being is in eternal contact with Reality, and every one of us has experienced moments when, being for

the time *en rapport* with that higher sense, we realise the eternal verities. The sole question is how to focalise ourselves entirely in that higher sense. Directly we realise this truth, we are brought face to face with occultism. Occultism teaches its votaries what sort of training will bring on such a development. It never dogmatizes, but only recommends certain methods which the experience of ages has proved to be the best suited to the purpose. But just as the harmony of nature consists in symphonious discord, so also the harmony of occult training (in other words, individual human progress) consists in discord of details. The scope of Occultism being a study of Nature, both in its phenomenal and noumenal aspects, its organisation is in exact harmony with the plan of Nature. Different constitutions require different details in training, and different men can better grasp the idea clothed in different expressions. This necessity has given rise to different schools of Occultism, whose scope and ideal is the same, but whose modes of expression and methods of procedure differ. Nay, even the students of the same school have not necessarily a uniformity of training. This will show why it is that until a certain stage is reached, the *Chela* is generally left to himself, and why he is never given verbal or written instructions regarding the truths of Nature. It will also suggest the meaning of the neophyte being made to undergo a particular kind of sleep for a certain period before each initiation. And his success or failure depends upon his capacity for the assimilation of the Abstract Truth his higher sense perceives. However, just as unity is the ultimate possibility of Nature, so there is a certain school of Occultism which deals only with the synthetic process, and to which all the other schools, dealing with analytical methods wherein alone can diversity exist, owe their allegiance. A careful reader will thus perceive the absurdity of a dogmatism which claims for its methods a universal application. What is therefore meant by the Adwaiter Philosophy being identical with the Arhat Doctrine, is that the final goal or the ultimate possibility of both is the same. The synthetical process is one, for it deals only with eternal verities, the Abstract Truth, the noumenal. And these two philosophies are put forth together, for in their analytical methods they proceed on parallel lines, one proceeding from the

subjective and the other from the objective stand-point, to meet ultimately or rather converge together in one point or centre. As such, each is the complement of the other and neither can be said to be complete in itself. It should be distinctly remembered here that the Adwaitee Doctrine does not date from Sankaracharya, nor does the Arhat Philosophy owe its origin to Gautama Buddha. They were but the latest expounders of these two systems which have existed from time immemorial as they must. Some natures can better comprehend the truth from a subjective stand-point, while others must proceed from the objective. These two systems are therefore as old as Occultism itself, while the later phases of the Esoteric Doctrine are but another aspect of either of these two, the details being modified according to the comprehensive faculties of the people addressed, as also the other surrounding circumstances. Attempts at a revival of the knowledge of this Truth have been numberless, and therefore to suggest that the present is the first attempt in the world's history, is an error which those whose sense has just been awakened to the glorious Reality are apt to commit. It has already been stated that the diffusion of knowledge is not limited to one process. The possessors of it have never jealously guarded it from any personal or selfish motives. In fact such a frame of mind precludes the possibility of the attainment of knowledge. They have at every opportunity tried all available means to give its benefit to humanity. Times there were undoubtedly when they had to rest content with giving it only to a few chosen pupils, who, it should be remembered, differ from ordinary humanity only in one essential particular, and that is, that by abnormal training they bring on a process of self-evolution in a comparatively very short period, which ordinary humanity may require numberless ages to reach during the ordinary course of evolution. Those who are acquainted with the history of Count St. Germain and the works of the late Lord Lytton, need not be told that even during the past hundred years constant efforts have been made to awaken the present races to a sense of the knowledge which will assist their progress and ensure future happiness. It should not be, moreover, forgotten that to spread a knowledge of philosophical truths forms but a small fraction of the

important work the occultists are engaged in. Whenever circumstances compel them to be shut out from the world's view, they are most actively engaged in so arranging and guiding the current of events, sometimes by influencing people's minds, at others by bringing about, as far as practicable, such combinations of forces as would give rise to a higher form of evolution and such other important work on a spiritual plane. They have to do and are doing that work now. Little therefore do the public know what in reality it is that they ask for when they apply for *Chelaship*. They have to thus pledge themselves to assist the MAHATMAS in that spiritual work by the process of self-evolution, for, the energy expended by them in the act of self-purification, has a dynamic effect and produces grand results on a spiritual plane. Moreover, they gradually fit themselves to take an active share in the grand work. It may perhaps be now apparent why "THE ADEPT BECOMES; HE IS NOT MADE," and why he is the "rare efflorescence of the age." The foregoing considerations should never be lost sight of by the reader of *Esoteric Buddhism*.

The great difficulty which an ordinarily philosophic mind has to contend against, is the idea that consciousness and intelligence proceed out of non-consciousness and non-intelligence. Although an abstruse metaphysical intellect can comprehend or rather perceive the point subjectively, the present undeveloped state of humanity, at any rate, can conceive the higher truths only from an objective stand-point. Just as, therefore, we are obliged to talk of the setting of the sun, in common parlance, although we know that it is not the movement of the sun that we really refer to, and just as in geocentric system we have to speak as though the earth were a fixed point in the centre of the universe so that the unripe mind of the student may understand our teachings, so in the same manner the Abstract Truth has to be presented from an objective point of view, so that it may be more easily comprehended by minds with not a very keen metaphysical intellect. Thus one may say that Buddhism is rational Vedantism, while Vedantism is transcendental Buddhism. Keeping this difference in view, an explanation of the difficulty above put forth may be given from the Buddhist stand-point.

If the reader will here recall the answer of the MAHATMAS to Question V of "An English F. T. S.," published in the *Theosophist* for September 1883, [in *The Theosophist* of September, 1883, "An English F. T. S." (Frederic Myers) asks a series of ten questions suggested by the reading of Sinnett's *Esoteric Buddhism*. Answers I to V contain some of the most important teaching found in *The Theosophist*, being written by the Mahatmans themselves; see *The Mahatma Letters to A. P. Sinnett*, p. 396. The rest of the questions are answered by T. Subba Row. [The pertinent passage from Answer V about the mineral-monad can be found in *The Secret Doctrine*, I, 178-9. See also footnote p. 125. — Eds.] he will remember the explanation concerning "the mineral monad." The one Life permeates ALL. Here it may be added that consciousness and intelligence also permeate ALL. These three are inherent potentially everywhere. But we do not talk of the life of a mineral, nor of its consciousness or intelligence. These exist in it only potentially, The differentiation which results in individualisation is not yet complete. A piece of gold, silver, copper or any other metal, or a piece of rock, &c., has no sense of separate existence, because the mineral monad is not individualised. It is only in the animal kingdom that a sense of personality begins to be formed. But for all that, an occultist will not say that life, consciousness or intelligence, do not potentially exist in the minerals. Thus it will be seen that although consciousness and intelligence exist everywhere, all objects are not conscious or intelligent. The latent potentiality when developed to the stage of individualisation by the Law of Cosmic Evolution, separates the subject from the object, or rather the subject falls into *Upadhi* (objective or vehicular form), and a state of personal consciousness or intelligence is realized. But the absolute consciousness and intelligence which has no *Upadhi* cannot be conscious or intelligent, for there is no duality, nothing to wake intelligence or to be conscious of. Hence the *Upanishads* say that *Parabrahm* has no consciousness, no intelligence, for these states can be cognised by us only on account of our individualisation, while we can have, from our differentiated and personal state, no conception of the undifferentiated, non-dualistic consciousness or intelligence. If there were no consciousness or

intelligence in Nature, it were absurd to talk of the Law of Karma or every cause producing its corresponding effect. The MAHATMA, in one of the letters published in the *Occult World*, says that matter is indestructible, but enquires whether the modern Scientist can tell why it is that Nature *consciously* prefers that matter should remain indestructible under organic rather than inorganic form. This is a very suggestive idea in regard to the subject under notice. At the beginning of our studies we are apt to be misled by the supposition that our earth, or the planetary chain, or the solar system, constitutes infinity and that eternity can be measured by numbers. Often and often have the MAHATMAS warned us against this error, and yet we do, now and then, try to limit the infinity to our standard instead of endeavouring to expand ourselves to its conception. This has led some naturally to a sense of isolation, and to forget that the same Law of Cosmic Evolution which has brought us to our present stage of individual differentiation, is tending to lead us gradually to the original undifferentiated condition. Such allow themselves to be imbued so much with a sense of personality that they try to rebel against the idea of Absolute Unity. Forcing themselves thus in a state of isolation, they endeavour to ride the Cosmic Law which must have its course: and the natural result is annihilation through the throes of disintegration. This it is which constitutes the bridge, the dangerous point in evolution referred to by Mr. Sinnett in his *Esoteric Buddhism*. And this is why selfishness, which is the result of a strong sense of personality, is detrimental to spiritual progress. This it is that constitutes the difference between white and black magic. And it is this tendency to which reference is made when talking of the end of a Race. At this period, the whole humanity splits up into two classes, the Adepts of the good Law and the Sorcerers (or *Dugpas*). To that period we are fast rushing; and to save humanity from a cataclysm which must overtake those who go against the purposes of Nature, the MAHATMAS, who are working with her, are endeavouring to spread knowledge in a manner to prevent its abuse as far as possible. We should therefore constantly remember that the present is not the apex of evolution, and that if we would not be annihilated, we must not allow ourselves to be influenced by a sense of personal

isolation and consequent worldly vanities and shows. This world does not constitute infinity, nor does our solar system, nor does the immeasurable expanse our physical senses can take cognisance of. All these and more are but an infinitesimal atom of the Absolute Infinity. The idea of personality is limited to our physical senses which, belonging as they do to the *Rupa Loka* (world of forms), must perish, since we see no permanent form anywhere. All is liable to change, and the more we live in transient personality, the more we incur the danger of final death, or total annihilation. It is only the seventh principle, the *Adi Buddha*, that is the Absolute Reality. The objective stand-point, however, ever, adds further that *Dharma*, the vehicle of the seventh principle or its Upadhi, is co-existent with its Lord and Master, the *Adi Buddha*; because it says nothing can come out of nothing. A more correct form of expressing the idea would be that in the state of *Pralaya* the sixth principle exists in the seventh as an eternal potentiality to be manifested during the period of cosmic activity. Viewed in this light both the seventh and the sixth principles are Eternal Realities, although it would be more correct to say that the seventh principle is the only Reality, since it remains immutable both during cosmic activity as also during cosmic rest, while the sixth principle, the Upadhi, although absorbed into the seventh during *Pralaya*, is changing during *Manvantara*, first differentiating to return to its undifferentiated condition as the time for *Pralaya* approaches. It was from this standpoint that Mr. Subba Row was arguing in his article on "A Personal and an Impersonal God,"* which was meant as a reply to Mr. Hume, who was then talking of the Arhat Philosophy.

*[This article appeared in *The Theosophist*, Feb. and March, 1883, as a Reply to an article by H. X. (A. O. Hume), *The Theosophist*, Dec., 1882. Both the original article and Subba Row's answer were republished in "A Collection of the Esoteric Writings of T. Subba Row, F. T. S., B. A., B. L." published by Tookaram. Taty. — EDS.]

Now the Vedantin doctrine says that *Parabrahm* is the *Absolute Reality* which never changes and is thus identical with the *Adi Buddha* of the Arhats. While *Mulaprakriti* is that aspect of Parabrahm, which at the

time of *Manvantara* emanates from itself *Purush* and *Prakriti*, and which thus undergoes change during the period of cosmic activity. As *Purush* is force, which remains immutable throughout, it is that aspect of *Mulaprakriti* which is identical with *Parabrahm*. Hence it is that *Purush* is said to be the same as *Parabrahm*, or the *Absolute Reality*. While *Prakriti*, the differentiated cosmic matter, constantly undergoes change, and is thus unpermanent, forming the basis of phenomenal evolution. This is a purely subjective stand-point from which Mr. Subba Row was arguing with the late Swami of Almora who professed to be an Adwaitee. A careful reader will thus perceive that there is no contradiction involved in Mr. Subba Row's statements, when he says from the objective standpoint that *Mulaprakriti and Purush* are eternal, and when again from a subjective standpoint he says that *Purush* is the only eternal Reality. His critic has unconsciously mixed up the two stand-points by culling extracts from two different articles written from two different points of view and imagines that Mr. Subba Row has made an error.

Attention must now be turned to the idea of the *Dhyan Chohans*. It has been already stated above that the sixth and the seventh principles are the same in all, and this idea will be clear to every one who reads carefully the foregoing remarks. It has also been added that the sixth principle, being a differentiation of *Mulaprakriti*, is personal, however exalted and ubiquitous that personality may be. In the Adwaitee Philosophy the *Dhyan Chohans* correspond to *Iswara*, the Demiurgus. There is no *conscious Iswara outside* of the 7th principle of Menu [Manu?] as vulgarly understood. This was the idea Mr. Subba Row meant to convey when he said: — "expressions implying the existence of a conscious Iswar which are to be found here and there in the *Upanishads*, are not to be literally construed." Mr. Subba Row's statement is therefore neither "perfectly inexplicable," nor "audacious," as it is consistent with the teaching of *Sankaracharya*. The *Dhyan Chohans*, who represent the aggregate cosmic intelligence, are the immediate artificers of the worlds, and are thus identical with *Iswara* or the Demiurgic Mind. But their consciousness and intelligence,

pertaining as they do to the sixth and the seventh states of matter, are such as we cannot cognise, so long as we prefer to remain in our isolation and do not transfer our individuality to the sixth and the seventh principles. As artificers of the worlds, they are the primary principle of the Universe, although they are at the same time the *result* of Cosmic Evolution. It is an incorrect understanding of the consciousness of *Dhyan Chohans* that has given rise to the current vulgar notion of God. Little do the dogmatic theists realise that it is within their power to become *Dhyan Chohans* or *Iswara*, or at least they have the latent potentiality in them to rise to that spiritual eminence if they will but work with Nature. They know not themselves, and thus allow themselves to be carried away and buried under a sense of personal isolation, looking upon Nature as something apart from themselves. They thus isolate themselves from the *spirit* of Nature, which is the only eternal Absolute Reality and hurry towards their own disintegration.

The reader will now perceive that *Esoteric Buddhism* is not a system of materialism. It is, as Mr. Sinnett calls it, "transcendental Materialism" which is non-materialism just as the absolute consciousness is non-consciousness and the absolute personality, of which Mr. Massey talks, is non-personality.

Mr. Massey's description of evolution from the idealist stand-point, with which his pamphlet closes, no occultist will disagree with. The book shows such various phases of thought that different portions must evidently have been written at different times. It is undoubtedly a valuable addition to the existing literature on the subject and will be read with extreme interest by the students of "The metaphysical basis of *Esoteric Buddhism*."

POSTSCRIPT

After the above was in type, a copy of the "Reply to the 'Observations' of Mr. T. Subba Row, F. T. S.," by Mrs. Kingsford and Mr. Maitland of the

London Lodge of the Theosophical Society, came to hand. Most of the questions raised therein having been discussed in the foregoing article, attention must now be confined to three or four important points put forth in the present pamphlet.

It has been authoritatively declared, more than once, in the *Theosophist* that the eighth sphere must not be confounded with the *visible* moon. The authors of the pamphlet are therefore undoubtedly right in this respect.

Speaking from a subjective stand-point, to talk of locality and time is absurd, since the latter are mere relative terms and as such restricted only to the phenomenal. Abstract space and eternity are indivisible; and therefore to try to fix time and place, as though they were absolute realities, is neither metaphysical nor philosophical. However, objective stand-point is essential, as has been already pointed out. In the economy of Nature, every thing is right in its place, and to ignore a certain plane is just as illogical as to overestimate it. True knowledge consists in a right sense of discrimination: to be able to perceive what phenomenon performs what function, and how to utilize it for human progress and happiness. Both the objective and subjective stand-points, as much as the inductive and deductive methods, are therefore essential for the attainment of *true* knowledge which is *true* power. In doing so, it is human habit and nature to associate certain phenomena with certain abstract ideas, having of course determined beforehand the exact relation between these two. With these remarks, it may be left to the intuition of the readers to find out the relation between the phases of the moon and the states of being known to occultists as the eighth sphere.

Next we come to the question of the *Dhyan Chohans*. What they are conceived to be has already been stated in the foregoing article. It may however be remarked here that the learned and gifted authors of the pamphlet under consideration seem to mix up both the subjective and the objective stand-points when they say: —

"We confess that the difficulty propounded by us respecting the

alleged part taken by the Dhyan Chohans in the production of the Cosmos is not removed by the statement that 'as there can be no beginning of Eternity, so there can be no first *Dhyan Chohans*,' — *if we are to regard these as human, and not Emanations, but Products of Evolution*. For, both logically and chronologically, the producer must precede the product, the manifester the manifestation. Unless, indeed, it be that we are called on to believe that prior to, and independently of, *manifestation* is no — *Being*; a belief which would involve the doctrine that the manifest *exhausts* Being; in other words, that the Cosmos is God."

Perhaps the difficulty may be removed when it is remembered that the *Dhyan Chohans* represent the cosmic intelligence and consciousness, and that our conception of chronology is inconsistent with the idea of Eternity, and when the subjective and objective stand-points are realized in their distinct aspects. The *Dhyan Chohans* may be considered as the *Elohim* of the *Kabala*, while the "Seven spirits of God" of the Cabalists are represented in the Oriental teaching by the primary *seven Centres of Energy* which subsist "indefeasibly in the Divine Nature, as the seven rays of the prism in light."

We may assure the erudite authors that, according to the Oriental occult teaching, "When a race has reached the Zenith of its physical intellectuality and developed its highest civilization, its progress towards absolute evil" is arrested by the destruction, as far as possible, "of its false and pernicious *system* of thought and conduct . . . by means of such further interior unfoldment of man's spiritual consciousness as will supplement and correct mere intellect and pure intuition, and thus enable man to realise his higher potentialities." The formation and the growth of the Theosophical Society is one of the indications of the fact, as has already been pointed out. Moreover, from a proper understanding of the doctrine of Karma and of what has already been said in the *Fragments* ("Fragments of Occult Truth" — EDS.), &c., concerning the after-states of suicides and those who die premature deaths, it will be obvious that the influence of the results of the evil

actions of *Dugpas* is likely to be worse, under certain conditions and circumstances, when they are destroyed than when alive. In the first place, their *elementaries* are likely to affect a number of sensitives who may thus be dragged, unconsciously to themselves, towards evil. Then, the premature death of one evil personality is likely to influence innumerable other evilly inclined personalities by the Law of Affinity, as in life the former has not had full opportunities of working out the effects of its bad *Karma*. As they are all, more or less, actuated by merely selfish and personal considerations, there can be no complete unity among them, and their "powers" are generally exercised and sometimes exhausted in matters of dissensions among parties and sects. The conditions being such as above indicated, it will be seen that the physical destruction of a race would tend to increase rather the evil effects than otherwise. At the same time, it should not be forgotten that those entities who have as it were reached the grandeur and the eminence of a Prince of Black magicians, ultimately tend to so group themselves as to make it impossible for them to have their influence spread beyond a very limited area. This opportunity may be taken advantage of; and none will deny that it is a certain kind of physical destruction by which they are all focalised together, as it were, in a spot, until a total annihilation results. It is to this destruction that Mr. Subba Row refers in his "Observations."* The phrase "Absolute evil" has been made use of in the same sense as a mathematician sometimes uses the terms "Zero" and "Infinity" — to indicate a theoretical limit.

*[These "Observations" of T. Subba Row were republished in the collection of his Esoteric Writings published by Tookaram Tatya. In this article, p. 353, Subba Row, referring to the series of Answers to ten Questions by "An English F. T. S." (see footnote p. 114) says: "The 'Replies' — as every one in our Society is aware of — were written by three 'adepts' . . . none of whom is known to the London Lodge, with the exception of one — to Mr. Sinnett. The sentence quoted and fathered upon Madame Blavatsky is found in the MSS sent by a Mahatma who resides in Southern India [Narayana]. . . ." — EDS.]

A few words may now be said in connection with the idea of *Buddha*.

When Mr. Subba Row talks of the historical aspect of Buddha, he probably refers to *Gautama Buddha*, who was a historical personage. It must, of course, at the same time be remembered that every entity that identifies itself with that ray of the Divine Wisdom which is represented by Gautama, is a Buddha; and thus it will be evident that there can be but one Buddha at a time, the highest type of that particular ray of Adeptship.

As the purpose of this writing has been elucidation of truth by means of discussion — spirit which should animate every true philosophical disquisition — we hope we have succeeded in leaving entirely out of consideration every personal question — which so often mars the force of metaphysical arguments. The chief aim of the Theosophical Society is human enlightenment and true progress, which can be gained only by impersonal intelligent discussions, thus promoting a Brotherhood formed upon the basis of mutual intellectual sympathy.

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Part III

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[This chapter contains some of the most important material from the pen of Damodar, consisting of comments and notes by him to articles written by other students, and also answers to questions from inquirers. Wherever possible the articles or questions which Damodar comments upon, have been summarized.

In each case Damodar's signature, as it appears in *The Theosophist*, has been appended to his contributions in order that there may be no confusion as to authorship. — EDS.]

The "Occult World" and the "Spiritualist"

[From *The Theosophist*, August, 1881.]

Having just read in the London *Spiritualist* a review of Mr. Sinnett's book "The Occult World," I find in it more than a doubt expressed as to the reality of the "Brothers," that body of mystics to which the personage known as "Koot Hoomi Lal Singh" belongs. The Editor of that paper would have his readers believe that the said person is a creation of Madame Blavatsky's fancy. "Mr. Sinnett" he says "has never seen

Koot Hoomi, nor does he mention that any other Theosophist in India has had that privilege."

As some other persons may express the same doubts, and also some, while admitting their genuine character, may attribute them to agency other than that to which Madame Blavatsky refers them (the so-called "Brothers" &c.,) I hereby declare that not only have I within the last few days *seen* one of the persons so designated at the Headquarters of the Society at Bombay, but that I have very good reasons (which I cannot go into more fully now) to know that the said persons are *not* "spirits" but real human beings exercising powers out of the ordinary. Both *before* and *after* my connection with the Theosophical Society I have known and conversed with them *personally* and witnessed the most wonderful results (which would ordinarily be described as miraculous), but I must emphasise my declaration that I *do not* regard them as *supernatural* and am altogether materialistic (or rather *naturalistic*) in my conceptions of the agency producing them. Further I testify that I have the strongest conviction based on reasons which, though authoritative, are purely natural and physical, that the said "Brothers" are a mysterious fraternity the ordinary location of which is the regions north of the Himalayas.

Mirza Moorad Alee Beg,* F. T. S.,

Acting President of the "Saorashtr Theosophical Society" at Bhaunagar.

[*Real name Godolphin Mitford, an English occult student — Eds.]

The criticisms upon Mr. Sinnett's book "*The Occult World*" force upon me the duty of testifying from *personal* experience and knowledge to the fact that those whom we call our "Brothers of the First Section" of whom "Koot Hoomi Lal Singh" is one, and who possess the so-called "miraculous" powers, are real and living beings and not disembodied spirits as the Editor of the *Spiritualist* would have his readers think. It is but by a long course of study and training that such can be attained.

It is *not belief* with me but *knowledge*, for, if I have seen one of them, I have at least seen about half a dozen on various occasions, in broad daylight, in open places, and have talked to them, not only when Madame Blavatsky was in Bombay but even when she was far away and I here. I have also seen them at times when I was travelling. I was taken to the residences of some of them and once when Col. Olcott and Mme. Blavatsky were with me. Further than that I cannot say, and shall not give any more information either about them or the places they reside in, for I am under a solemn obligation of secrecy and the subject is too sacred for me to be trifled with. I may, however, mention that I know "Koot Hoomi Lal Singh" personally and have seen and conversed with him when Mme. Blavatsky was here as also when she was far away. But under what circumstances I am not at liberty to disclose.

We Hindus who know the "Brothers" think it equally absurd and ridiculous to insinuate that either Madame Blavatsky is a lunatic or an impostor, or that persons like Mr. Sinnett could have ever become her dupes. Neither is she a medium, nor are the "Brothers" "disembodied Spirits." — DAMODAR K. MAVALANKAR, F. T. S.

Pert Questions and Plain Answers

[Supplement to *The Theosophist*, May, 1882.]

How little the "beliefs and creeds" of the Theosophical Society — which has no belief or creed — are understood by the average public in India after three years of constant explanations, may be inferred by the letter that follows. Crude and childish as it is, yet, finding in it the echo of the public bigotry and blindness to facts and practical proofs, we give it room in our *Supplement*. Unless we are greatly mistaken, it was written under a direct inspiration than which there is not a more bigoted or more intolerant one the world over — we mean that of a Protestant missionary. [Editorial Note in *The Theosophist*. — EDS.]

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "THEOSOPHIST"

9th March, 1882.

Madame, — With reference to a leading article that appeared in the *Bombay Gazette* of the 4th instant, (from the pen of a correspondent, signing himself "Senex,") and also to an extract from Bishop Sargent's Journal, dated October the 24th, which also appeared in the *Bombay Gazette* of the same date (Saturday, March 4th, 1882), allow me to make the following conclusions: —

"Senex" speaks of "Theosophy" to be a new religion imported into Bombay. Is "Theosophy" a religion, or a belief? Does the Theosophical Society propagates any kind of belief (directly or indirectly)?* [*Useless to repeat that which was asserted over and over again — namely, that the Theosophical Society, *as a body*, has no religion. — ED. (of *The Theosophist*)] The Theosophical Society comprises three sections, and each section comprises three classes. I ask whether there is a single member recognized of the first or second section who is permitted (according to the rules of those sections) to retain his orthodox religious views.** [**Most undoubtedly every one of them is allowed to do so if he likes; but whether, after learning *the* truth, he will do so and persist in his dogmatic views, is another question.—ED. (of *The Theosophist*)]. I presume to answer the question in the negative. *Multum in parvo*, "Theosophy" tends to a Buddhistic philosophical and religious belief. Though the rules of the Theosophical Society do not directly compel one to renounce his orthodox religious views, yet indirectly they do so, for one has to renounce his religious orthodoxy if he desires (to be recognized) to be initiated into the higher sections. The "neophytes" receive instruction in what is called "the occult sciences" unknown to the scientists of this day, which sciences treat of "the spirits," and certain fluids and forces in nature. Furthermore "Occultism" teaches man how he can hold direct communication with these forces (by the so-called Occult Psychological Telegraphy), and how he can have a certain amount of control over them, so as to direct these forces, and make them the means of accomplishing certain wonderful phenomena. If such be the case, "Occultism" disproves the truth of miracles (superhuman powers).*** [***Most undoubtedly it

does. It rejects the very idea of there being anything *supernatural* (*i. e.*, above, below, or outside of nature) in this infinite Universe — as a stupendous fallacy. — ED. (of *The Theosophist*) "Occultism," then, affects all the popular faiths of this planet, which claim to be of Divine origin (*i. e.*, revealed by God to man miraculously through some prophet).**** [****To "claim," is one thing, and "to be" — and to prove it — is quite another. — ED. (of *The Theosophist*)] In short, "Occultism" teaches that Paul, Moses, Confucius, Mahomet, Zoroaster, and Buddha were liars and deceivers when they said that they received Divine inspirations.***** [*****We would advise our young friend to study a subject before he presumes to speak of it. Buddha never claimed to have received "Divine Inspiration," since Buddha rejected the very idea of a god, whether *personal* or *impersonal*. Therefore, Occultism does *not teach* that he was a "liar," nor does it give that abusive epithet — so generously bestowed by the Christian *padris* on all and every other prophet but their own — any more to Moses, than to Mahomet, or Zoroaster, least of all to Confucius, since, no more than Gautama Buddha, has that great sage ever claimed "divine" inspiration. — ED. (of *The Theos.*)] Thus "the Occult Sciences" as professed by Koot-Hoomi and his brother (and sister) Theosophists do indirectly affect the religions of this world. Mr. Sinnett, in his work entitled "The Occult World," informs us that the Corresponding Secretary of the Theosophical Society "is an adept to the extent of possessing this magnificent power of psychological telegraphy with her Occult friends."

"Senex" goes on to say that "Theosophy" is a speculation of certain visionaries who pretend to be able to hold direct communication with the Deity and to direct and combat the influence of the Deity ("the Supreme Light") by the medium of Genii, (spirits), or demons, or by the agency of stars or fluids (as electricity).* [*If our correspondent is unable to appreciate journalistic humour and wit, and takes the definition copied out by "Senex" from Webster's Dictionary as a Gospel Truth, we cannot help him to more intuitive perceptions than he is endowed with. — ED. (of *The Theosophist*)] It must not be forgotten that Spiritualists are already wrangling on points of spiritualistic dogma.

"Senex" (referring to the spirits of the dead) is of opinion that the theory of the "Theosophists" (that the raiment is fashioned "out of the cosmic matter of the universe") is a trifle less absurd than that of the Spiritualists. I see no difference between "Occultism" of the Theosophists and "Spiritualism" as professed by Zollner, Mrs. Hauffe, Eglinton, Slade** [**This is to be deplored, but so long as our correspondent will rush into print to discuss upon subjects he knows nothing about, he is sure to commit such ridiculous blunders. — ED. (of *The Theosophist*)] and a score of other mediums in the United States, except that the Spiritualists perform their phenomena through spirits pneumatic, (?) while the adepts of theosophy do theirs by nature's laws *without the aid of spirits (apneumatic)*. Bishop Sargent informs us "that the king-cocanut, planted by Col. Olcott and the Tinnevelly Brothers in the temple-yard of the Great Pagoda of Tinnevelly, was soon after removed, and that the whole temple-yard had to be ceremonially purified of the contamination it had thus contracted by the intrusion of the foreigner."*** Yet Colonel Olcott makes no mention of this in his address at the Framjee Cowasjee Institute of the 12th January.****

***Which only proves that Bishop Sargent also speaks of what he knows nothing about, or gladly repeats unproved missionary calumnies. (See the remarks under the heading "Milk for Babes and Strong Meat for Men" on page 5 of the Supplement to the last issue). — ED. [of *The Theosophist*]

****Pleading "guilty" to never reading or paying attention to missionary and other pious organs, and not being endowed with omniscient clairvoyance to help him following the constant intrigues of their editors and their inventions against our Society and its Founders, Colonel Olcott could not "mention" that which he was not aware of: namely that, after the calumny had been well spread by our meek and humble missionaries and as effectively shown to be false, no less a personage than a "Bishop" would take it up, and circulate what he knew was a malicious falsehood. — ED. [of *The Theosophist*]

Either the Theosophical Society has its inconsistencies or the Bombay public have not been correctly informed concerning these matters.

Would you kindly satisfy me (by letter) on the following points: —

- (1) Whether an adept of "theosophy" like Koot-Hoomi and others can "foretell future events"; whether they have such powers?
- (2) Whether "adepts" have the power of curing diseases?
- (3) And, lastly, whether "adepts" have the power of temporarily raising the dead as "Senex" gives me to understand.

I remain yours &c.,

Answer to * * * 's Misconceptions

SECRETARY'S OFFICE OF THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY, BREACH
CANDY, BOMBAY, INDIA, 10th March, 1882.

Sir, — The Editor of the "THEOSOPHIST" having no leisure to answer letters, but turning that work over to the Secretaries, I have the pleasure to reply to your letter of 9th March. You seem to rest all your arguments upon the two letters in the *Bombay Gazette* of the 4th instant. One of these is from a correspondent, while the other one is an extract from Bishop Sargent's Journal, dated 24th October, 1881. When reading "Senex's" letter, we were the first to laugh over it heartily, as it is very witty and quite free from any malicious innuendoes, such as some of the hard-headed bigots have been wont to use against us.

At any rate, it is easy to perceive that the writer's intention was far from conveying any such absurd conclusions as you seem to have arrived at — such as "temporarily raising the dead!" Some people seem entirely impermeable to literary wit. They have no sense of true humour, and seem incapable of appreciating it. Hence — their perversion of the meaning.

"Theosophy" and the "Theosophical Society" are two quite different things, since the latter, embracing the former, includes still a few other things. Permit me to remind you that, in our *Rules*, our objects are

defined as follows: —

- (1) To form the nucleus of an Universal Brotherhood of Humanity, without distinction of race, creed or colour.
- (2) To promote the study of Aryan and other Eastern literature, religions and sciences, and vindicate its importance.
- (3) To investigate the hidden mysteries of Nature and the Psychical Powers latent in man.

Of these, the first is the most important for us. It is urged that this Idea is Utopian. But whether it is or is not, is quite beside the question. What people want to know is, whether it is conducive to the happiness and well-being of humanity, and so, worthy of being given a trial — or not. And if it is, that is all we care for. How far we have succeeded in our endeavours, can be seen from the practical results of our work. If we have succeeded so far, it is because we ever kept in mind that we could admit only those who were capable of understanding what that term of Universal Brotherhood meant, and of appreciating the honour of having been accepted within its ranks. Therefore, we extended the Brotherhood only to those who could comprehend and hoped to conquer the immense difficulties encountered between Intellectual Solitude and Intellectual Companionship. This is a position difficult to master; but once mastered, the Theosophical Society has found many recruits capable of forming and leading companies of their own. Thus has the Idea spread, thus have numerous Branches been formed, and thus have our operations extended almost all over the world. And the practical benefits, accruing from such an Organisation, each of our members can testify to, any day. Composed, as we are, of various nationalities and divers religious creeds, it was essentially necessary that we should have certain stringent rules to enforce harmony. And how could we do that except by allowing no one to enter before he pledged himself to abide by the principle of mutual religious Tolerance and Sympathy? There is a great deal of difference between orthodoxy and bigotry. A person may be very orthodox and not at all a bigot. An orthodox will cling tenaciously to his views, whatever they may be, while a bigot will try his best to *enforce* his ideas upon others, whether

they be willing or not. We, therefore, have to admit only such persons who will not interfere with the views of their Fellow Members, but will try to promote mutual Intellectual Sympathy. Between calm and philosophical discussion and bigoted compulsion, there is a world of difference; and a person, who desires to arrive at Truth, must accept it from whatsoever quarter and wheresoever it may be found. Most of us, Asiatics, believe that we can find it in ancient religions, and, therefore, encourage their study. And here comes in Theosophy. But it is a term which is not properly understood, I fancy, by the majority of our critics: hence — there have been many misconceptions about our Society. Ordinary people say that Theosophy, derived from "*Theos* — God" and "*Sophia* — wisdom," means the wisdom of God. Hence they rashly jump to the conclusion that we are all believers in a *Personal* Deity. No graver mistake could ever be committed. "Theosophy" with us (and it did so with Plato and other ancient Theosophists) means "divine wisdom," or rather the knowledge of that which is yet a mystery to the ordinary run of mankind. In this sense, even a Materialist is a Theosophist, because he is ever trying to find the operation of such laws of nature as have not yet been discovered; a Buddhist, — who recognizes no God, — is also one, for he strives to attain to a knowledge of that which he terms "Motion" and with its help to attain "Nirvana"; so also is a Vedantist, as he is in pursuit of the knowledge of that which he calls "Parabrahm," and thus reach "Moksha"; similarly is a Zoroastrian, for he is striving after that course which will enable him to perceive, with his inner eye, the God Zoroaster saw; and so on and on. But, if we take the religious history of the founders of all these different faiths, we find that they proceeded by the same path and arrived at the same conclusions. It might be said: "How is it then that there should be so many antagonistic passages in different religious books?" Here then comes in true Theosophy, which is the only key to unlock the mysteries of all these noble, ancient philosophies. Secure this key, and all these inconsistencies will fade away. At least those, who have tried it and have succeeded, assert this to be a fact. For a student of occultism, these externals have no charm. He tries to penetrate into the spirit of everything. For him, all

exotericism is a mere wrangling of terms.

Most certainly, our superior sections are meant only for occultists. Therefore, very few people are in any of those sections. Occultism is not meant for all. Just as, although surgery is open for all, yet not every one can be a skillful surgeon, so also, not every one can be a good occultist. In that line, as in every other, it is better not to touch it at all than to prove a failure. As occultism is not meant for the public, very few can appreciate it or understand its true significance and they, therefore, invent one of their own. Nevertheless, it does seem absurd to find such misconceptions about occultism. Certainly, the students are taught by its proficient to believe there is no such thing as a "miracle." That the idea of something taking place outside of the Laws of Nature is absurd; and, therefore, we reject it most emphatically. To us, however *apparently* miraculous a thing may appear, yet, we are sure that it always happens in obedience to the impulse of forces of Nature, not of any supernatural cause. This is the position assumed by the occultist. Therefore, he has never said that the miraculous phenomena attributed to the world's sages were not genuine; but only that they were *not* "miracles," in the sense of the supernatural, and were performed through their knowledge of the operations of the hidden or occult forces of Nature. Anyone can produce them; any one — who is possessed with the purity of Buddha, undergoes the same training and obtains the same knowledge, — may become a Boddhisatwa. Gautama "Buddha" never claimed, to the knowledge of men, any *divine* inspiration — that is, any influence *external* to himself, since he rejected the very idea of the existence of God. He obtained his Buddhahood by developing his *latent* psychological faculties, which every man more or less possesses. The occultists, therefore, never called him or any one of the personages enumerated by you — "*liars.*" From the above you will also realize, it is to be hoped, that no Eastern occultist ever "pretended" or claimed to "hold *direct* communication with the Deity;" since he believes in and invokes no other Deity but the one enthroned within his own being. Having thoroughly realised that man is the microcosm within the macrocosm, he does not go to seek

that in the external universe, which he fails to find within himself.

If you see no difference between occultism and vulgar Spiritualism, it is to be regretted, but it is not our fault. We cannot read books and understand things for you. Instead of seizing one or two humorous remarks made by witty correspondents and *interested* enemies, if you had carefully, and, *with an impartial spirit*, read our various books and publications, you would have been spared the trouble of writing your letter.

If you take Bishop Sargent's words as Gospel-Truth, we do not. Here, again, if you had read the other side of the case, you would not have committed such a mistake, as the Editor's *note* above will perhaps convince you of having made. I again refer you to the *Subodha Patrika* of 4th December, 1881, as we cannot waste our time with persons, who will take up *ex parte* statements, to establish their own *preconceived* theories. You will find in the *Subodha Patrika* above referred to, the two trustees themselves, of the temple where Colonel Olcott planted the cocoanut, stating that the worshippers of the place, of their own accord, *formally* purified the place, *according to their usual custom*, and that no disrespect, as no exception, was meant to Colonel Olcott. According to custom, they would have purified the place just in the same way, if any other European or even *a Hindu of a lower caste* had entered the place.

The cocoanut plant was never "rooted out," nor was it ever removed from its original place. On the contrary, it is well taken care of, and surrounded by a fence, within the enclosures of which it flourishes and thrives, as if defying the calumnies and malicious lies of our detractors.

No "inconsistencies" in the Theosophical Society, therefore, exist in the mind of any *evenly* disposed person; but they do, and in a very high degree, in those of *partisans*, as none are as blind as they who WILL NOT SEE.

I am not at liberty to mention anything about the adepts. For myself, I would never even utter their names to the *profane* ears of persons bent only upon picking holes in other people's coats. Enough and too much

has already been said by Mr. Sinnett in his "*Occult World*," and any one, who reads that book carefully, has no need to put such childish questions as you have. Upon one more subject I can enlighten you, however, and that is that no living adept has ever set up the ridiculous claim of being able to "raise the dead," once that a person is really dead. To do so, would be a "miracle" indeed — never yet performed in *history* by any living man — but in *Fables* — by many.

Yours obediently,

DAMODAR K. MAVALANKAR,
Recording Secretary.

Seeing Bright Light with Closed Eyes

[Supplement to *The Theosophist*, September, 1883.]

Our Brother P. T. Srinivasaingar of Negapatam, writes to ask: —

"Can you please explain the following phenomenon?

"If a man closes his eyes, lets two fingers pass over them, presses the lower eyelids tightly with these fingers (meanwhile the eye being closed) and tries to see, then before 2' are over, a bright light begins to develop itself before his (is it mind's?) eye."

Note. — Our Brother Mr. Srinivasaingar does not seem to have read any works on Mesmerism. If he had, and if, moreover, he had witnessed personally Col. Olcott benumbing the limbs of his patients and incapacitating them, by his will-power, from opening their eyes, once that he had passed his hand over them, our Negapatam friend would have seen the *rationale* of the phenomenon he describes. The effect, he witnesses, is due to Auto-Magnetisation, pure and simple. Once that the eyes are closed and the mind, drawn away from all external objects of sense, is concentrated, what may appropriately be called the sixth sense, or "Siva's eye" — clairvoyant sight — is opened and the Astral Light, one of the correlations of *Akasa*, becomes

perceptible. Those who are mediumistic can achieve this quicker than others and in some instances, on certain occasions, without any effort. But these effects will not be under the control of these peculiarly constituted people who become but passive agents of the elementals and the elementaries. He who desires to develop his psychological capacities has to practise self-Magnetisation and, becoming an active operator, has to subject the nature-forces to his WILL. It was with that view that the ancient *Aryans* enjoined the performance of the *Sandhya* Ceremony [religious ceremonies performed in India at sunrise, noon, and sunset. — EDS.] now so much neglected and misunderstood! D. K. M.

Can Females Become Adepts?

[From *The Theosophist*, October, 1883.]

Will you kindly let me know whether females can attain to adeptship, and whether female adepts exist at all? "An Inquirer."

Note.— It is difficult to see any good reason why females should not become Adepts. None of us, Chelas, are aware of any physical or other defect which might entirely incapacitate them from undertaking the dreary ordeal. It may be more difficult, more dangerous for them than it is for men, still not impossible. The Hindu sacred books and traditions mention such cases, and since the laws of Nature are immutable, what was possible some thousand years ago must be possible now. If our correspondent had referred to the Editorial Notes, page 148, Vol. III, (Article, *Re-Incarnations in Thibet*) [see *The Complete Works of H. P. Blavatsky*, Vol. III, footnote, p. 272. — EDS.], he would have found the existence of a female Adept hinted at — the pious Chinese Princess who, after living for ten years a married life, renounced it with her husband's consent and became a *Gelung-ma*, or Ani, *i. e.*, a nun. She is believed to be still re-incarnating herself "in a succession of female Lamas." The late Tde-shoo Lama's sister is said to be one of such re-incarnations. From this lady-Adept, the Superior of

the Nunnery on the Palte-Lake — a Tibetan pedlar of Darjeeling acknowledged to some Bengal Theosophists, who visited that place last year, to have received a talisman. That pedlar is now supposed to be dead; but those Theosophists who heard repeatedly his statement can testify to the fact. In Nepaul, we all know, there is a high female Adept. And in Southern India, flourished at a recent date, another great female Initiate named Ouvaiyar. Her mysterious work in Tamil on Occultism is still extant. It is styled *Kural*, and is said to be very enigmatically written, and consequently inexplicable. In Benares too lives a certain lady, unsuspected and unknown but to the very few to whom reference has been made in the *Theosophist* in the article "Swami Dayanand's Views about *Yoga*" (page 47, Vol. II).* Further information about these few already mentioned or any other female Adepts we may know of, we do not feel at liberty to give. If our numerous correspondents would carefully go over the back Numbers of this journal, they would find many of their questions already anticipated and answered; and thus, they would save us an unnecessary travelling over the same line. D. K. M.

*[This article is the report of a series of questions put to Swami Dayanand by Colonel Olcott, during several interviews at which notes were taken. The passage in question is:

"Q. Can a Yogi thus pass from his own body into that of a woman?" A. With as much case as a man can, if he chooses, put on himself the dress of a woman, so he can put over his own *atma* her physical form. Externally, he would then be in every physical aspect and relation a woman; internally, himself." Q. I have met two such; that is to say, two persons who appeared women, but who were entirely masculine in everything thing but the body. One of them, you remember, we visited together at Benares, in a temple on the bank of the Ganges." A. Yes, 'Majji.'" — EDS.]

To the Editor of The Theosophist

[Supplement to *The Theosophist*, December, 1883.]

Madame, — Will you, with your usual kindness, enlighten me on the following points, some of them being not satisfactorily understood, even by the perusal of "Fragments of Occult Truth" and "Elixir of Life." The questions are raised, as they occurred to me while reading the said articles in your valuable journal. They are asked in the spirit of an inquirer after truth and not in the spirit of a biased sceptic. I hope, therefore, you will kindly publish the following questions with replies thereto, in one of your ensuing numbers, of course, as soon as it may please you.

1. It is usually affirmed, what is a fact, that the adepts live very much longer than ordinary mortals. What is the maximum number of years for which they live or can live before they die their physical death like men in general, who live or can live for not more than 200 years at the most?
2. Do all adepts of any particular age, live the same or almost the same number of years? Do adepts of all ages live for about the same number of years?
3. In the article "Elixir of Life" (Vol. III, No. 7, p. 171), we read "By or about the time when the Death-limit of his race is passed, he is actually dead . . . gone to join the gods." What is the exact state of an adept by or about the time, when the Death-limit of his race is passed? If he die a physical death at such a time, though without the agonies of dying, where is the difference with respect to longevity between him and an ordinary man who dies at about 100 or 150 or 200 at the most?
4. An adept, after he is dead in the sense in which it is used in the said article, is not reborn, having no will to live or *Tanha* as they call it. Where is he not reborn? On this earth as well as on any other sphere? What then becomes of his body, the seven principles of which he is formed?
5. When can it be said that an adept has attained Nirvana or Moksha as the Hindus call it? What is the exact state of his body, *i. e.*, the seven principles of which he is composed, when he attains Nirvana?

6. The ancient Rishis of India, such as Vasistha, Valmiki, Viswamitra, Agastya, and other historical adepts do not exist in flesh and blood. Then, how, *i. e.*, in what form do they exist, if they still exist at all in any other form? What has then become of the septenary men of which they were formed?

7. "A very high adept, undertaking to reform the world, would necessarily have to once more submit to Incarnation." (Vol. III, page 171, No. 7 [quoted from "The Elixir of Life." — EDS.]) How, where, and when does he submit to Incarnation? Does he become incarnate in the sense in which Vishnu is said to have been incarnate by the Hindus?

8. Patanjali, in his Yoga Sutras, says that a perfect Yogi, becomes perfectly strong. Does he mean, by that, that he becomes physically stronger than the strongest athlete or gymnast, who is generally physically stronger than an ordinary man not taking exercise? And, if so, what makes him so very strong, since he eats very scanty or no food at all? Who is physically stronger — a vegetarian or a flesh eating man, not to say of the psychic powers he, the vegetarian, acquires?

9. Where is a man, an ordinary man, having *Tanha*, reborn immediately after his physical death, is it on this terrestrial globe or on any other planet of our system?

10. What becomes of an Elementary in the long run? Does or can it again become a human being? If it does, or can again become a human being, when is it and where, on this earth again or on any other planet of our system?

By throwing some light on the above questions, in an intelligible manner, you would highly oblige

Yours faithfully,

DINANATH PANDURANG DHUMME

BOMBAY,

21st September, 1883.

Note. — It is to be regretted that the correspondents to this journal do not seem to realize fully the importance of the following four considerations in putting forth their questions and difficulties. —

(1st) The *Fragments* are but mere crumbs, and necessarily incomplete. Moreover, not being intended for serial publication, as they subsequently were, they cannot but be unsystematic in their arrangement. They were meant rather as food for thought for such as had the capacity to develop the crude ideas presented therein, than as a complete exposition of the Esoteric Doctrine.

(2nd) Most of these crude ideas have been sufficiently expatiated upon in works like the *Occult World*, *Esoteric Buddhism* and other subsequent articles in this magazine. These subsequent expositions must be carefully studied before framing any questions.

(3rd) There are certain facts which can be divulged only to such of the Fellows of the Theosophical Society as have proved their worthiness to receive them; others can be taught only to *chelas* as they progress; while the rest unfold themselves to INITIATES in their onward march towards BUDDHAHOOD.

(4th) For a comprehension of many of these truths the development of the "sixth sense" to which reference has already been made in the replies to "An English F. T. S." — is an essential qualification.

If these four facts could but be realised by the well-meaning and earnest correspondents of the *Theosophist*, much unnecessary writing would be saved. Being bounded by these lines, the questions of Mr. D. P. D. may now be answered to a certain extent.

Esoteric Buddhism sufficiently deals with the first question. The physical life of the ADEPT is determined more or less by the conditions of the race in which he is born, by the energy of his Will and by various other circumstances. It will be admitted that each subsequent race after the middle point is once passed, must be more and more spiritual.

So one ADEPT having to contend with a lesser amount of materiality than his predecessors, has his way much smoother. The exact number of years which an ADEPT of a particular race may live is a perfectly immaterial question and can be set down more to unscientific curiosity than to any philosophical enquiry. It must be at the same time remembered that when a certain stage is reached, the conditions which surround the ADEPTS of different races being nearly identical, their periods of existence must be almost the same. In this answer, question number 2 is anticipated. For a further explanation *Esoteric Buddhism* may be studied with advantage.

Question three would never have been put by one who had properly *studied* the article on *Elixir of Life* and understood the spirit it conveys. Suffice it to say that the passage in that article which tells us that the higher bodies become accustomed to the atmospheric conditions of the earth before the grossest ones are cast off, is a broad hint for a student of occultism who has begun to live the life. Question four is partly answered in the above reply and partly in *Esoteric Buddhism*.

The ADEPT attains *Nirvana* or *Moksha* when he identifies himself with the ONE LIFE or rather puts himself *en rapport* with it. His state then is something like that of the *Dhyan Chohans* of the Buddhists or the *Prajapatis* of the Hindus. D. P. D. would do well to study the *Upanishads*.

The four *Rishis* mentioned in the article live now as *Dhyan Chohans*. This of course does not mean that all the ancient sages have reached that stage.

The incarnation of *Adepts* is to be understood in the same sense in which Occultists interpret the incarnations of *Vishnu*.

What *Patanjali* means is that the *Yogi* becomes strong owing to the development of his Will Power to an enormous extent. Upon what he lives, is sufficiently answered in the article on the *Elixir of Life*. *Akasa* is the mother of all phenomena and the source of nourishment of him who knows how to use it. Vegetables have properties which are not

fully known, and if certain undiscovered (to the general world) vegetables were prepared and eaten in a certain way, there is no reason why they should not give even more strength than animal food. Meat-eating is full of dangers, not only psychological but even physical; and the law which teaches the spread of contagion ought to have made this fact evident. How many diseases are inherent in an organised body and yet remain unsuspected? Vegetable diet is not attended with so many dangerous results.

The question of rebirth is extensively treated upon in the *Fragments* and in *Esoteric Buddhism* and it would be mere waste of space to go over the same ground. The tenth question also is pretty fully discussed there. —D . K. M. (*Chela*)

OnPrayer

[From *The Theosophist*, March, 1884.]

[The following is a reply to a letter from "K. C. M." who asks what is the real meaning of prayer, and if there is any harm in the various forms or methods of approaching the "Great-self" in prayer. He says: ". . . I find that prayer is allowed in all the known religions of the world. There must have been some strong grounds for enjoining the practice. Was it because the Teachers thought it advisable not to meddle with the natural feelings of their followers? . . ." — EDS.]

We act upon the principle that what is meat for one is death for another. While, therefore, some people may not be able to develop their latent psychic capacities without prayer, there are others who can. We set no value upon the words uttered. For, if the words had any effect, how is it that different religionists, although using different forms of expression, obtain the same result? Again, those who pray silently and intensely gain their object, while those who merely mumble some formula without understanding the meaning, get no answers to their prayers. As has been said in *Isis Unveiled*, we believe prayer is the giving of expression to the desire, which generates Will.

And this WILL is all-powerful; its effect depending, of course, upon all the surrounding conditions. Philosophers can be but few. They need no external ceremony or object for the purpose of concentrating their Will-force. We cannot expect the ordinary mortals, whose sensuous perceptions and avocations do not permit them to penetrate behind the mask, to do without the help of some external process. What we regret is the degeneration of this real prayer — the outward expression of the inward feeling — into a meaningless jumble of words. The prayer of the philosopher is his contemplation, an article on which subject will be found in the last number of the *Theosophist*.* — D. K. M.

*[This refers to Damodar's own article on Contemplation, which appears in Chapter II of the present volume. — EDS.]

"Phenomena"

[Supplement to *The Theosophist*, April, 1884.]

In the Supplement to the February issue, I find registered two occurrences under the head "Phenomenal" [the article in question is too long and detailed to summarize, and, though interesting in itself, is not needed for an for appreciation of Damodar's illuminating remarks upon the use of phenomena made by the Mahatmans in the early days of the Theosophical Society. — ED.], which are remarkable, — remarkable, not in the hackneyed unmeaning sense of the newspapers, but remarkable in the literal sense of the word — worthy of remark.

My first observation is that the record of these occurrences says either too much or too little for the reading public, among whom are members of the Theosophical Society and the uninitiated as well. It says too much, because while publishing a lot of details connected with the phenomena, it excites a hope well warranted under the circumstances in the breast of every one, that members of the Theosophical Society, in addition to the mental and moral progress they secure, are constantly under the guidance of their "Masters," who interfere (pardon the word) in almost every trifling affair of this world, even to the extent of compensating in hard cash for the pecuniary

losses which the members may "unjustly" be subjected to — a hope which I need hardly say is thoroughly out of place and almost inconsistent with the high moral tone of the eloquent and impressive admonition which the President addresses to the candidates at the initiation time.

The record again says too little, because while the writers honestly believe that they have given to the public all that is necessary for them to know that the occurrences registered are free from jugglery, there is an amount of omission, very important omission indeed, which leaves a very unpleasant impression that the statements published are only those elicited in the "Examination-in-chief" of a witness by a partial advocate; that much of the cross-examination and re-examination have been most unwisely omitted, and that fuller statements were deemed either ruinous to the cause and purposely suppressed or omitted from an inadequate appreciation of their great importance. I believe it is the latter.

The object of the first phenomenon was to check Mr. S. Ramaswami Iyer's vehement talk. He was doing this in the presence of a venerable lady, which fact alone should have curbed the ribald license of the tongue. And *what was* this "rather warm" and "vehement" tone, which a single look from any ordinary lady, much more of Madame Blavatsky could not chasten and tone down? Was the interference from the spiritual world a necessity in the case? I find the substance of all this big talk omitted in the record, and that purposely — an omission which I do not regret; and knowing, as I do, some particulars connected with it, it would be a breach of ordinary propriety were I to mention them in spite of the intentional silence of Mr. Coopposwami Iyer: but I must say that to *my* mind at least the cause that excited the vehement tone was most trivial compared with the grand machine that was used for its removal: a quiet snub from Madame Blavatsky would have done all the good the young man required, and Master S. Ramaswami Iyer in his teens would have richly deserved a few cuts on the back from the strong hand of the President. As it is, there has been a waste of energy and force, which is one of the sins against Laws of nature and (pardon

me) an abuse of power. Suppose an officer, who is a Theosophist as well, is ordered to lead a forlorn hope, would you not think him fit for the lunatic asylum if he talked "vehemently" and "rather warmly" against the orders and waited for a Mahatma to give him an encouraging word? And why should he not wait in hope inasmuch as the Mahatma had condescended to do so in one case, comparatively a trivial case, and could not in fairness be justified in withholding his aid in another and more serious case?

Now the next case. Does the Mahatma undertake to indemnify every Theosophist who bears "an unjust expense?" The absurdities of the question are on its very face, and yet one would be justified in raising it. The "unjust" nature of the expense Mr. Subramanya Iyer has not explained: that explanation would have shewn how far the Theosophist who bore the expense was not himself to blame for it, how far he was not a careless victim of his own credulity and deserved the indemnity. There are fools and villains in this world, and the latter are constantly living at the expense of the former, and a great deal of the consequent misery is due to ignorance, to wipe off which is the grand object of the Mahatmas, not in the direct way, which has been most singularly adopted in the present instance, but by teachings.

"But who are you to lay the law down for the Mahatmas? They act as they will, your duty is to believe and admire," will probably be the remark of the Editor of the *Theosophist*. A similar reprimand has been addressed in the "Occult World." I shall bear this reprimand and, aye, a great deal more. God knows I am not a critic for the sake of criticism. Knowledge is my thirst, and the publications of such phenomena push me back a considerable distance in my way onwards. Would it be difficult for the Mahatmas to exhibit a phenomenon at each initiation? Would not the Theosophical Society be simply mobbed for initiation under such circumstances? and yet how long would such a state of things last? and how long would the initiated remain content after the first experience? The craving is the most unhealthy ever known and is never satiated. Miracles, using the word in its ordinary sense, have never done much good. On the grandest occasions — I cannot even

conceive of such occasions — a miracle may be justifiable: but man's fate in this world is to struggle on, is to study, is to see through the hollowness of this material world by observation and contemplation, and not to be waiting for money compensations for "unjust" losses or for words of encouragement from the Mahatmas at every petty annoyance that he must suffer by thousands as long as he is in this world.

Theosophy has a deep foundation of its own; if its sublime principles were not found sufficient enough to convert the world, such phenomenal occurrences as these would prove simply impotent. They may for a time excite curiosity, wonder, and be the talk of a few for a month: then they lose their effect and there is a craving for more: you *must* satisfy it: you try to repress it, it is at your peril. K. H.'s letters in the "Occult World" are explicit on this point: his *theory* is sublime: his participation, however, in the two recorded phenomena has staggered me. Will you teach me to reconcile the theory with the practice?

"A Student."

Note. -- I must state at the outset that I have the greatest respect for the writer, for he is one of the very, very few enlightened natives of India who have joined our Society for the sake of the Philosophy and its high aims and objects and not for the sake of "phenomena." In fact what kept him so long from us was the latter. If the percentage of such exceptional men were to steadily increase, that would indeed be a very hopeful sign of the intellectual and philosophical progress of humanity. In the present case, our brother's remarks are directed against the two articles appearing under the heading of "Phenomenal" in the February Number. I shall, however, show that his criticisms, although well meant, are to some extent misdirected.

In the first place, he seems to think that the interference of Mr. Ramaswamier's GURU, in what he calls a trivial matter, was a waste of power. This observation betrays an ignorance of the mode of

communication between the Adepts and their *Chelas* or fellow-initiates. A careful consideration of the article on PRECIPITATION [unsigned article in *The Theosophist*, Dec.-Jan., 1883-84; republished in *Five Years of Theosophy*, pp. 518-521. — EDS.] will show that the *Adept* and the *Chela* or another Adept are like the two signallers at the two ends of a Telegraphic line. It is only when the batteries are out of order, or moisture or some such cause prevents the free working of the wires — that expense has to be undergone to restore or keep the communication intact. In the same way the Adepts have to use *no power* in communicating with one another or with their *Chelas of a certain degree*, unless either of them is ill or exhausted by fatigue, &c., or unless some antagonistic influence interferes with the Astral Wires, if I may use the expression. In the case under notice, Mme. Blavatsky, who is in constant communication with the Adepts, was there. The presence of all the *Chelas* helped to keep the Astral Telegraph free from any disturbance, and little or no power had to be used to send the letter in question to Mr. Ramaswamier. Mme. Blavatsky could no doubt have checked the vehemence of the language used by Mr. R., but at the same time Mr. Coopooswami Iyer's description indicates that the check exercised by the *Mahatma* was only *one* of the purposes of the letter in question. Advantage was probably taken of the opportunity, while communicating serious matters, to also add a few words of reprimand in regard to the subject then vehemently discussed. This latter fact, however, was "phenomenal" for those who have no idea of the possibilities of Occult powers, and naturally enough Mr. Coopooswami Iyer gave prominence to the same. My brother should remember that what is "phenomenal" for an outsider, is not necessarily so for a *Chela*. If others were to see my MASTER as I see Him, they would consider it a "phenomenon": I do not, for I know that as the usual mode of communication between an Adept and his *Chela*. The same remarks more or less apply to the second phenomenon mentioned by Mr. Subramania Iyer. There was no *intention* of exhibiting "occult powers." The absence of Mme. Blavatsky and other *Chelas* would have prevented the occurrence; for in that case an appreciable amount of "power" would have to be used to lay the Astral Telegraphic Line. The two

gentlemen in question only took advantage of the opportunity of their presence on those occasions to mention what they saw, for the benefit of those who were then absent. Surely our philosophic brother does not mean to deny that the overwhelming testimony of eyewitnesses to facts, influences people in favour of the same, and that there are many, who now "despise phenomena" as *tamasha*, but were led to a study of the philosophy by the force of un rebuttable evidence poured forth before them through the "Occult" literature. Happy would be that day indeed when the *noumenal* will supersede the phenomenal; but till then we have a duty to perform, and that is to hasten its approach, though not by any radical means. If these occurrences then, in which no special power had to be exercised, can stimulate not a few to enquire into the philosophy, why should they be lost, without turning them to some advantage, however slight that advantage may be? I would also refer those interested in the matter to the article on "Occult Phenomena" in the current number of the *Theosophist*.*

D. K. M.

[*Article signed AN AMERICAN BUDDHIST. The writer shows that there is nothing 'magic' in the work of the Mahatmans, but that they use what for them are simple and natural means to carry on their work among the Theosophists. The sooner, says the author, ignorant critics "accustom themselves to look upon our revered Masters as teachers and friends and wise men, instead of looking at them with the same feeling of awe and superstition and fear with which the Fiji-islander looks upon his Deity; the sooner will they find that the so-called 'Occult Phenomena' are neither intended to convert incredulous sceptics, nor are they produced for the purpose of astonishing the public; but are principally methods of communication or instruction. To appreciate a thing properly and according to its true value, we must neither depreciate its importance, nor over-estimate the same." — EDS.]

[From *The Theosophist*, April, 1884.]

[The following is a comment by Damodar on an article by Purmeshri Dass, F. T. S., in its turn commenting on an article in *The Theosophist* (Dec., 1883, March, 1884) by Mrs. Anna Kingsford, M. D., F. T. S., entitled "The Best Food For Man." Purmeshri Dass's article takes an even stricter stand than does Mrs. Kingsford herself for the cause of vegetarianism, and criticises her for advising that cheese, milk, butter, and eggs may be properly used to fill out a vegetarian diet. — EDS.]

Note. — I beg to remind my brother that Theosophy admits of no dogmatic assertion of the fitness of things; therefore no particular kind of food is ordered imperatively, neither is there any that is "forbidden" or "prohibited" in the strict sense of the terms. The Occultist, after careful investigation of all the facts and circumstances of the *whole* case and their impartial consideration with a broad and enlightened vision, *recommends* a certain course of action as the best. He always takes his stand in the middle, and, surveying the lines pointing to the extremities, comes to a decision. There are people who argue that destruction is the order of the universe, that everywhere we see one creature preying upon another, itself being the food of a third, and that it is therefore perfectly natural for people to kill animals for food. There are others who say that everywhere is to be seen in nature a feeling of love, an affection — the mother taking care of the children and so on. Therefore no life should be destroyed. There are not a few who say that they use animal food merely because they find animals already dead or killed, but that on no account would they allow slaughter intended solely for themselves. A dispassionate consideration of these three arguments is now necessary. The first class show that they have not risen above their animal nature. Otherwise they would see that this beastly tendency, this desire for the assimilation of animal food with their physical frames, has the effect of chaining them down to a physical plane from the meshes of which no rising is possible unless a more human feeling begins to assert itself. The latent spark of this noble feeling is inherent in animals too, for if they did not have it,

they would not feel that tenderness towards their young which they manifest. This class, therefore, we must leave out of consideration for the present. The sophistry of the third class is self-evident. Our answer to them is that they must remember that an appreciable decrease in the number of flesh eaters must have the effect of lessening the number of slaughtered animals. If they use the flesh of dead animals, they may just as well be asked to follow the example of the Chinese who do not spare the flesh of dead persons. We must now divert our attention to the second class. If the theory that no life should be destroyed be carried to its legitimate extent, the very existence of man would become impossible, for even the air he breathes is full of animalculae, which he must inhale when the respiratory process is in operation. Nay — we can go still further: the ONE LIFE permeates *all*; each and every atom has latent life in it, and therefore every atom we displace in our movements is an injury to life. The great problem is how to get out of this difficulty. The Occultist recognises the important fact that everything in nature progresses gradually and nothing is achieved by starts or jumps. At the same time he realises that destruction and creation are relative and interchangeable terms, since destruction relates only to form — the substance remaining always permanent — and that the destruction of one form is the creation of another. These relative ideas therefore cease, when the phenomenal and the noumenal are blended together into THE ONE SUBSTANCE. The aim of the Occult Student is therefore to gradually progress on the path of perfection, so that he may get out of this world of forms and be merged into the ARUPI TOTALITY. This is not the work of a day, nor of a few years, but of *ages*. He therefore gradually by a special training induces in himself such conditions as would enable him to rise higher and higher on the path of perfection. He does nothing violently: he only anticipates, by his knowledge, the usually slow processes of Nature, and he conforms his mode of living to the then conditions of his existence, bearing also in mind that it is but temporary since a higher state of existence requires a better mode. The neophyte gradually leaves off eating until he reaches a stage where no food is necessary. And the ultimate stage is that where all relativity ceases and he

identifies himself with the ABSOLUTE EXISTENCE. So long, therefore, as we are in the phenomenal world, we cannot but guide our actions by the law of relativity and have always to make a choice between two evils. A true philosopher, one who has put himself *en-rapport* with his *Buddhi*, makes the right choice. It is for this reason that Occult Science is useful. It gives its votaries a right sense of discrimination and enables them to adopt only that course which would not come in the way of progress, while ordinary humanity, engulfed in the trammels of *Avidya*, gropes in the dark and many a time does exactly the opposite of what may be conducive to progress. This should not be assumed to mean an occultist is infallible; but by his superior knowledge he is in a better position to do what is right than one whose perceptions are clouded by *Maya*. This explanation, I believe, is sufficient to show that *no hard and fast rules can be laid down for general guidance*. There is an infinite gradation of progress towards the ABSOLUTE, where alone all difference can come to an end. As regards the use of animal food, the answer to the first class of men under consideration covers the point.

D. K. M.

Explanation Wanted

[From *The Theosophist*, May, 1884.]

A few years ago I was visiting some relatives in Z. . . . Switzerland, one evening there was a social gathering at our house, and it was proposed to try to hold a circle. The Protestant minister who was present objected, but his objection was overruled, and the table began to tip. The spirit (?), on being asked its name, gave that of a seamstress, who had died only shortly before. On hearing this name every one began to laugh, because the said seamstress had been a very queer and eccentric person; but soon this hilarity was followed by a more serious mood, because on being asked where she was, she (the spirit) said that she was in hell. She then related that she had poisoned her mother, gave the name of the poison, the name of the place where it was bought, and other detailed circumstances. She also gave the particulars of her own burial and the text of the funeral sermon; but this part of the

communication can be explained by the presence of the identical minister who preached it.

However there was no suspicion about her mother's death having been an unnatural one; but public opinion, being aroused by this spirit communication, it provoked enquiry and investigation. The body was exhumed and examined, the poison was found, the purchase of the same traced to the indicated chemist shop, and the story corroborated in every detail. — A. v. H. . . .

Note. — The corroboration of the facts concerning the murder of the communicating spirit's mother will perhaps be taken by some as a proof that it was a "genuine *spirit*" communication. Let us see, however, if any other explanation, more reasonable and scientific, can be given. It has been stated on the authority of our occult doctrines that in the case of ordinary humanity, the *shell* (composed of the fourth, and the grossest portion of the fifth, principles) survives the death of the physical body for a certain period. This period largely depends upon the *Karma* of the individual, whether in mental desires or physical acts. Thus it is not difficult to conceive the possibility that the feeling of repentance for the horrible act of *matricide* may have so strongly impressed the dying thought of the seamstress as to effect for the time being the union between the fourth and the lower portions of the fifth principle, wherein reside memory and physical consciousness. The presence of the minister — one of a class whose whole bent of mind, owing to professional proclivities, is generally directed towards penitent sinners — and the further fact of his being the very priest who officiated at her funeral are sufficient to give the *shell* a stimulus, if any were needed (since the seamstress had died but a very short time previous to the seance and consequently hardly needed any) to give vent to a thought of so oppressive a nature. The confession of the "shell" of the seamstress that she "was in hell," is enough to show to any thinking mind that the communicating principle could not have been a "spirit," and spoke of hell simply because it found the ready picture of

one in the priest's brain. It is needless to mention here that occultism admits of no orthodox Hell, although evil personalities have their various degrees of mental suffering in the state of *Avitchi*. — D. K. [M. ?]*

*[Signed "D. K." but possibly by Djual Khool. — EDS.]

Esoteric Buddhism and Hinduism

[From *The Theosophist*, June, 1884.]

[Note by Damodar to an article signed "A Brahman Theosophist" discussing A. P. Sinnett's book *Esoteric Buddhism* in connection with Hinduism. — EDS.]

Note. — We print the above letter as it expresses in courteous language and in an able manner the views of a large number of our Hindu brothers. At the same time it must be stated that the name of *Esoteric Buddhism* was given to Mr. Sinnett's latest publication, not because the doctrine propounded therein is meant to be specially identified with any particular form of Faith, but because *Buddhism* means the doctrine of the *Buddhas*, the Wise, *i. e.*, the WISDOM-RELIGION. At least that was the understanding on which the name was permitted to be used. We have now only to make one remark in regard to what our correspondent says concerning *Exoteric Hinduism*. The Hindus have devoted ages to a study of religious problems. Hence all possible phases of thought are propounded by different schools. Extreme materialists, positivists, theists, dualists, non-dualists, &c. &c., can, one and all, quote some ancient authority or other in their favour. Hence it is extremely difficult to say whether exoteric Hinduism is nearer the Esoteric Doctrine than any other Faith. One can say that a *particular form* of Hinduism approaches the Occult Doctrine much nearer than any other; and that is all. We must say a few words more. Although the book of Mr. Sinnett employs a Buddhistic phraseology, our correspondent must have noticed that the *Theosophist* almost invariably uses the Vedantic form of expression. Thus readers of the Theosophic literature will see that, although the two Faiths may use different phraseology, the ideas

The Astral Body

[From *The Theosophist*, January, 1885.]

[The following is appended as a footnote to a statement made in an open letter, under the above title, to the Editor of the *Statesman*, and signed "L. S." The statement commented upon by Damodar is as follows: ". . . For, let it be understood, the fundamental doctrine of all Theosophic teaching is this, — that there are truths which cannot be reached by our ordinary mental processes; and that there have been, at all times, men, who, by an extraordinary process, which, for the want of a better designation, we shall call psychic, did succeed in grasping, more or less clearly, a portion of those hidden truths. This you have now come to acknowledge in one of your articles of your impression of the 30th instant; but you just behave in this respect, as one of those *who ought to have known long before*, and you tell us now 'that the doctrine is a travesty of a very solemn doctrine taught by the Christian Scriptures, &c.'" — EDS.]

The correspondent of the *Statesman* might well have retorted by saying that if Theosophy is *supposed* to be "a travesty of a very solemn doctrine taught by the Christian Scriptures," the latter themselves are, not unoften, a very ridiculous caricature of some of the most "solemn" teachings and doctrines inculcated in "Heathen" scriptures of remote antiquity; and that, while the Theosophical Society does not claim to teach any nothing [anything] new but, on the contrary, proclaims its intention of a revival of ancient learning and wisdom, popular Christianity, at any rate, pretends to have received a "Revelation" only 1884 years ago, implying thereby that, before that time, there was no such thing as "divine wisdom," or civilization, or learning. The aim of the Theosophical Society is to try to remove such "travesties" from all popular theologies by uniting together their intellectual representatives in the search after "Truth," and thus helping to make religion scientific and science religious. If some of the prominent

members of the Theosophical Society had now and then to speak in uncomplimentary terms of exoteric Christianity, it is because the "travesties" of "solemn doctrines" by the latter now and then assume a most offensive form and also because its intolerant spirit manifests itself in a dangerous aspect. — D. K. M.

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Part IV

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Damodar K. Mavalankar

[The material in this chapter is of a varied character, being composed of articles, official reports, editorial notes, letters, etc., either written by or about Damodar. They are grouped together solely because of their historical interest. Though arranged chronologically they are not intended to form any particular sequence of events, each item merely giving an interesting glimpse of some aspect of Damodar's activities and character. — EDS.]

Madame Blavatsky and Colonel Olcott

[Supplement to *The Theosophist*, December, 1881.]

[The letter to which the following note was appended by Damodar was written by Col. Olcott to the Editor of the *Ceylon Times* and is dated October 31, 1881. Olcott replies to the false charges made by the *Bombay Gazette* that he was an impostor, and presents his

credentials and testimonials from the United States War, Navy, Treasury, and State Departments, and various other responsible authorities in Washington and New York by whom he had been employed. He had just returned from Tinnevelly where he had addressed large and enthusiastic meetings. Alarm had been aroused by the enemies of Theosophy who published outrageous slanders in the effort to destroy it by vilifying its representatives. Full particulars are given in *The Theosophist* for December, 1881, January, 1882, and in Olcott's semi-autobiographical *Old Diary Leaves*. — EDS.]

At the same time that our President — who, for a period of nearly three years had abstained from answering his calumniators, wisely treating the anonymous, cowardly slanders with the contempt they merit — was penning the above; and while numerous letters of congratulations from Hindu correspondents and messages full of enthusiasm and gratitude from our Tinnevelly Theosophists were pouring into our office, there appeared a new proof of the insatiable malice of our opponents. That malice and the bitterness of their hatred of the Theosophists have finally reached that degree of blind fury that vitiates the most ordinary perceptions. To lie openly and in the most impudent, shameless manner has become their last expediency. When our readers will have noticed the Official Report of Tinnevelly Branch which follows the present, and a few articles from other correspondents, they will be able to judge for themselves. In a letter from an unknown Tinnevelly correspondent of the *Madras Standard* the following *truthful* statement is given: "The natives of this place" writes the informer, "are very sorry for all the hubbub and commotion caused by the arrival of Colonel Olcott, the Theosophist, among them. *The Branch Society — the members of which invited him here — were very disappointed in their expectations. They now call him 'IMPOSTOR AND PRETENDER'* — to use their own words" . . . !!

By this time our "Branch Society" will have read the above statement. We all sincerely hope our Tinnevelly Brothers will not refuse themselves the satisfaction of pointing out publicly to the "Tinnevelly

correspondent of the *Madras Standard*" that the greatest "impostor" is that man who, taking advantage of the voice of the press, imposes upon the public barefaced LIES under the guise of news; "that the term 'pretender,'" is to be applied only to individuals of his stamp, who *pretending* to the name of a "correspondent" have a right but to that of a "penny-a-line" slanderer, whose lies would disgrace any respectable paper. A very reliable organ — as a source of information — is the *Madras Standard* — we see!

DAMODAR K. MAVALANKAR,

Joint Recording Secretary, Parent Theosophical Society.

Letter No. XXXVII*

[Received at Allababad, January, 1882.]

[*From *The Mahatma Letters to A. P. Sinnett*. — EDS.]

... In conclusion Master sends you His best wishes and praying you may not forget Him, orders me to sign myself, your obedient servant,

THE "DISINHERITED."

P.S. Should you desire to write to Him though unable to answer Himself Master will receive your letters with pleasure; you can do so through D. K. Mavalankar. "DD."

The Work of the Theosophical Society

The Bombay Theosophical Society

[Supplement to *The Theosophist*, March, 1882.]

Since the President-Founder's return from Ceylon, there has been a sudden increase of interest among the members, and an unusual number of fresh initiations. The meeting-hall at the Head-quarters has twice been decorated with flowers, palms, and flags: the first time when some of our Australian brothers were received, and the second, on the evening of January 11, when H. H. Daji Raja, Thakore Sahib of

Wadhwan, his Dewan Ganpatrao Laud, Esq., and Rawal Shree Hurreesingjee Roopsingjee, of Sihore, cousin of H. H. the Thakore Sahib of Bhavnagar — all members of our Society — attended. His Highness of Wadhwan is President of the Saorashtr Theosophical Society, and his companions are members. All take a deep interest in our work, especially that part which is connected with the study of arcane science. The two young nobles have, by their affability and lack of all pretentiousness, won the sincere regard of their Bombay brothers. The floral and other decorations on both occasions reflected great credit upon the taste of Fellows, Monsieur and Madame Coulomb, who kindly took entire charge of the affair.

The preliminary business of the meeting having been transacted, nine candidates for fellowship were then ushered in by their respective sponsors. In a short and impressive speech delivered by the President-Founder, Colonel Olcott, he explained, to the audience, the noble aims of the Society, dwelt at length upon the grandeur of the idea of Universal Brotherhood, the importance of the culture of Oriental Science and Philosophy, and lastly upon the necessity of the diligence, zeal and cooperation of the members.

He then conducted the initiation ceremony. All this occupied about an hour and a half. At the request of the President-Founder, Mr. K. M. Shroff, the Councillor of the Parent body, one of the most energetic fellows of the Society, addressed the meeting, explaining to the members to their entire satisfaction, certain phenomenal occurrences that had recently come under his personal observation and had also been witnessed by His Highness Daji Raja Chandrasingji, the Raja's Dewan and by Rawal Shree Harreesinghji of Sihore, and a few others.

His Highness the Raja of Wadhwan was then introduced to the meeting by Dr. D. E. Dudley, President of the Bombay Branch, and a formal reception was given by the Society to His Highness. After all the members present had been introduced to His Highness by Messrs. Shroff and Banaji, the Secretary of the Bombay Branch, the Thakore Sahib made a short speech in English and then addressed the Brethren

in Gujarathi.

H. H., our distinguished visitor, who is the Vice-President of the Parent Theosophical Society, is also President of the Saorashtr Branch.

The meeting was then adjourned. Still more applications having been received, another meeting was held on the 16th of February.

DAMODAR K. MAVALANKAR,

Joint Recording Secretary, Parent Theosophical Society.

Personal Items

[Supplement to *The Theosophist*, August, 1882.]

[An unsigned editorial note. — EDS.]

Mr. DAMODAR K. MAVALANKAR, F T. S., the Manager of the THEOSOPHIST and the Recording Secretary of the Parent Theosophical Society, has gone to Poona for a month or two, to take some needed rest. The health of our self-sacrificing young Brother had become very delicate of late, owing to bigoted persecutions and an injudicious overwork undertaken out of pure devotion to the cause of theosophy, than which there is nothing dearer to him in this world. Very happily he has been prevailed upon to change for the monsoon season the damp killing atmosphere of Bombay for the drier and far cooler climate of Poona. Mr. A. D. Ezekiel, F. T. S., has kindly offered the invalid a brotherly hospitality in his house, and volunteered to take every care of him during his stay at that city. We hope a month of quiet rest and the sympathetic circle of his friends and Brother-Fellows will do him a deal of good. Theosophy reckons few such unselfish — and none more ardent — workers for her cause than Mr. Damodar K. Mavalankar, our Recording Secretary. . . .

A Protest

[From *The Theosophist*, September, 1882]

[This 'Protest' is in answer to an article signed "H. X." and entitled "'C. C. M.' and 'ISIS UNVEILED,'" being a letter by Mr. A. O. Hume addressed to H. P. Blavatsky in which he frankly and bluntly declares his real attitude towards Theosophy and the Mahatmans. His haughty and cynical language roused the Hindu chelas to furious indignation. In an editorial note H. P. Blavatsky mentions that she publishes the letter at the request of the Masters themselves. The subject is treated at length in *The Mahatma Letters to A. P. Sinnett*, pages 292-3. — EDS.]

We, the undersigned, the "Accepted" and "Probationary" Hindu *Chelas* of the HIMALAYAN BROTHERS, their disciples in India, and Northern Cashmere, respectfully claim our right to protest against the tone used in the above article, and the bold criticisms of H. X. — a *lay* Chela. No one who has once offered himself as a pupil has any right to openly criticise and blame our MASTERS simply upon his own unverified hypotheses, and thus to prejudge the situation. And, we respectfully maintain that it befits ill one, to whom positively *exceptional* favours were shown, to drag their personalities as unceremoniously before the public as he would any other class of men.

Belonging, as we do, to the so-called "inferior" Asiatic race, we cannot help having for our Masters that boundless devotion which the European condemns as *slavish*. The Western races would however do well to remember that if some of the poor Asiatics arrived at such a height of knowledge regarding the mysteries of nature, it was only due to the fact that the Chelas have always blindly followed the dictates of their Masters and have never set themselves higher than, or even as high as, their Gurus. The result was that sooner or later they were rewarded for their devotion, according to their respective capacities and merits by those who, owing to years of self-sacrifice and devotion to *their* Gurus, had in their turn become ADEPTS. We think that our blessed MASTERS ought to be the best judges how to impart instruction. Most of us have seen and know them personally, while two of the undersigned live with the venerated MAHATMAS, and therefore know how much of their powers is used for the good and well-being of

Humanity. And if, for reasons of their own, which we know must be good and wise, our Gurus abstain from communicating "to the world all the knowledge they possess" it is no reason why "lay Chelas" who know yet so little about them should call it "a sin" and assume upon themselves the right of remonstrating with, and teaching them publicly what they imagine to be their duty. Nor does that fact that they are "educated European gentlemen" — alter the case. Moreover our learned Brother, who complains of receiving so little from our MASTERS, seems to lose sight of the, to him unimportant, fact that Europeans, no less than natives, ought to feel thankful for even such "crumbs of knowledge" as they may get, since it is not our MASTERS who have first offered their instruction, but we ourselves who, craving, repeatedly beg for it. Therefore, however indisputably clever and highly able, from a literary and intellectual stand-point, H. X.'s letter, its writer must not feel surprised to find that, overlooking all its cleverness, we natives discern in it, foremost and above all, an imperious spirit of domineering — utterly foreign to our natures — a spirit that would dictate its own laws even to those who can never come under *any one's* sway. No less painfully are we impressed by the utter absence in the letter, we are now protesting against, of any grateful acknowledgment even for the little that has confessedly been done.

In consequence of the above given reasons, we, the undersigned, pray our Brothers of the THEOSOPHIST to give room in their journal to our PROTEST.

DEVA MUNI .: .:

PARAMAHANSA SHUB-TUNG .: .: .: T. Subba Row, B. A. B. L., F. T. S. .: .:
.: Darbhagiri Nath, F. T. S.S. Ramaswamier, B. A., F. T. S. Guala K. Deb, F.
T. S. Nobin K. Banerjre, F. T. S. T. Gurudas, F. T. S. Bhola Deva Sarma, F.
T. S. S. T. K..... Chary, F. T. S. Gargya Deva, F. T. S. Damodar K.
Mavalankar, F. T. S.

How a "Chela" Found His "Guru"*

(Being Extracts from a private letter to Damodar K. Mavalankar,
Joint-Recording Secretary of the Theosophical Society.)

[From *The Theosophist*, December, 1882;]

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... When we met last at Bombay I told you what had happened to me at Tinnevely. My health having been disturbed by official work and worry, I applied for leave on medical certificate and it was duly granted. One day in September last, while I was reading in my room, I was ordered by the audible voice of my blessed Guru, M--- Maharsi, to leave all and proceed immediately to Bombay, whence I had to go in search of Madame Blavatsky wherever I could find her and follow her wherever she went. Without losing a moment, I closed up all my affairs and left the station. For the tones of that voice are to me the divinest sound in nature; its commands imperative I travelled in my ascetic robes. Arrived at Bombay, I found Madame Blavatsky gone, and learned through you that she had left a few days before; that she was very ill; and that, beyond the fact that she had left the place very suddenly with a *Chela*, you knew nothing of her whereabouts. And now, I must tell you what happened to me after I had left you.

Really not knowing whither I had best go, I took a through ticket to Calcutta; but, on reaching Allahabad, I heard the same well-known voice directing me to go to Berhampore. At Azimgunge, in the train, I met, most *providentially* I may say, with some Babus (I did not then know they were also Theosophists since I had never seen any of them), who were also in search of Madame Blavatsky. Some had traced her to Dinapore, but lost her track and went back to Berhampore. They knew, they said, she was going to Tibet and wanted to throw themselves at the feet of the Mahatmas to permit them to accompany her. At last, as I was told, they received from her a note, informing them to come if they so desired it, but that she herself was prohibited from going to Tibet just now. She was to remain, she said, in the vicinity of Darjeeling and would see the BROTHERS on the Sikkhim Territory, where they would not be allowed to follow her. . . . Brother Nobin, the President of the

Adhi Bhoutic Bhratru Theosophical Society, would not tell me where Madame Blavatsky was, or perhaps did not then know it himself. Yet he and others had risked all in the hope of seeing the Mahatmas. On the 23rd at last, I was brought by Nobin Babu from Calcutta to Chandernagore where I found Madame Blavatsky, ready to start, five minutes after, with the train. A tall, dark-looking hairy *Chela* (not Chunder Cusho), but a Tibetan I suppose by his dress, whom I met after I had crossed the river with her in a boat, told me that I had come too late, that Madame Blavatsky had already seen the Mahatmas and that he had brought her back. He would not listen to my supplications to take me with him, saying he had no other orders than what he had already executed, namely — to take her about 25 miles, beyond a certain place he named to me and that he was now going to see her safe to the station, and return. The Bengalee brother-Theosophists had also traced and followed her, arriving at the station half an hour later. They crossed the river from Chandernagore to a small railway station on the opposite side. When the train arrived, she got into the carriage, upon entering which I found the *Chela*! And, before even her own things could be placed in the van, the train, against all regulations and before the bell was rung — started off, leaving Nobin Babu, the Bengalees and her servant, behind. Only one Babu and the wife and daughter of another — all Theosophists and candidates for *Chelaship* — had time to get in. I myself had barely the time to jump in, into the last carriage. All her things — with the exception of her box containing the Theosophical correspondence — were left behind together with her servant. Yet, even the persons that went by the same train with her did not reach Darjeeling. Babu Nobin Banerjee, with the servant, arrived five days later; and they who had time to take their seats, were left five or six stations behind, owing to another unforeseen accident (?) at another further place, reaching Darjeeling also a few days later! It requires no great stretch of imagination to know that Madame Blavatsky had been or was, perhaps, being again taken to the BROTHERS, who, for some good reasons best known to them, did not want us to be following and watching her. Two of the Mahatmas, I had learned for a certainty, were in the neighbourhood of British territory;

and one of them was seen and recognised — by a person I need not name here — as a high *Chutuktu* of Tibet.

The first days of her arrival Madame Blavatsky was living at the house of a Bengalee gentleman, a Theosophist; was refusing to see any one; and preparing, as I thought, to go again somewhere on the borders of Tibet. To all our importunities we could get only this answer from her: that we had no business *to stick to and follow her*, that she did not want us, and that she had no right to disturb the Mahatmas, with all sorts of questions that concerned only the questioners, for they knew their own business best. In despair, *I determined, come what might,** to cross the frontier which is about a dozen miles from here, and find the Mahatmas, or — DIE.

*I call the especial attention of certain of my anxious correspondents to this expression, and in fact to Mr. Ramaswamier's whole adventure. It will show the many grumblers and sceptics who have been complaining to me so bitterly that the Brothers have given them no sign of their existence, what sort of spirit it is which draws the Adepts to an aspirant. The too common notions, that the mere joining of our Society gives any *right* to occult instruction, and that an inert sentimental desire for light should be rewarded, arise from the lamentable ignorance which now prevails with respect to the laws of mystical training. Gurus there are now, as there have always been in the past; and now as heretofore, the true Chela can find among them one who will take him under his care, if like our Tinnevelly Brother he has determined "to find the Mahatmas or — die!" — D. K.

MAVALANKAR

I never stopped to think that what I was going to undertake would be regarded as the rash act of a lunatic. I neither spoke nor did I understand one word of either Bengalee, Urdu, or Nepaulese, nor of the Bhootan, or Tibetan languages. I had no permission, no "pass" from the Sikkim Rajah, and yet was decided to penetrate into the heart of an independent State where, if anything happened, the Anglo-Indian

officials would not — if even they could — protect me, since I would have crossed over without their permission. But I never even gave that a thought, but was bent upon one engrossing *idea* — to find and see my Guru. Without breathing a word of my intentions to any one, one morning, namely, October 5, I set out in search of the Mahatma. I had an umbrella, and a pilgrim's staff for sole weapons, with a few rupees in my purse. I wore the yellow garb and cap. Whenever I was tired on the road, my costume easily procured for me for a small sum a pony to ride. The same afternoon I reached the banks of the Rungit River, which forms the boundary between the British and Sikkhim territories. I tried to cross it by the aerial suspension bridge constructed of canes, but it swayed to and fro to such an extent that I, who have never known in my life, what hardship was could not stand it. I crossed the river by the ferry-boat and this even not without much danger and difficulty. That whole afternoon I travelled on foot, penetrating further and further into the heart of the Sikkhim territory, along a narrow footpath. I cannot now say how many miles I travelled before dusk, but I am sure it was not less than twenty or twenty-five miles. Throughout, I saw nothing but impenetrable jungles and forests on all sides of me, relieved at very long intervals by solitary huts belonging to the mountain population. At dusk I began to search around me for a place to rest in at night. I met on the road, in the afternoon, a leopard and a wild cat; and I am astonished now to think how I should have felt no fear then nor tried to run away. Throughout, some secret influence supported me. Fear or anxiety never once entered my mind. Perhaps in my heart there was room for no other feeling but an intense anxiety to find my *Guru*. When it was just getting dark, I espied a solitary hut a few yards from the roadside. To it I directed my steps in the hope of finding a lodging. The rude door was locked. The cabin was untenanted at the time. I examined it on all sides and found an aperture on the western side. It was small indeed, but sufficient for me to jump through. It had a small shutter and a wooden bolt. By a strange coincidence of circumstances the hillman had forgotten to fasten it on the inside when he locked the door! Of course, after what has subsequently transpired I now, through the eye of faith, see the

protecting hand of my *Guru* everywhere around me. Upon getting inside I found the room communicated, by a small doorway, with another apartment, the two occupying the whole space of this sylvan mansion. I lay down, concentrating my every thought upon my *Guru* as usual, and soon fell into a profound sleep. Before I went to rest, I had secured the door of the other room and the single window. It may have been between ten and eleven, or perhaps a little later, that I awoke and heard sounds of footsteps in the adjoining room. I could plainly distinguish two or three people talking together in a dialect that to me was no better than gibberish. Now, I cannot recall the same without a shudder. At any moment they might have entered from the other room and murdered me for my money. Had they mistaken me for a burglar the same fate awaited me. These and similar thoughts crowded into my brain in an inconceivably short period. But my heart did not palpitate with fear, nor did I for one moment think of the possibly tragical chances of the thing! I know not what secret influence held me fast, but nothing could put me out or make me fear; I was perfectly calm.

Although I lay awake and staring into darkness for upwards of two hours, and even paced the room softly and slowly, without making any noise, to see if I could make my escape, in case of need, back to the forest, by the same way I had effected my entrance into the hut — no fear, I repeat, or any such feeling ever entered my heart. I recomposed myself to rest. After a sound sleep, undisturbed by any dream, I woke and found it was just dawning. Then I hastily put on my boots, and cautiously got out of the hut through the same window. I could hear the snoring of the owners of the hut in the other room. But I lost no time and gained the path to Sikkhim (the city) and held on my way with unflagged zeal. From the inmost recesses of my heart I thanked my revered *Guru* for the protection he had vouchsafed me during the night. What prevented the owners of the hut from penetrating to the second room? What kept me in the same serene and calm spirit, as if I were in a room of my own house? What could possibly make me sleep so soundly under such circumstances, — enormous, dark forests on all sides abounding in wild beasts and a party of cut-throats — as most of the Sikkhimese are said to be — in the next room with an easy and

rude door between them and me?

When it became quite light, I wended my way on through hills and dales. Riding or walking, the paths I followed are not a pleasant journey for any man, unless he be, I suppose, as deeply engrossed in thought as I was then myself, and quite oblivious to anything affecting the body. I have cultivated the power of mental concentration to such a degree of late that, on many an occasion, I have been able to make myself quite oblivious of anything around me when my mind was wholly bent upon the one object of my life, as several of my friends will testify; but never to such an extent as in this instance.

It was, I think, between eight and nine A. M. and I was following the road to the town of Sikkhim whence, I was assured by the people I met on the road, I could cross over to Tibet easily in my pilgrim's garb, when I suddenly saw a solitary horseman galloping towards me from the opposite direction. From his tall stature and the expert way he managed the animal, I thought he was some military officer of the Sikkhim Rajah. Now, I thought, am I caught! He will ask me for my pass and what business I have on the independent territory of Sikkhim, and, perhaps, have me arrested and — sent back, if not worse. But — as he approached me, he reined the steed. I looked at and recognised him instantly . . . I was in the awful presence of him, of the same Mahatma, my own revered *Guru* whom I had seen before in his astral body, on the balcony of the Theosophical Headquarters!* [*I refer the reader to Mr. Ramaswamier's letter in *Hints on Esoteric Theosophy*, pp. 72 and 73, for a clearer comprehension of the highly important circumstance he refers to. — D. K. M.] It was he, the "Himalayan BROTHER" of the ever memorable night of December last, who had so kindly dropped a letter in answer to one I had given in a sealed envelope to Madame Blavatsky — whom I had never for one moment during the interval lost sight of — but an hour or so before! The very same instant saw me prostrated on the ground at his feet. I arose at his command and, leisurely looking into his face, I forgot myself entirely in the contemplation of the image I knew so well, having seen his portrait (the one in Colonel Olcott's possession) a number of times. I knew not what to say: joy and

reverence tied my tongue. The majesty of his countenance, which seemed to me to be the *impersonation* of power and thought, held me rapt in awe. I was at last face to face with "the Mahatma of the Himavat" and he was no myth, no "creation of the imagination of a *medium*," as some sceptics suggested. It was no night dream; it is between nine and ten o'clock of the forenoon. There is the sun shining and silently witnessing the scene from above. I see Him before me in flesh and blood; and he speaks to me in accents of kindness and gentleness. What more do I want? My excess of happiness made me dumb. Nor was it until a few moments later that I was drawn to utter a few words, encouraged by his gentle tone and speech. His complexion is not as fair as that of Mahatma Koot Hoomi; but never have I seen a countenance so handsome, a stature so tall and so majestic. As in his portrait, he wears a short black beard, and long black hair hanging down to his breast; only his dress was different. Instead of a white, loose robe he wore a yellow mantle lined with fur, and, on his head, instead of a *pagri*, a yellow Tibetan felt cap, as I have seen some Bhootanese wear in this country. When the first moments of rapture and surprise were over and I calmly comprehended the situation, I had a long talk with him. He told me to go no further, for I would come to grief. He said I should wait patiently if I wanted to become an accepted *Chela*; that many were those who offered themselves as candidates, but that only a very few were found worthy; none were rejected — but all of them tried, and most found to fail signally, especially — and -----.

Some, instead of being accepted and pledged this year, were now thrown off for a year. . . . The Mahatma, I found, speaks very little English — or at least it so seemed to me — and *spoke to me in my mother-tongue* — *Tamil*. He told me that if the *Chohan* permitted Mdme. B. to go to Pari-jong next year, then I could come with her. . . . The Bengalee Theosophists who followed the "Upasika" (Madame Blavatsky) would see that she was right in trying to dissuade them from following her now. I asked the blessed Mahatma whether I could tell what I saw and heard to others. He replied in the affirmative, and that moreover I would do well to write to you and describe all.

I must impress upon your mind the whole situation and ask you to keep well in view that what I saw was not the mere "appearance" only, the astral body of the Mahatma, as we saw him at Bombay, but the *living man, in his own physical body*. He was pleased to say when I offered my farewell *namaskarams* (prostration) that he approached the British Territory to see the Upasika. . . Before he left me, two more men came on horseback, his attendants I suppose, probably *Chelas*, for they were dressed like *lama-gylongs*, and both, like himself, with long hair streaming down their backs. They followed the Mahatma, as he left, at a gentle trot. For over an hour I stood gazing at the place that he had just quitted, and then, I slowly retraced my steps. Now it was that I found for the first time that my long boots had pinched me in my leg in several places, that I had eaten nothing since the day before, and that I was too weak to walk further. My whole body was aching in every limb. At a little distance I saw petty traders with country ponies, taking burden. I hired one of these animals. In the afternoon I came to the Rungit River and crossed it. A bath in its cool waters renovated me. I purchased some fruits in the only bazar there and ate them heartily. I took another horse immediately and reached Darjeeling late in the evening. I could neither eat, nor sit, nor stand. Every part of my body was aching. My absence had seemingly alarmed Madame Blavatsky. She scolded me for my rash and mad attempt to try to go to Tibet after this fashion. When I entered the house I found with Madame Blavatsky, Babu Parbati Churn Roy, Deputy Collector of Settlements and Superintendent of Dearah Survey, and his Assistant, Babu Kanty Bhushan Sen, both members of our Society. At their prayer and Madame Blavatsky's command, I recounted all that had happened to me, reserving of course my private conversation with the Mahatma. They were all, to say the least, astounded! After all, she will not go this year to Tibet; for which I am sure she does not care, since she saw our Masters, thus effecting her only object. But we, unfortunate people! We lose our only chance of going and offering our worship to the "Himalayan Brothers" who — I *know* — will not soon cross over to British Territory, if ever again.

I write to you this letter, my dearest Brother, in order to show how right we were in protesting against "H. X.'s" letter in the THEOSOPHIST. The ways of the Mahatmas may appear, to our limited vision, strange and unjust, even cruel — as in the case of our Brothers here, the Bengalee Babus, some of whom are now laid up with cold and fever and perhaps murmuring against the BROTHERS, forgetting that they never asked or personally permitted them to come, but that they had themselves acted very rashly. . . .

And now that I have seen the Mahatma in the flesh, and heard his living voice, let no one dare say to me that the BROTHERS *do not* exist. Come now whatever will, death has no fear for me, nor the vengeance of enemies; for what I know, I KNOW!

You will please show this to Colonel Olcott who first opened my eyes to the *Gnana Marga*, and who will be happy to hear of the success (more than I deserve) that has attended me. I shall give him details in person.

S. Ramaswamier, F. T. S.

Darjeeling, October 7, 1882.

[See *The Mahatma Letters to A. P. Sinnett*, Letter CIX, page 444. — EDS.]

A Meeting at Adyar

FOR THE PRESENTATION OF A SILVER CUP AND TRAY
TO THE FOUNDERS OF THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY BY THE
MEMBERS OF ITS BOMBAY BRANCH

[Supplement to *The Theosophist*, April, 1883.]

The address of our Brothers at Bombay to the Founders on the eve of the latter's departure from that place to Madras, published on page 8 of the *Supplement* to the *Theosophist* for January last, must have been read with interest by our members.

The sentiments in the address, expressive of the loyalty of our Bombay

Branch to the cause of Theosophy and their determination to assist its furtherance are no doubt very gratifying. The expressions therein made use of, are but the indicators of the feelings which our friends at Bombay entertain for the Founders who, whatever their shortcomings, are yet zealously and earnestly working for the IDEA, the promotion and propagation of which has been the chief end and aim of their life. It is but natural, therefore, that the temporary separation, caused by the removal of our Head-Quarters to this place, should evoke an outburst of those feelings in the shape of an address and some other token of fraternal regard and esteem felt for the Founders by their Bombay friends. The latter, therefore, proposed in the "Address" to offer for the acceptance of the Founders, "an article of Indian make, with a suitable inscription," as a token of their "sense of appreciation of your labour of love, and as a keepsake from us." As the article was not then ready, its presentation had to be deferred. It is, therefore, after we arrived here, that the Madras Theosophical Society was specially requested by their Bombay Brothers to present on behalf of their Branch, to the Founders, a silver cup and tray of Indian make, specially designed for the purpose. A meeting was accordingly convened on the evening of the 15th February, when *M. R. Ry. P. Sreenevas Row Pantulu Garu*, Judge of the Small Cause Court, and one of the Vice-Presidents of the Madras Branch, made a short speech, on behalf of our Brothers at Bombay, and presented, in the name of the latter, the articles to the Founders. The President-Founder, Col. Olcott, on behalf of Madame Blavatsky and himself, made a suitable reply. His speech was very impressive and infused vigour and spirit into the audience. He gave a short sketch of the working of the Theosophical Society and thanked the Bombay brothers for the kind and fraternal feelings which had actuated them. *M. R. Ry. T. Subba Row Garu*, Secretary of the Madras Branch, then made a few remarks upon the subject of Occultism, which were very interesting and instructive. *M. R. Ry. G. Muttuswamy Chettyar Garu*, Judge of the Small Cause Court, and one of the Vice-Presidents of the Branch, also addressed the meeting. After a few more desultory speeches, the meeting was dissolved.

The Founders beg to take this opportunity of expressing again their deep and sincere feeling of gratitude for this new token of the fraternal regard entertained for them by their Parsi and Marathi Brothers of Bombay. The article is of exquisite make and bears the following inscription: —

PRESENTED

to COL. OLCOTT and MADAME BLAVATSKY by the Bombay Branch THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY.

It will ever remain in the Head-Quarters Hall as a token of the appreciation of the humble efforts of the Founders for the good of India, alongside with the beautiful Silver Plate presented to them by the Rohilkhand Theosophical Society — the Bareilly Branch.

(By Order)

DAMODAR K. MAVALANKAR,

*Recording Secretary of the
Parent Theosophical Society.*

A Psychological Phenomenon

[From *The Theosophist*, December, 1883.]

[An unsigned article. — EDS.]

We have much pleasure to be able to lay before the public a remarkable psychological phenomenon, as interesting as it is well authenticated. On November 10th, a European gentleman attached to the Theosophical Head Quarters was engaged in some work in a room adjoining that of Madame Blavatsky, when he heard a voice, which he believed was that of Mr. D — K — M, an officer of the Parent Society, speaking to Madame Blavatsky in her room. As this young man had, to that gentleman's knowledge, left the Head Quarters some weeks previously to join Col. Olcott at Poona, he naturally thought at the time that he had come back and so entered Madame Blavatsky's room to greet the officer in question on his return. But fancy his surprise when

on entering the room he found that D — K — M was nowhere to be seen; and his surprise positively grew up to amazement when on enquiring he found that, though this young Brahman was at the moment at Moradabad, N. W. P., yet Madame Blavatsky who was then standing looking very much perplexed, before the shrine setting it in order, had also not only heard that chela's voice, but assured the gentleman that she had a message from D — K — M, which was of great importance — the words of which *she* was asked to repeat by telegram. She immediately proceeded to have them wired to Moradabad and the message was sent. In the evening, General and Mrs. Morgan from Ooty, Miss Flynn from Bombay, Mr. Mohini Mohan Chatterji from Calcutta, and others then on a visit at Adyar, talked the matter over a good deal, all expressing surprise and intense curiosity as to how far the phenomenon would be verified.

With these prefatory remarks we may safely leave the following documents to speak for themselves and invite our Spiritualistic friends to explain away the occurrence on their orthodox theories. These documents were received from Moradabad five days later: —

"On the evening of November 10, Mr. D ---K---M — having at the request of Mr. Shankar Sing of Moradabad promised to ask the Mahatmas whether Col. Olcott would be permitted to treat mesmerically two children, in whom Shankar Sing was interested, and having at his request gone to the Adyar Head-quarters in the *Shukshma sarira* (astral body) told us that he had received a message at the Adyar "Shrine"; at the same time he also said that he had asked Madame Blavatsky to give Col. Olcott a confirmation of his visit as well as of the order received through the shrine from Col. Olcott's guru by sending a telegram to him, D — K — M. or Shankar Sing; after which he reported (4-50 P. M.,) its substance in these words: — "*Henry can try the parties once, leaving strongly mesmerised Cajaputti oil to rub three times daily to relieve sufferers. Karma cannot be interfered.*"

(Signed) Shankar Sing.(") Pundit B. Sankar.(") W. T. Brown.(")
Purmeshri Dass.(") Parshotbarn Dass.(") Ishri Prasad.

(Signed) Narottam Dass. (") L. Venkata Varadarajulu Naidu. (") Toke Narainasamy Naidu. (") Chiranjee Lall. (") H. S. Olcott. (") Pran Nath Pandit.

The telegram mentioned by D — K — M. has just been received (8-45 A. M., November 11th) as a deferred or night message of 34 words, in which the above exact words are repeated. Madame Blavatsky says a "voice from the Shrine" spoke the words, and adds that D — K — M. heard the voice, and the telegram is sent at his request.

Copy of the telegram received from Madame H. P. Blavatsky by Mr. D — K — M.

(Class D) To Moradabad From Adyar (Madras)

Words. 49 Days. 10 Hours. 17 Minutes. 15

"To D — K — M. From H. P. Blavatsky.

care of Col. Olcott, President Theosophical Society,

"Voice from Shrine says Henry can try parties once, leaving strongly mesmerized Cajaputti oil, rub three times daily to relieve suffering. Karma cannot be interfered with. D--- heard voice; telegram sent at his request." Noted that the telegram is dated Adyar, 5-15 P. M., or but 25 minutes later than the time when D — K — M.'s psychic message was reported at Moradabad. The two places are 2,281 miles apart.

(Signed) Ishri Prasad. (") W. T. Brown. (") H. S. Olcott. (") Pundit Sankar.

(Signed) Purashotham Dass. (") Chendra Sekhar. (") Toke Narainasamy Naidu. (") L. Venkata Varadarajulu Naidu."

Editor's [of The Theosophist] Note. — Mr. D — K — M. is a chela of hardly 4 years' standing, his remarkable psychic powers having received their development but lately. He is of a very delicate health and lives the life of a regular ascetic. Whenever the phenomenon of the separation of the astral from the physical body takes place, we are told, he falls invariably asleep or into a trance a few minutes before.

[Col. Olcott describes this incident, which happened during his tour in Northern India in 1883. See p. 12 of this volume. — EDS]

Testimony To Phenomena

[Supplement to *The Theosophist*, December, 1883.]

In the month of August last having occasion to come to Madras in the absence of Col. Olcott and Madame Blavatsky, I visited the Head Quarters of the Theosophical Society to see a wonderful painting of the Mahatma K. H. kept there in a shrine and daily attended to by the chelas. On arrival at the house I was told that the lady, Madame C---, who had charge of the keys of the shrine, was absent, so I awaited her return. She came home in about an hour, and we proceeded upstairs to open the shrine and inspect the picture. Madame C— advanced quickly to unlock the double doors of the hanging cupboard, and hurriedly threw them open. In so doing she had failed to observe that a china tray inside was on the edge of the shrine and leaning against one of the doors, and when they were opened, down fell the china tray, smashed to pieces on the hard chunam floor. Whilst Madame C— was wringing her hands and lamenting this unfortunate accident to a valuable article of Madame B---'s, and her husband was on his knees collecting the *debris*, I remarked it would be necessary to obtain some china cement and thus try to restore the fragments. Thereupon Monsieur C. was despatched for the same. The broken pieces were carefully collected and placed, tied in a cloth, within the shrine, and the doors locked. Mr. Damodar K. Mavalankar, the joint Recording Secretary of the Society, was opposite the shrine, seated on a chair, about ten feet away from it, when after some conversation an idea occurred to me to which I immediately gave expression. I remarked that if the Brothers considered it of sufficient importance, they would easily restore the broken article, if not, they would leave it to the culprits to do so, the best way they could. Five minutes had scarcely elapsed after this remark when Damodar, who during this time seemed wrapped in a reverie — exclaimed, "I think there is an answer." The

doors were opened, and sure enough, a small note was found on the shelf of the shrine — on opening which we read "To the small audience present. Madame C— has occasion to assure herself that the Devil is neither so black nor so wicked as he is generally represented; the mischief is easily repaired." —

On opening the cloth the China tray was found to be whole and perfect; not a trace of the breakage to be found on it! I at once wrote across the note, stating that I was present when the tray was broken and immediately restored, dated and signed it, so there should be no mistake in the matter. It may be here observed that Madame C— believes that the many things of a wonderful nature that occur at the Head-Quarters, may be the work of the Devil — hence the playful remark of the Mahatma who came to her rescue. The matter took place in the middle of the day in the presence of four people. I may here remark that a few days before I came into the room in my house just as Madame B— had duplicated a ring of

a lady in a high position, in the presence of my wife and daughter in broad day-light. The ring was a sapphire and a valuable one — and the lady has preserved it. On another occasion a note came from the above lady to my wife and was handed into the drawing-room in the presence of several people. On opening it a message was found written across the note in the well known characters of the Adept. The question is how the message got into the note? The lady who wrote it was perfectly astounded when she saw it — and could only imagine it was done at her own table with her own blue pencil.

Whilst on the subject of the shrine I may mention that it is a small cabinet attached to the wall with shelves and double doors. The picture of the Mahatma that I came to see, lately given to the Founders of the Society, is a most marvellous work of art. Not all the R. A.'s put together could equal such a production. The coloring is simply indescribable. Whether it has been produced by a brush or photographed, entirely passes my comprehension. It is simply superb.

H. R. MORGAN, F. T. S., *Major-General, Ootacamund,*

2nd November 1883.

A Great Riddle Solved

[From The Theosophist, December-January, 1883-4.]

On my return to the Head-quarters from the North, where I had accompanied Col. Olcott on his Presidential Tour, I learnt with regret and sorrow of further and still more malignant strictures by certain Spiritualists on the claims of the Founders of the Theosophical Society to be in personal relations with the Mahatmas of the sacred Himavat. For me, personally, the problem is of course now solved. It being impossible, I shall not even undertake to prove my case to those who, owing to prejudice and misconception, have determined to shut their eyes before the most glaring facts, for none are so blind as those who will not see, as the saying has it. I should at the same time [be] considered to have ill performed my duty were I not to put my facts before those earnest seekers after truth, who by sincere aspiration and devoted study, have been bringing themselves closer and closer to the Occult World. The best way, I believe, to carry conviction to an intelligent mind is to narrate the facts in as plain and simple a way as possible, leaving speculations entirely out of consideration.

At the outset I must state what is known to many of my friends and brothers of the Theosophical Society, viz., that for the last four years I have been the CHELA of Mr. Sinnett's correspondent. [The Mahatman Koot Hoomi. — EDS.] Now and then I have had occasion to refer publicly to this fact, and to the other one of my having seen some of the other VENERATED MAHATMAS OF THE HIMALAYAS, both in their astral and physical bodies. However all that I could urge in favour of my point, viz., that these GREAT MASTERS are not disembodied spirits but living men — would fail to carry conviction to a Spiritualistic mind blinded by its prejudices and preconceptions. It has been suggested that either or both of the Founders may be mediums in whose presence forms could be seen, which are by them mistaken for real living entities. And when I asserted that I had these appearances even when alone, it was argued that I too

was developing into a medium.

In this connection a certain remark by Mr. C. C. Massey in a letter to Light of November 17, is very suggestive, inasmuch as that gentleman is not only far from being inimical to us but is a Theosophist of long standing, bent solely on discovering truth and — nothing but the truth. The following extract from the said letter will show how great are the misconceptions even of some of our own fellow-members: —

"Nevertheless, were it an open question, free from authoritative statement, so that such a suggestion could be made without offence by one who would, if possible, avoid offence, I should avow the opinion that these letters, whether they are or are not the ipsissima verba. of any adept, were at all events penned by Madame Blavatsky, or by other accepted chelas. At least I should think that she was a medium for their production, and not merely for their transmission. The fact that through the kindness of Mr. Sinnett I have been made familiar with the handwriting of the letters, and that it bears not the remotest resemblance to Madame Blavatsky's, would not influence me against that opinion, for reasons which every one acquainted with the phenomena of writing under psychical conditions will appreciate. But I am bound to admit that there are circumstances connected with the receipt by Mr. Sinnett of other letters signed, 'K. H.' which are as regards those, apparently inconsistent with any instrumentality of Madame Blavatsky herself, whether as medium or otherwise and the handwriting is in both cases the same."

Bearing well in mind the italicized portion in the above quotation, I would respectfully invite the Spiritualists to explain the fact of not only myself, but Col. Olcott, Mr. Brown, and other gentlemen having on this tour received severally and on various occasions letters in reply to conversations and questions on the same day or the same hour, sometimes when alone and sometimes in company with others, when Mme. Blavatsky was thousands of miles away; the handwriting in all cases being the same and identical with that of the communications in

Mr. Sinnett's possession.

While on my tour with Col. Olcott, several phenomena occurred, — in his presence as well as in his absence — such as immediate answers to questions in my Master's handwriting and over his signature, put by a number of our Fellows, and some of which are referred to in the last number of the Theosophist, while others need not be mentioned in a document going into the hands of the profane reader. These occurrences took place before we reached Lahore, where we expected to meet in body my much doubted MASTER. There I visited by him in body, for three nights consecutively for about three hours every time while I myself retained full consciousness, and in one case, even went to meet him outside the house. To my knowledge there is no case on the Spiritualistic records of a medium remaining perfectly conscious, and meeting, by previous arrangement, his Spirit-visitor in the compound, re-entering the house with him, offering him a seat and then holding a long converse with the "disembodied spirit" in a way to give him the impression that he is in personal contact with an embodied entity! Moreover Him whom I saw in person at Lahore was the same I had seen in astral form at the Headquarters of the Theosophical Society, and the same again whom I, in my visions and trances, had seen at His house, thousands of miles off, to reach which in my astral Ego I was permitted, owing, of course, to His direct help and protection. In those instances with my psychic powers hardly developed yet, I had always seen Him as a rather hazy form, although His features were perfectly distinct and their remembrance was profoundly graven on my soul's eye and memory; while now at Lahore, Jummoo, and elsewhere, the impression was utterly different. In former cases, when making Pranam (salutation) my hands passed through his form, while on the latter occasions they met solid garments and flesh. Here I saw a living man before me, the same in features, though far more imposing in His general appearance and bearing than Him I had so often looked upon in the portrait in Mme. Blavatsky's possession and in the one with Mr. Sinnett. I shall not here dwell upon the fact of His having been corporeally seen by both Col. Olcott and Mr. Brown separately, for two nights at Lahore, as they can do so better, each for himself, if they so

choose. At Jummoo again, where we proceeded from Lahore, Mr. Brown saw Him on the evening of the third day of our arrival there, and from Him received a letter in His familiar handwriting, not to speak of His visits to me almost every day. And what happened the next morning almost every one in Jummoo is aware of. The fact is, that I had the good fortune of being sent for, and permitted to visit a Sacred Ashrum where I remained for a few days in the blessed company of several of the much doubted MAHATMAS of Himavat and Their disciples. There I met not only my beloved Gurudeva and Col. Olcott's Master [the Mahatman Morya — EDS.], but several others of the Fraternity, including One of the Highest. I regret the extremely personal nature of my visit to those thrice blessed regions prevents my saying more of it. Suffice it that the place I was permitted to visit is in the HIMALAYAS, not in any fanciful Summer Land and that I saw Him in my own sthula sarira (physical body) and found my Master identical with the form I had seen in the earlier days of my Chelaship. Thus, I saw my beloved Guru not only as a living man, but actually as a young one in comparison with some other Sadhus of the blessed company, only far kinder, and not above a merry remark and conversation at times. Thus on the second day of my arrival, after the meal hour I was permitted to hold an intercourse for over an hour with my Master. Asked by Him smilingly, what it was that made me look at Him so perplexed, I asked in my turn: — "How is it MASTER that some of the members of our Society have taken into their heads a notion that you were 'an elderly man,' and that they have even seen you clairvoyantly looking an old man passed sixty?" To which he pleasantly smiled and said, that this latest misconception was due to the reports of a certain Brahmachari, a pupil of a Vedantic Swami in the N. W. P. [the narrative of this Brahmachari is given and repeated twice over in our last number. See pp. 83-6, and 98-9 Theosophist for Dec.-Jany. [[It should be December, 1883. — EDS.]]] — who had met last year in Tibet the chief of a sect, an elderly Lama, who was his (my Master's) travelling companion at that time. The said Brahmachari having spoken of the encounter in India, had led several persons to mistake the Lama for himself. As to his being perceived clairvoyantly as an "elderly man," that could never be, he added, as real clairvoyance could lead no one into such mistaken notions;

and then he kindly reprimanded me for giving any importance to the age of a Guru, adding that appearances were often false, &c. and explaining other points.

These are all stern facts and no third course is open to the reader. What I assert is either true or false. In the former case, no Spiritualistic hypothesis can hold good, and it will have to be admitted that the Himalayan Brothers are living men and neither disembodied spirits nor the creatures of the over-heated imagination of fanatics. Of course I am fully aware that many will discredit my account, but I write only for the benefit of those few who know me well enough to see in me neither a hallucinated medium nor attribute to me any bad motive, and who have ever been true and loyal to their convictions and to the cause they have so nobly espoused. As for the majority who laugh at, and ridicule, what they have neither the inclination nor the capacity to understand. I hold them in very small account. If these few lines will help to stimulate even one of my brother-Fellows in the Society or one right thinking man outside of it to promote the cause the GREAT MASTERS have imposed upon the devoted heads of the Founders of the Theosophical Society, I shall consider that I have properly performed my duty.

Adyar (Madras)

7th December, 1883.

A Great Riddle Solved

[From *The Theosophist*, April, 1884.]

Referring to the article of D. K. M. in the last issue of the *Theosophist*, headed "A great riddle solved," in which he says the misconception regarding his Master's appearance "was due to the reports of a certain Brahmachari, the pupil of the Vedanti Swami in the N. W. P. who had met last year in Thibet the chief of a sect, an elderly Lama," who was his Master's travelling companion at the time "the said Brahmachari having spoken of the encounter, in India, had led several persons to mistake the Lama for himself." Now I know of a case in which a certain gentleman of

this station saw clairvoyantly the appearance of D. K. M.'s Guru long before the Brahmachari came here and spoke of his encounter with the Kuthumba Lama as he called him. The gentleman in question saw his (D. K. M.'s) Master's portrait mentioned in the last edition of the Occult World, and was at first puzzled with the difference of appearance he saw in the portrait and that he perceived clairvoyantly. But he remembered the Master's modest remarks that the figure in the portrait was very much flattered. The Brahmachari only came some months after the incident, and although he narrated to the gentleman his interview with the alleged K. H., the gentleman thought that there must have been some mistake as the Master could not have been likely to read the Vedas in the manner he was represented as doing.

Another incident happened here about a month ago. A certain initiated Grihasta Brahman who had no connection with our Society — but who had nevertheless heard of the Master from his Theosophist friends, resolved one day to see K. H. in his (the latter's) suksma sariram. He sat in his room with his door closed, but was disturbed by the noise outside. In the night, or rather in the early part of the morning, he fancied that some one touched his right shoulder lightly, and the appearance of the figure that he described tallied, as far as I could judge, with that which I had heard attributed to D. K. M.'s Master. But as soon as he was conscious of his presence, he was again disturbed by some other noise. He says he was fast asleep, but the touch of the figure roused him. He had not even heard of the portrait with Mr. Sinnett, nor had any acquaintance with the other people who fancied that they had seen the Master.

There are many other instances which came to my knowledge in which D. K. M.'s Master favoured many individuals. But despite his belief and that of the large numbers of the Theosophists that I know of, I confess I am at a loss to reason with those who think that the real K. H. is an "elderly" man. These persons do not pretend to say who D. K. M.'s Master is. They say that he may be like the portrait of which I have heard Colonel Gordon, Mr. Sinnett and others speak, but if so, they question whether he is the K. H. well known in Thibet. — K.

Simla. 31st Jan. 1884.

Note. — We know of only one MAHATMA bearing the name of my venerated GURU DEVA who holds a well-known public office in Thibet, under the TESHU LAMA. For aught we know there may be another bearing the same name; but at any rate he is not known to us, nor have any of those, we are acquainted with in Thibet, heard of him. And this personage, my BELOVED MASTER, is, as I have described Him, resembling the portrait in Mr. Sinnett's possession, and does not look old. Perhaps the clairvoyants are confounding the sect of Khadampas with the Kauthumpas? The former, although not regular Dougpas, are great magicians and indulge in practices an Adept of the good Law would feel disgusted with — such as the well known phenomenon of ripping open the abdomen, exposing the intestines, and then restoring them to their normal place and condition, &c. &c. The latter, the Kauthumpas, are the disciples of my MASTER.

My friend and brother of Simla should not lose sight of the fact that while others claim to have seen my Master clairvoyantly, I say that I saw Him in the North personally, in his living, not his astral body. Col. Olcott and Mr. Brown were also as fortunate as myself in that respect. It is now for the impartial reader to judge whether the testimony of three unimpeachable eye witnesses is more reliable or not than that of one or two clairvoyants (untrained we may add) in matters connected with the physical appearance of an individual. Imagination and expectancy are, with various other things, apt to mislead beginners in the Science of Clairvoyance. — D. K. M.

Colonel Olcott at the Court of Kashmir

[Supplement to The Theosophist, January, 1884.]

At Lahore, Col. Olcott was met by a Councillor of His Highness the Maha Raja Saheb of Kashmir and Jammu, who

had been specially deputed for the purpose of escorting the President and his party to Jammu. His Highness had sent a special request that before proceeding from Lahore to Jammu, Col. Olcott should consent to accept the khilat which it is customary for the Court to offer on the distinct understanding that the presents would be received not for his personal benefit, but on behalf of, and for the benefit of The Society. The necessary preliminaries having been arranged, the party, accompanied by Pandit Gopi Nath, F. T. S., Editor of the Mittra Vilasa, the organ of the orthodox Pandits of Lahore, and by His Highness' Counsellor, left Lahore by the evening mail of the 21st November, and proceeded from the Wazirabad Railway Station in carriages direct to Sialkot, where they rested for the night. The Maharaja had sent*Khilat is a royal gift peculiar to Asiatic Courts: its richness and value being proportionate to the munificence of the Sovereign and the rank of the visitor. — ED. [of The Theosophist.]*

his State carriages to that place to take the party to Jammu which, after about four hours' drive, they reached in the evening of the 22nd. On this side of the Ravi river, two State elephants were in waiting to take the party to the city.

One of these was fitted up with a silver Howdah in Kashmiri repousse work, with dragon supporters and velvet cushions for the President. An hour's ride brought the party to the barracks, where the bungalow set apart for the British Resident and other distinguished European guests had been fitted up for their accommodation. The next morning, elephants were sent with an officer and a guard of honor, and upon arrival at the Palace, the whole guard presented arms, and His Highness gave audience in full Court. The Maha Rajah Saheb was very well pleased with Col. Olcott's exposition of Theosophy, and expressed great sympathy with the objects of the Theosophical Society, especially its efforts for the revival of the ancient intellectual and spiritual glories of India. Their Royal Highnesses Prince Rama Singh, Commander-in-Chief, and Prince Amara Singh, the junior Prince, also seemed very much interested in the subject. The same evening, Col. Olcott received the Royal presents. According to the ancient custom of the Court, first-class guests receive twenty-one pots of sweet-meats, those of the second-class, fourteen, the third-class seven,

while the fourth-class are given none. The President was treated as a first-class guest — a distinction shown to Princes and to the British Resident and other high Europeans, and was thus presented with twenty-one pots of sweet-meats and a purse of five hundred rupees as Dawat, for which he immediately receipted in his official capacity and on behalf of the Society. Every day the Maha Rajah Saheb accorded him an interview of about two hours, and on some days even two. On each occasion, at the Palace, a guard of honour old [all] turned out who presented arms, both at the time of his entering and leaving the Royal mansion. Two elephants and four saddled horses were all the time at the disposal of the party at the barracks — besides armed chuprasis and other servants. Col. Olcott had long discussions on matters of Aryan Philosophy and Religion with His Highness, who manifested a most thorough knowledge of the subjects, and seemed extremely gratified to find that the American Chela had derived his knowledge from the same school to which his own GURU apparently belonged. The Maha Rajah Saheb not only believed in the existence of the HIMALAYAN MAHATMAS, but seemed to be sure of the fact from personal knowledge. He expressed his entire approbation of Col. Olcott's work for the resuscitation of Sanskrit in which direction he himself was working hard in his own State. The party remained at Jammu for a week. On the last day, they were presented with the khilat, which consisted of an offering to Col. Olcott of seven "cloths" — technically so called,* and three to each of the rest — as also an additional purse of two thousand rupees, which the President receipted for, as before, on behalf of the Society. Before quitting Jammu, the Colonel made over fifteen hundred rupees to the Honorary Secretary of the Headquarters House Fund Committee towards the purchase of the Adyar Property, and the remaining rupees one thousand of the Maharajah's cash present, to the Treasurer of the Society, for the Society's general expenses. Col. Olcott had special interviews with His Royal Highness Prince Arama Singh, the youngest son of His Highness the Maha Rajah Saheb, with His Excellency the Diwan, and other high officials of the State, who were all more or less interested in what the President had to say, and professed themselves pleased with his advocacy of Aryan Philosophy. From Jammu to Sialkot the party was provided with State

carriages. Thence they proceeded further on their journey. Col. Olcott's visit to the State of Kapurthala, where he was invited by the Diwan, who had specially gone down to Lahore for the purpose, will be found described elsewhere.

*DAMODAR K. MAVALANKAR,
Joint Recording Secretary.*

Interview with a Mahatma

[From The Theosophist, August, 1884.]

I had the pleasure of seeing in several issues of the Theosophist articles describing my interview with a Himalayan Mahatma. But I am sorry to see that you have been led or rather misled to form some strange, if not incorrect, notions about the fact, and also regret to find that some positive mistakes have been made by the writer in reporting the matter to you. In order to make the matter more clearly known to you, I beg to write the following few lines and trust they will meet with your approval.

At the time I left home for the Himalayas in search of the Supreme Being, having adopted Brahmacharyashrama, I was quite ignorant of the fact whether there was any such philosophical sect as the Theosophists existing in India, who believed in the existence of the Mahatmas or "superior persons." This and other facts connected with my journey have already been reported to you perfectly right, and so need not be repeated or contradicted. Now I beg to give you the real account of my interview with the Mahatmas.

Before and after I met the so-called Mahatma Kouthumpa, I had the good fortune of seeing in person several other Mahatmas of note, a detailed account of whom, I hope, should time allow, to write to you by and bye. Here I wish to say something about Kouthumpa only.

When I was on my way to Almora from Mansarowar and Kailas, one day I had nothing with me to eat. I was quite at a loss how to get on without food and keep up my life. There being no human habitation in that part of

the country, I could expect no help but pray God and take my way patiently on. Between Mansarowar and Taklakhal by the side of a road I observed a tent pitched and several Sadhus, called Chohans [*the correspondent probably means "the Chutuktus" or the disciples? Chohans are the "Masters"], sitting outside it who numbered near seventeen in all. As to their trimmings, &c., what Babu M. M. Chatterjea reports to you is all correct. When I went to them they entertained me very kindly, and saluted me by uttering "Ram Ram." I returning their salutations, sat down with them, and they entered upon conversation with me on different subjects, asking me first the place I was coming from and whither I was going. There was a chief of them sitting inside the tent and engaged in reading a book. I enquired about his name and the book he was reading from one of his Chelas, who answered me in rather a serious tone, saying that his name was Guru Kouthumpa and the book he was reading was Rig-veda. Long before, I had been told by some Pundits of Bengal that the Thibetan Lamas were well-acquainted with the Rig-veda. This proved what they had told me. After a short time when his reading was over, he called me in through one of his Chelas, and I went to him. He also bidding me "Ram Ram" received me very gently and courteously and began to talk with me mildly in pure Hindi. He addressed me in words such as follows: — "You should remain here for some time and see the fair at Mansarowar, which is to come off shortly. Here you will have plenty of time and suitable retreats for meditation, &c. I will help you in whatever I can." Having spoken in words as above for some time, I said in reply that what he said was all right, and that I would put up with him by all means, but there was some reason which prevented me from stopping there any longer. He understood my object immediately, and then having given me some secret advice as to my future spiritual welfare bade me farewell. Before this he had come to know that I was hungry that day and so wished me to take some food. He ordered one of his Chelas to supply me with food, which he did immediately. In order to get hot water ready for my ablutions he prepared fire by blowing into a cowdung cake which burst into flames at once. This is a common practice among the Himalayan Lamas. It is also fully explained by M. M. Chatterjea and so need not be repeated.

As long as I was there with the said Lama he never persuaded me to accept Buddhism or any other religion, but only said, "Hinduism is the best religion; you should believe in the Lord Mahadewa — he will do good to you. You are still quite a young man — do not be enticed away by the necromancy of anybody." Having had a conversation with the Mahatma as described above for about three hours, I at last taking his leave resumed my journey.

I am neither a Theosophist nor any sectarian, but am the worshipper of the only "Om." As regards the Mahatma I personally saw, I dare say that he is a great Mahatma. By the fulfilment of certain of his prophecies I am quite convinced of his excellence. Of all the Himalayan Mahatmas with whom I had an interview, I never saw a better Hindee speaker than he. As to his birth-place and the place of his residence, I did not ask him any question. Neither can I say if he is the Mahatma of the Theosophists. In short, I beg to ask the leaders of the Theosophic movement, Col. Olcott and Madame Blavatsky, why they are entertaining doubts as to his personality, why do they not refer the matter to the Mahatmas, with whom they can easily have communication. When they say they receive instructions from them in petty affairs, why do they not get them in a matter which has become a riddle to them. As to the age of the Mahatma Kouthumpa as I told Babu M. M. Chatterjea and others, he was an elderly looking man. Cannot the Mahatmas transform themselves into any age they like? If they can, the assertions of Babu Damodar cannot be admitted to be true when he says his Guru was not an old one. When the age of even a common man cannot be told exactly, how is it possible to be precise about the age of a Mahatma, specially when one believes that the Mahatmas have the supernatural power of changing their outward appearance and look. It must be admitted that our knowledge of them is far from being complete; and there are several things concerning them which we do not know.

It is said that [[Sanskrit characters]]

RAJANI KANT BRAHMACHARI

Note. — Although the correspondent begins by saying that certain "incorrect" notions have crept into the narrative of his interview with a MAHATMA, I fail to see a single statement of Babu Mohini M. Chatterjee contradicted by the Brahmachari. As the former gentleman is in Europe, he cannot give a reply to the above letter; but the reader can compare it with Mohini Babu's statement on pp. 83-86 of Vol. V of the Theosophist ["The Himalayan Brothers — Do They Exist?"; reprinted in Five Years of Theosophy, pp. 459-69]. All that the correspondent does now is that he gives a few additional facts.

As regards the Brahmachari's remark about my statement concerning the MAHATMA'S age, the reader will perceive that the correspondent but repeats, in other words, to a certain extent, what I have already said to be the reply of my MASTER (Vide page 62, Vol. V. Theosophist, col. 1, para 1) ["A Great Riddle Solved." — EDS.]. I may, however, add that since "intellect moulds the features," many of the comparatively young persons (if physical age be taken into account) look "elderly," such is the majesty of their appearance. The question has already been discussed at length in the article "Mahatmas and Chelas" [an unsigned editorial, probably by H. P. Blavatsky; republished in Five Years of Theosophy, pp. (2-95.-EDS.) in the last month's Theosophist, and in several other writings.

The question put by the correspondent to Col. Olcott and to Mme. Blavatsky, and the advice he offers them, are rather confused. But every reader of the Theosophist knows full well that the Founders collect and publish independent testimonies about the existence of the MAHATMAS, not because they have any doubt in the matter, but because they wish to put their case as clearly and as strongly as possible before an enquiring public. Nothing more need be said about it, as every searcher after truth — in whatever department — knows full well the weight and validity of evidence, especially concerning facts which are out of the reach, at present, of the ordinary run of mankind, although these facts may in the process of higher evolution come more and more within the grasp of a

more developed humanity. — D. K. M.

LETTER OF H. P. BLAVATSKY TO DR. HARTMANN.* 1885 TO 1886.

[From *The Path*, February, 1896.]

[NO DATE.] [Written from Wurzburg. — EDS.]

My Dear Doctor: — Two words in answer to what the Countess told me. I do myself harm, you say, "in telling everyone that Damodar is in Tibet, when he is only at Benares." You are mistaken. He left Benares toward the middle of May, (ask in Adyar; I cannot say for certain whether it was in May or April) and went off, as everybody knows, to Darjeeling, and thence to the frontier via Sikkhim. Our Darjeeling Fellows accompanied him a good way. He wrote a last word from there to the office bidding goodbye and saying: "If I am not back by July 21st you may count me as dead." He did not come back, and Olcott was in great grief and wrote to me about two months ago, to ask me whether I knew anything. News had come by some Tibetan peddlars in Darjeeling that a young man of that description, with very long flowing hair, had been found frozen in the (forget the name) pass, stark dead, with twelve rupees in his pockets and his things and hat a few yards off. Olcott was in despair, but Maji told him (and he, D., lived with Maji for some time at Benares,) that he was not dead — she knew it through pilgrims who had returned, though Olcott supposes — which may be also — that she knew it clairvoyantly. Well I know that he is alive, and am almost certain that he is in Tibet — as I am certain also that he will not come back — not for years, at any rate. Who told you he was at Benares? We want him sorely now to refute all Hodgson's guesses and inferences that I simply call lies, as much as my "spy" business and forging — the blackguard: now mind, I do not give myself out as infallible in this case. But I do know what he told me before going away — and at that moment he would not have said a fib, when he wept like a Magdalen. He said, "I go for your sake. If the Maha Chohan is satisfied with my services and my devotion, He may permit me to vindicate you by proving that Masters do exist. If I fail no one shall ever see me for years to come, but I will send messages. But I am determined

in the meanwhile to make people give up searching for me. I want them to believe I am dead."

This is why I think he must have arranged some trick to spread reports of his death by freezing.

But if the poor boy had indeed met with such an accident — why I think I would commit suicide; for it is out of pure devotion for me that he went. I would never forgive myself for this, for letting him go. That's the truth and only the truth. Don't be harsh, Doctor — forgive him his faults and mistakes, willing and unwilling.*

**The fact is that Damodar was never asked to go to Tibet, but begged to be permitted to go there, and at last went with permission of H. P. B., on which occasion I accompanied him to the steamer. — H.
[Evidently Hartmann. — EDS.]*

The poor boy, whether dead or alive, has no happy times now, since he is on probation and this is terrible. I wish you would write to someone at Calcutta to enquire from Darjeeling whether it is so or not. Sinnett will write to you, I think. I wish you would.

Yours ever gratefully,

H. P. B.

Letter CLXXIX

[Sent from Torre del Greco, July 16, 1885.]

[From The Letters of H. P. Blavatsky to A. P. Sinnett. — EDS.]

*... Now that our Damodar is away in Thibet and nothing is known at Adyar about him, and as Respected Sir does not care a fig for anything but his own affairs, the Masters find no facility for communicating direct with anyone at Adyar. . . .***

***[This letter is unsigned, but is in the handwriting of Babajee, a young Brahman and a probationary chela, who was sent to help H. P. Blavatsky when she went to Europe in 1885. His real name was S.*

Damodar K. Mavalankar

[Supplement to The Theosophist, July, 1886.]

To relieve the anxiety of a great many friends who have been anxious to learn the fate of our brother Damodar K. Mavalankar, and to dispel the rumours of his death which came by way of Sikkim and Darjeeling, we are very happy to state that we have positive news as late as the 7th of June that he has safely reached his destination, is alive, and under the guardianship of the friends whom he sought. The date of his return, however, is yet uncertain, and will probably remain so for a long time to come.

H. S. OLCOTT

T. SUBBA ROW.

[Part V](#)

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Part V

Personal Letters

Letters to W. Q. Judge I - VI

Letters to A. P. Sinnett I - V

Letter to Mrs. Cables

[Written in a less formal style than his articles, Damodar's Letters nevertheless contain direct philosophic instruction and many interesting occult hints. The abrupt manner in which he plunges *in medias res* is indicative of the continuously busy life at the Theosophical Headquarters, which allowed time only to carry out the ever present essential task.

The Letters in Part I, written to William Q. Judge in New York, are copied from the originals in the Archives of the Theosophical Society, Point Loma, and have been reproduced literally. In regard to the specially significant Letters II, III, IV, and V, the reader is referred to the prefatory note to "A Hindu Chela's Diary" in the Appendix.

The Letters in Part II were written to A. P. Sinnett in India, and are taken from *The Mahatma Letters to A. P. Sinnett*, Letters CXLIIa and CXLIIb, and from *The Letters of H. P. Blavatsky to A. P. Sinnett*, Letters Xa, CLXXXIX, CXC.

Part III is a Letter to Mrs. Josephine W. Cables, of Rochester, New York, and is reprinted from *The Occult Word* (May-June, 1884) of which she was Editor. — EDS.]

Letters To W. Q. Judge

Letter I

Bombay 5th October 1879.

My dear Mr. Judge,

I am very sorry to hear you write so disparagingly to Madam Blavatsky about your feelings and the state of your mind. Is it not surprising to see that a man like you after having made some progress in the study of Theosophy should despair at the very moment he is about to enter the very threshold of true knowledge? It seems to my mind ridiculously strange that a very thirsty man should be in quest of water and that when he has found it he should instead of drinking it, turn his back against it and fly from the only place where he can quench his thirst. You have read in "Isis" various facts to which the noble author attests as having seen personally. I am positively sure you have so high an opinion of this awe-inspiring Lady that you will not hesitate in the least to accept even a tittle of evidence she may bring forward to establish any circumstance which she knows for certain to be a fact. The more so, because she simply corroborates what was taught by my forefathers and what is still found in the ancient Hindu Literature but which is now regarded as superstition by ignorant men, they being unable to find the key which opens the box containing these hidden treasures. But this key you will get, only if you will continue the study of Theosophy.

In "Isis" the author has shown what powers man is endowed with and how he can use them. The use depends upon their development which occultism teaches us how to cause to effect in us. In order to show that the study of occult sciences has enabled certain persons to develop their powers, a few of the performances of these mysterious personages have been quoted. She has clearly proved that there live to this day adepts who have obtained a thorough control over themselves and over the forces in nature, and have guarded from time immemorial the sacred writings of the venerable sages of the past who found out the Spiritual Powers of man and the only way in which he can develop them. But have these adepts succeeded in developing their powers at once when they began? Is it possible for a person to get to the top of a house without using any means by which he can do so? Or again does it not appear absurd that a man can climb a tree without proceeding step by step? Do you expect a child to be a philosopher as

soon as it is born? Are not these illustrations sufficient to convince you that in order to succeed in any thing you must proceed gradually? You know any thing rashly done is sure to be imperfect. In undertaking any thing the first thing required is perseverance. "Try again" should ever be our motto. A child will never learn how to walk if it were never to try to do so, simply because in its primary attempts it suffers failures and falls every now and then. But the instinct of the child urges it nevertheless to continue in its efforts until it succeeds. Does not the same Spirit which gives the child the instinct illuminate the child after it grows into manhood? Is it not shameful for every person that, although in childhood he acts in obedience to the instructions of the Divine Spirit, he after coming to maturity should become deaf to the teachings of that Spirit which once gave him success in his childhood notwithstanding all the primary failures? If we understand all these things why should we not proceed cautiously and patiently? If you see before your eyes a thing which you were hunting after for a long time, why should you not try to grasp and tenaciously cling to it? Should you give it up simply because you do not succeed for the first time? Is all the trouble you took in finding it out and getting at it to go in vain? Should you not at such a trying moment summon the assistance of moral courage? Is it not degrading for us that we can not *even follow* the footsteps of our ancestors who discovered the true path to Spiritual Enlightenment, although their footprints are so clear that they can be vividly seen by any one who cares to do so? How very difficult would it then have been if the task of discovery had involved upon us? Not only are these footprints still preserved but we can find to this day guides who have trodden upon these steps and have nearly attained the same end which these discoverers did. The question naturally arises where can these guides be found? The answer is of course India. But are they accessible to all? Can any body employ them as other guides are? What are their charges for employment? One answer is, it is presumed, sufficient to answer all these queries. The fact that they retire from the busy world necessarily proves that they do not care for any thing pertaining to it. What else then can induce them to come over to you to guide you through this path? It is the proper performance of certain

duties which a man ought to do. But what are these duties is a question which springs from this answer. If I were to go minutely into all these details it would take me too long before I finish this letter and I would therefore cursorily glance at what these duties are. We must consider the whole mankind as one brotherhood for the whole creation has emanated from that eternally Divine Principle which is everywhere, is in every thing and in which is every thing and is therefore the source of all. We should therefore do all we can to do good to humanity. You know the soul of man is composed of Spirit and Matter and thus forms a distinct individuality. Our chief end should be to preserve this individuality until the Soul is freed of all the Matter that stuck to it and mixes into that Principle which gives it birth or rather from which it proceeds. One of the various things you must do in order to accomplish this is to leave off as much of worldly consideration as possible. Your only desire should be to do everything for humanity and not for yourself, i.e., although *you* are in the world, your *inner man* should be out of it. When you do this much, you will know other means of accomplishing your aim from the Adepts. You must neither despair, nor think that there are no adepts simply because you have as yet seen none. If you have not met with any, you should know that it is because you have not properly performed your duties. You would perhaps think that these personages stop in India and you have therefore no chance of finding any in America. But then you must remember that for a person whose Spiritual Sight is opened time and space can offer no obstacle. He can travel any distance whenever he pleases in no time. Such men are actually in search of persons who truly and sincerely desire to go to them and study occult Sciences. Why should they not go to you if you are honestly working with that desire? If you produce a certain cause will it not have its effect? Man is endowed with a power by which he can produce a certain cause, but the production of the effect rests with that force in Nature to which the cause is directed. But does this force go against its laws? Certainly not, for if it were to do so, it would be a miracle, but you know that there can be no miracle. If you therefore perform your duties as you ought to do, you will certainly rouse the good Spirits (Forces) in Nature who will compel an Adept to

come to you and teach you what you so ardently desire to learn. If you despair after making some progress and learning certain things what should I do? Am I not a beginner? It is only two months that I have been *admitted* into the Society. What I have said above are the aspirations of a Hindu and should be of every person of whatever creed or colour, for castes and races are but the invention of man to suit his convenience. Do not therefore despair but go on with confidence, and success is at hand. If after performing your proper duties you do not meet with an adept you will at least have the consolation of having done what you are in duty bound to do. All your good actions in this world will help you in after-life. I therefore ask of you, my dear brother, to proceed cautiously and patiently with what you have begun. Despair not, and you will shortly trample the foe under your feet. Bear in mind the motto "Try again," and apply it in your case.

I hope you success and conclude

Most truly Yours

DAMODAR K. MAVALANKAR.

F. T. S.

Letter II

Bombay 24th January 1880

My dear Sir and brother,

I read with great interest yours of 8th November which I received on the 20th ultimo while I was at Benares. I left this place on the 2nd ultimo with H. P. Blavatsky and Col. Olcott for Allahabad whence I proceeded alone upon my arrival, to Benares to see Pandit Dayanand Saraswati Swamiji, on the business of the Ritual. Col. Olcott and Madam joined me there after about ten days; and when I showed your letter to them, Madam ordered me to write to you all I had personally witnessed at Benares. Having, however, left that place shortly afterwards for

Allahabad where I stopped only for two days, I could not find leisure to give you the whole account. After I came to Bombay I was engaged for a long time in doing my work and could not spare time to write to you, for which I hope you will excuse me. I once or twice attempted to do so, but I did not know what to write. Because if I were to give you simply an account of what I had seen at Benares, it might read simply but as a sort of story. Again I found myself incompetent to add to the account any reflections of my own. Not that I doubt what I have seen, but quite the reverse of that. I know that Madam Blavatsky whom I revere as my Guru, esteem as my benefactor, and love more than a Mother, and others whose mere recollection gives my heart a thrill that makes me quiver with veneration, have done me favours I am not the least deserving of. I therefore look down with perfect contempt upon myself when I see how much they have done for me and what opportunities they had given me for bettering myself, and how very foolishly I let those opportunities slip by. It is about six months since I was admitted into the Society and now I do not think I am a bit better in any way than I was before. I therefore consider myself as the lowest of all the Theosophists for although there may be some (if any, at all) who may be as bad as myself, they are not yet to be blamed for their actions as they had no such opportunities of improvement which I had. Being so very low as I have shown myself to you, I can not comment upon what I mean to write to you. I shall simply give you mere facts as they were personally witnessed by me — Gather what moral you may from them, I cannot give you my reflections on this matter for the reasons already stated to you, and because (judging from your letter) I find you are far superior to me in intellect and have made a greater progress.

About a month after I joined the Society I felt as it were a voice within myself whispering to me that Madam Blavatsky is not what she represents herself to be. It then assumed the form of a belief in me which grew so strong within a short time that four or five times I thought of throwing myself at her feet and beg her to reveal herself to me. But then I could not do so because I thought it would be useless, as

I knew that I was quite impure and had led too bad a life to trusted with that secret. I therefore remained silent with the consolation that she herself would confide the secret to me when she would find me worthy of it. I thought it must be some great Indian Adept that had assumed that illusionary form. But there a difficulty occurred to me. I knew that she received letters from her aunts and that she communicated with persons almost in every part of the globe. I could not therefore reconcile my belief, as I thought she would then have to practise the illusion all over the world. Various explanations suggested themselves to me except the right one. I was, however, right (as I have subsequently ascertained) in my original conception that she is some great Indian Adept. At various times I talk to her about these adepts, because that is the one subject I am interested in, although I fear I am not, and shall not be for many years to come or perhaps this life, worthy of their company. Since I was a child of seven years, my inclination has almost always been in this direction. I always thought of retiring from this world and giving myself up to devotion. I also expressed several times to Madam my intention of retiring from this world and studying this philosophy which alone can make man happy in the true sense of the word. But then she usually asked me what I would do *there* alone. She said that instead of gaining my object I would become perhaps insane by being alone in the jungles without any body to guide me; that I was foolish enough to think that by going into the jungles I could fall in with an adept; and that if I really wanted to gain my object I should have to work in the Society and when the Higher ones whom I dare not mention by any other names, and who had started this Society, would be satisfied with me, they would themselves call me away from the busy world and teach me in private. And when I foolishly asked her many times to give me the names and addresses of some of our Brothers she said to me once: — "One of our Brothers has told me that as you are much after me, I better tell you once for all that I, being a European, have no right to give you any information about them; but if you go on asking Hindus what they know about the matter, you might hear of them; and one of those Higher ones may perhaps throw himself in your way without your

knowing him, and will tell you what you should do." Having received these orders I had but to obey and wait; although having an implicit confidence in H. P. Blavatsky I knew that I would have my object fulfilled only through her, and through her alone. I thereupon asked one or two of my Hindu friends, who were inclined in this direction, if they knew any such persons. One of them said he had seen two or three such men but that they were not quite what he thought "*Raj Yogs*." He also told me that he had heard of a man who had appeared several times in Benares but that no body knew where he lived. My disappointment grew bitter and more bitter but I never lost the firm confidence I have that adepts *do* live in India and can *still* be found among us. Shortly afterwards I was ordered to Benares to see Swamiji on that business of the *Ritual*.

A few months before we left Bombay, Pandit Mohunlal Vishnual Pande, one of the Councillors of our Society, had written to Madam that there lived in Benares a woman called "Maji" who practised Yog and was his Guru. I had known from Madam that Swamiji also knew that science and that he knows "Maji." Being, however, ordered not to let him know what I knew of him, I could not say to him anything directly but when I made indirect references to these things, he pretended to laugh at me for believing in the powers attained by a Yog. And when I asked him if he knew a woman named "Maji," he replied — "If there be such a woman here at all, she is not known." — Whenever I asked him any thing in regard to these matters, he gave evasive answers. I was disappointed when I saw that all my expectations in going to Benares were but castles in the air. I thought that I had gained nothing except the consolation that I was doing a part of my duty as a Theosophist. Consequently I wrote thus to my most revered Guru: — "As directed by you I have neither let him (Swamiji) know what I know of him nor what my true intentions are. He seems to think that I work in the Society to make money. I have as yet kept him in the dark as regards myself and consequently am myself groping in the dark — Expecting, however, enlightenment on the subject from you."

Shortly afterwards Madam and Col. Olcott accompanied by two or

three European members of our Society joined me at Benares. To my great surprise, when asked by Madam, Swamiji mentioned the place where "Maji" resided and offered to take us there, adding that he knew her well and that she very often came to see him. The Europeans that had come to Benares from Allahabad were Mr. Sinnett, the Editor of the "*Pioneer*" (a government organ and one of the most influential newspapers in India), and his wife, and Mrs. A. Gordon, the writer of the article "Missions in India" in the January number of the *Theosophist*, the wife of a Colonel in Bengal, also a Theosophist; who had come on purpose from Calcutta to Allahabad — thus crossing all India, — to be *initiated*. They all wanted to see some great phenomenon performed by Madam, and especially the former two had come down to Benares for that purpose, as Madam had refused to show them any such thing unless permitted by Swamiji. Swami having declined to grant the permission asked for, was consulted by Madam and Col. Olcott as to the best way of satisfying these two persons, as it was found that the interests of the Society would be greatly increased, if the full sympathy of Mr. Sinnett was secured, who had already done so much for us by making the Viceroy issue an order published in the November Number of the *Theosophist*, which set us all right in the public estimation, and who had made the Viceroy promise to write to Madam a letter approving of the plan of the Society, which will be published in the next number. It was then resolved that we should see "Maji" for the purpose. But when we went the next day to her she gave the same reply as Swamiji that it was too sacred a science to be thus treated as a "*Tamasha*" (Show). Madam could not accompany us at that time as she did not feel well, but when we told "Maji" accordingly, she turned a glance of significance at Col. Olcott who returned it, thereby asking her to remain silent, as they alone had then felt Madam's presence near them. "Maji" then said that though she had never visited Europeans, she would herself come to see Madam once or twice before our departure from Benares. Mr. and Mrs. Sinnett being thus disappointed were talking at night about the matter with Madam and Col. Olcott. Mrs. Gordon also formed one of the company. During the course of conversation some one made reference to flowers and immediately

afterwards a sound was heard as of something dropping from above. It was found that a number of flowers were thrown by invisible hands on the table around which they were all sitting. When I had gone to Swamiji a short time before the occurrence, I found him in an unusual state, such as he was always in, whenever explaining the Ritual. And I found that the phenomenon exactly corresponded to the time when I saw Swamiji in the strange state of "*Samadhi*" described to you above: "*Samadhi*" being, as you perhaps know, that state when the adept leaves his body. There was therefore no doubt left for me as to what and how it had happened. The next day Mr. and Mrs. Sinnett left for Allahabad and we three with Mrs. Gordon remained at Benares. The next day came "Maji" (who never speaks of herself but as "This body") to see Madam, and I alone was then with them, as Col. Olcott and Mrs. Gordon had gone with Swamiji to see the girls' school. I then gathered from what she said that she had been first in the body of a Fakir who, upon having his hand disabled by a shot he received while he passed the Fortress of Bhurtpore, had to change his body and choose the one that was now "Maji." A girl about seven years of age was dying at that time and so, before her death, this Fakir had entered her body and taken possession of it. "Maji" is not therefore a woman but a real Hindu Fakir in the body of a woman. It is but one by one that I gathered all these particulars. In his former body, this Fakir had studied the Yog science for 65 years, but his study having been arrested and incomplete at the time his body was disabled and consequently unequal to the task he had to perform, he had to choose this other one. In his present body he is 53 years, and consequently the "Inner Maji" is 118 years old. She then asked Madam whether she knew that they had had the same man for their "Guru." But Madam desiring her to give some proofs of what she said to me, she readily furnished them. She said that Madam's Guru was born in Punjab but generally lives in the Southern part of India, and especially in Ceylon. He is about 300 years old and has a companion of about the same age, though both do not appear even forty. In a few centuries he will enter the body of a "*Kshatriya*" (the Warrior caste among the Hindus) and do some great deeds for India, but the time had not yet come. When Madam and Col. Olcott had gone

last summer to Karley Caves, they saw a certain Sannyasi with a five-legged cow, who took Col. Olcott aside and gave him the Theosophical grip. He had then told Col. Olcott that he was "Maji's" disciple. I communicated this fact on this occasion to "Maji" who laughed and replied that it was none other than Madam's Guru in the Fakir's body, who had given Col. Olcott the grip, and that if we were to see that Fakir again, he would not be able to give us the sign again, as he was for the time being, taken possession of, by Madam's Guru who often performs such things. Then she went home, promising to see us again before our departure.

I must state here that about a fortnight before I left Bombay Madam had asked me how I knew that it was not an Indian adept who took occasional possession of her body and who did all these things which are attributed to her. My inference then is that the real H. P. B. is nothing but either a paralyzed soul or a dead body under the control of some adept. I shall now continue the thread of my account.

"Maji" then came for the second time and on this occasion all of us were present except Swamiji and Madam who came afterwards. Col. Olcott then asked "Maji" some questions about Madam. And "Maji" said that Madam was not what she seems to be. Her interior man had already been twice in a Hindu body and was now in his third. She also said that until that time she had never seen a European but, having got the information from her Guru, about Madam, she had come to see her. I then asked her if the real H. P. B. was still in the body, but she refused to answer that question, and only added that she herself — "Maji" — was inferior to Madam. She then told Col. Olcott that he had once been a young Hindu in the Southern part of India, but had died and had to be reborn again. She then explained to us the meaning of the action of the Fakir in having brought a five-legged cow at Karli when he saw Col. Olcott there and gave him the Theosophical grip. She said that every person has a right to repeat the Gayatri Mantram which consists of three "*Pads*" (Metres) but a Brahmachari has a right to repeat one "*Pad*" more while a Yog could repeat as many as he liked and thereby perform wonders. Thus a Yog has a right to repeat a Mantrarn

consisting of five "Pads" which is equal to "Om tat Sat," and as the word "Pad" also means a foot or a leg, he had purposely brought a five-legged cow to signify this meaning. And she moreover said that this symbol was with Madam on her seal-ring, although neither she (Madam) nor any of us had intimated to "Maji" the fact. You will have thus seen how Indian instructions are conveyed by means of symbols and one who can decipher the ancient Aryan symbols will find a vast field to be explored. She first tried to tempt me, trying to make me relinquish my object; but when all this failed, she told me that if I wanted to make any spiritual progress and see any of our Brothers, I must depend entirely for that upon Madam. None else was competent to take me through the right path. If I were to go alone anywhere, I may wander about here and there for years together but that will be quite useless. I must stop entirely with Madam and lay my full and only confidence in her. She told me to work in the Society and practise regularly twice a day what Madam had ordered me to do. In every respect I must act in obedience to her instructions. Then she told me that I should go once with Madam to the mountains of Junagad where these adepts usually live and even if I were not to see any body the first time, the magnetized air in which they live, will do me much good — She said that they do not generally stop in one place but always shift from one place to another. They however, all meet together on certain days of the year in a certain place near Bhadrinath in the Northern part of India, of which you can read in the January *Theosophist*. She remarked that as India's sons are becoming more and more wicked, they (these adepts) have gradually been retiring more and more toward the north of the Himalaya Mountains. I have written here as far as I can recollect what "Maji" had told us —

You will thus have seen of what a great consequence it is for me to be always with Madam. From the beginning I felt all that "Maji" had told me. Only two or three days after I applied for admission into the Society I said to H. P. B., what I really felt, that I regarded her as my benefactor, revered her as my Guru and loved her more than a mother. Ever since I have assured her of what I then told her. And now "Maji"

tells me the same thing, strengthens my faith and asks me to confide in her (Madam). And when I afterwards consulted Swamiji in regard to myself, he, without my telling him a word of what "Maji" had said to me, urged me to do the very same thing, that is to say, to put my faith in H. P. B. All along I have felt and *do still* feel strongly as if I had already once studied this philosophy with Madam and that I must have been once her most obedient and humble disciple. This must have been a fact or else how can you account for the feeling created in me about her only after seeing her not more than three or four times. All my hopes and future plans are therefore centered in her and nothing in the world can shake my confidence in her, especially when two Hindus, who do not speak English and could not have pre-arranged these things, tell me the very same things without previous consultation and what I all along had myself felt. My trip, therefore, to up-country did me one good, that of strengthening my belief which is the chief foundation on which the grand structure is to be built.

Before concluding I shall speak of an incident that happened in my presence at Benares. The night before we left that place seven or eight persons were in the drawing room when I was present. We were all sitting around a table. Madam was talking with me and a Benares Pandit, the writer of the article on "Brahma, Ishwara and Maya" in the October Number of the *Theosophist*. On one side was Col. Olcott talking to a pleader in Benares, who has since joined our Society. Near them was Swamiji sitting silent in his chair. On the other side was Mrs. Gordon talking to Dr. Thibaut, Principal of the Benares College. Near them was a disciple of Swamiji sitting silent in his seat. In the course of conversation Mrs. Gordon happened to talk of flowers. Madam then said to the Benares Pandit that she would try if any of our Brothers would give him a sign — And lo! and behold! within two seconds a shower of flowers at his feet, thrown by invisible hands. I immediately looked at Swamiji and found that he looked no better than a dead man. His cheeks were pale and the flush of life gone. It was evident that his inner man was not then in his body. I then asked Madam who had done the phenomenon of flowers, and her only reply was "One of our

Brothers," but which one she left for me to find out. All of us then took a flower for ourselves but the smallest of all fell to the lot of Dr. Thibaut, the Principal of the College. At the time of going he asked Madam if he could have another that was lying on the table. When she said, — "You may take as many as you like, You will have many more." She repeated this twice or thrice and I looked up to see from which direction they came. But I found that they came down directly from the ceiling and fell right near Dr. Thibaut's feet. All then left the place and as it was dark outside I took a lamp to show them the way out. By the time they came in the outer veranda the light was almost out. Mrs. Gordon was surprised and wanted to bring another lamp. But I said that there was no matter with the lamp, but that it was Madam that was doing something with it. When Col. Olcott heard the words that thus passed between us he called back all the visitors who were by this time near the steps, to see the phenomenon. When they returned, Madam came out, took the lamp from me, and placed it on the table. Then she said "What is the matter with you, come up," and immediately it shone with an unusual brilliancy. She then said "Go down" and within a short time it was almost dark. Afterwards she brought it up again, thus clearly establishing to the visitors what a Yog can do by his will power. The next day I asked Swamiji who it was that had twice thrown the flowers the night before. But he first refused to answer my question, saying that I had to do nothing with it. I told him that I wanted to know it, because I could explain it in two ways and I wanted to know which one was correct, viz., — (1st) that Madam herself did the thing; or (2nd) that some body else did it for her. He replied that even if it were done by some body else, no Yog will do a thing unless he sees the desire in another Yog's mind. I said it was quite true but that I wanted to know which of these was a fact. And then he told me that it was not Madam but some body else that had thrown the flowers. Who that some body was he would not tell me, and it is quite evident he should not tell me when it was done by himself.

I suppose I have sufficiently tired your patience and therefore beg to conclude, especially as I do not see that I have got to write to you any

thing more for the present.

Hoping soon to see you here, in whom I take so much interest, I beg to remain, My dear Sir,

Yours in life and *after death*

DAMODAR K. MAVALANKAR F. T. S.

Letter III

PUBLICATION OFFICE OF THE "THEOSOPHIST,"
BREACH CANDY, BOMBAY, INDIA, *5th* June, 1882

A. P. Sinnett, Esq.,
Ed. "Pioneer," Simla.

My dear Sir,

When Mme. Blavatsky left for Calcutta she left with me (March 30th) a letter for Mr. O'Conor with instructions to forward it to the addressee during the first week of June, if not otherwise ordered. I was accordingly to forward it by tomorrow's mail but I have just been ordered to forward it to you. I therefore enclose it to you now. Please excuse haste — no time to lose — the mail is about to close.

I hope you have received the two telegrams.

Yours truly

DAMODAR K. M.

Letter IV

PUBLICATION OFFICE OF THE "THEOSOPHIST"
BREACH CANDY, BOMBAY, INDIA, *26th August*, 1882

My dear Sir,

It is with the greatest pain and reluctance that I write this letter but I beg of you the indulgence to give this a patient and careful reading.

PUBLICATION OFFICE OF THE "THEOSOPHIST,"
BREACH CANDY, BOMBAY, INDIA. 14th June 1881.

My dear Judge

I will now begin where I stopped last. I told you there about my being at a certain place where they have their Council. After that I saw .: twice or thrice alone on the same business and very rarely he said to me a few words of encouragement and good advice as to how I should go on. Happy were those moments when alone at midnight we thus had conversation! Nothing or no body to disturb us! We were to ourselves during that time. Once he took me to some other place in Ceylon. In that particular village, H. P. B., Col. Olcott and myself were the only three persons that stopped one night, the rest of our party having gone to a further place. We were all busy there initiating people and forming a branch of our Society till about 12 in the night. H. P. B. and Col. Olcott went to bed at about one. As we had to stay in the village only one night we had got down in the Rest House where comfortable accommodation can be had only for two travellers. I had therefore to lay down in an arm-chair in the dining room. I had scarcely locked from inside the door of the room and laid myself in the chair than I heard a faint knock at the door. It was repeated twice before I had time enough to reach the door. I opened it and what a great joy I felt when I saw .: again! In a very low whisper he ordered me to dress myself and to follow him. At the back door of the Rest House is the Sea. I followed him as he commanded me to do. He brought me to the back door of the place and we walked about three quarters of an hour by the seashore. Then we turned in the direction of the sea. All around there was water *except the place we were walking upon which was quite dry!!* He was walking in front and I was following him. We thus walked for about seven minutes when we came to a spot that looked like a small island. On the top of the building was a triangular light. From a distance, a person standing on the seashore would think it to be an isolated spot which is covered all over by green bushes. There is only one entrance to go inside. And no one can find it out unless the occupant wishes the

person to find the way. After we reached the Island we had to go round about for about five minutes before we came in front of the actual building. There is a little garden in front we found one of the Brothers sitting. I had seen him before in the Council Room and it is to him that this place belongs. ∴ seated himself near him and I stood before them. We were there for about half an hour. I was shown a part of the place. How very pleasant it is! And inside this place he has a sort of a small room where the body remains when the *Spirit* moves about. What a charming, delightful spot that is! What a nice smell of roses and various sorts of flowers! I wish I were permitted to visit that place again if I should go to Ceylon another time. The half hour was finished and the time for our leaving the place was near. The master of the place whose name I do not know, placed his blessing hand over my head and ∴ and I marched off again. We came back near the door of the room wherein I was to sleep and he suddenly disappeared there on the spot. And following his example as a true disciple I too will now disappear abruptly until the next mail when I shall resume the subject.

Yours very truly & Sincerely

DAMODAR K. MAVALANKAR

Letter IV

SECRETARY'S OFFICE OF THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

BREACH CANDY, BOMBAY, INDIA. 21st June 1881

My dear Judge

In my last letter I omitted to mention to you the two other places where I was taken before the one mentioned in my last. But as I am not at liberty to describe them I shall abstain from doing so for the present, until I am permitted. I shall only say that one of them is near Colombo, a private house of ∴ and the other one near Kandy, a library. I can now think only of these four places where I was taken while in Ceylon. Of course, as said before, I saw ∴ and others on various occasions. One evening after dressing myself for dinner on the Steamer on our way

back to Bombay, I took out from my trunk my coat to be put [on] after dinner. As is my habit, I examined its pockets and put it on my bed. The dinner table was exactly opposite my cabin so that I could easily see any one going in or coming out from there but I saw none; neither did any one else at table. After we finished our dinner I went in and put on the coat. Without thinking I put my hands into my pockets as I usually do and lo! in the right hand one I felt some paper while, when I first examined it, there was nothing inside. I took it out and to my surprise I found a letter addressed to Mme. Blavatsky. I took it nearer to the light and found in the corner the initials ∴. The cover was open and on it were written in red the words: "For Damodar to read." I then read the letter and saw that it was about the same business. Thinking all the time of this matter I lay down in my bed. Absorbed in deep thought I was startled on the sound of footsteps *in the* cabin which I had locked from inside. I looked behind and there was ∴ again and two others! What a pleasant evening that was! Speaking of various things in regard to knowledge and philosophy for about half an hour! Those were the happiest moments in my life! But that was only for that time and I determined to make myself worthy of enjoying it always!

But enough of it now:

Very truly & Sincerely yours

DAMODAR K. MAVALANKAR

Letter V

SECRETARY'S OFFICE OF THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY,
BREACH CANDY, BOMBAY, INDIA. 28th June 1881

My dear Judge

Last time I spoke to you about what happened to me on my way back to Bombay from Ceylon. After arriving here you know very well that within a very few days the "Kitchen row" occurred and there was a split. Shortly afterwards (Aug. 27--1880) H. P. B. and Col. O. left Bombay for Simla and other places in the North on the business of the Society

and I was almost alone at the Headquarters. I suppose you know very well that since my leaving off my caste I have been staying with H. P. B. Mr & Mme. Coulomb also stayed and have been staying with us but they are not much interested in these matters. I worked all alone in H. P. B.'s compartments and there not a single soul came to disturb me. On the evening previous to my birthday (in September) I went as usual for dinner in the evening. The dining room was just opposite the Bungalow where I had my table. The outer door of the compound was locked from inside. We were all three in the dining room. After dinner we removed to the verandah in H. P. B.'s Bungalow. A sudden peculiar sensation came over me and the brilliant moonlight reminded me of my trip to — where Col. O. & I were magnetised, of which I think I told you. Presently Mme. C. heard footsteps in H.P.B.'s room, and somebody trying to open the cupboard. I did not hear any such thing but I did not dare go in as H. P. B. before her departure had told me not to do so in case I should hear any noise or voices there. For the same reason I prevented them from trying to enter there as they wanted to do for fear there might be some thing. After some time all that stopped and both of them went to bed. I went into my writing room the window of which opens into the verandah where we were sitting after dinner. And just above the table in front of the clock was a big triangular note. When I left the room for dinner there was nothing there as I always when going in or coming out referred to that clock and if it had been there before I could not have seen the figures on the clock and consequently should have noticed it before. I took it up and opened it and inside was a triangularly folded cap which the Fakirs and the people in Northern India wear. Inside was written "To Damodar" and then were the Initials. It is a gift I shall always preserve and have it still. In that place I slept all alone, Mr & Mme. C. sleeping in the room Miss Bates occupied before, which is in the opposite bungalow. After that I very often received communications from .: and others by post or in some mysterious way. One night after despatching the *Theosophist* I went to bed at about one in the morning. As usual I searched my table and after putting every thing in order locked the drawers. I got up in the morning & after taking my bath I opened the middle drawer of the

table & the 1st thing I saw was a note addressed thus: "Damodar K. Mavalankar S. By order of .: I opened it and it was written in pure and very high Hindustani so that I could not understand it and within a few days I got its translation into English by post. If I were to mention to you all such communications received by me I would fill a small volume. I will therefore mention to you one very important thing which happened within a few days from that time. At about 2 in the morning after finishing my work I locked the door of the room and lay in my bed. Within about 2 or 3 minutes I heard H. P. B.'s voice in her room calling me. I got up with a start and went in. She said "some persons want to see you" and after a moment added "Now go out, do not look at me." Before however I had time to turn my face I saw her gradually disappear on the spot and from that very ground rose up the form of .: By the time I had turned back I saw two others dressed in what I afterwards learned to be Tibetan Clothes. One of them remained with .: in H. P. B.'s room. The other one I found seated on my bed by the time I came out. I saluted him & asked him if he had any orders to give. He said: "If there are any, they will be told to you, without being asked." Then he told me to stand still for some time and began to look at me fixedly. I felt a very pleasant sensation as if I was getting out of my body. I can not say now what time passed between that and what I am now going to relate. But I saw I was in a peculiar place. It was the upper end of Cashmir at the foot of the Himalayas. I saw I was taken to a place where there were only two houses just opposite to each other and no other sign of habitation. From one of these came out the person who had written to me the Hindi letter above referred to and who has been subsequently corresponding with me. I may mention to you his name since he has allowed it to be published in Mr. Sinnett's book called "The Occult World" which has just come out. Mr. Sinnett has dedicated the book to this person "Koot Hoomi .:" It was his house. Opposite him stops .: Brother K — ordered me to follow him. After going a short distance of about half a mile we came to a natural subterranean passage which is under the Himalayas. The path is very dangerous. There is a natural causeway on the River Indus which flows underneath in all its fury. Only one person can walk on it at a time and

one false step seals the fate of the traveller. Besides this causeway there are several valleys to be crossed. After walking a considerable distance through this subterraneous passage we came into an open plain in L---- k. There is a large massive building thousands of years old. In front of it is a huge Egyptian Tau. The building rests on 7 big pillars in the form of pyramids. The entrance gate has a large triangular arch. Inside are various apartments. The building is so large that I think it can easily contain twenty thousand people. I was shown some of these compartments. This is the Chief Central Place where all those of our Section who are found deserving of Initiation into Mysteries have to go for their final ceremony and stay there the requisite period. I went up with my *Guru* to the Great Hall. The grandeur and serenity of the place is enough to strike any one with awe. The beauty of the Altar which is in the centre and at which every candidate has to take his vows at the time of his Initiation is sure to dazzle the most brilliant eyes. The splendour of the CHIEF'S Throne is uncomparable. Every thing is on a geometrical principle & containing various symbols which are explained only to the Initiate. But I cannot say more now as I come now under an obligation of Secresy which K---- took from me there. While standing there I do not know what happened but suddenly I got up & found myself in my bed. It was about 8 in the morning. What was that I saw? Was it a dream or a reality? If a reality, how could I traverse the whole of the Himalayas even in my astral body in so short a time? Perplexed with these ideas I was sitting silent when down fell a note on my nose. I opened it and found inside that it was not a dream but that I was taken in some mysterious way in my astral body to the real place of Initiation where I shall be in my body for the Ceremony if I show myself deserving of the blessing. My joy at that moment can be easily conjectured than described — But enough

Very t---- yours,

DAMODAR K. MAVALANKAR

[Portions of this letter appeared first in *The Platonist*, and later in *The Theosophist*, June, 1884, under the title 'Reincarnation,' and in *The Path*, January, 1896, under the title "Some Views of an Asiatic." The valuable footnotes, signed EDITOR, which Mr. Judge appended in *The Path*, have been added to the present transcription of the original MS. — EDS.]

6th September, 1881.

My dear Judge

I have received your favour of the 11th July. You ask me what is my belief about "re-incarnation"? Well, as it is a complicated question, I must give you a plain statement of my full belief.

To begin with, I am a Pantheist and not a Theist or a Deist. I believe that the whole Universe is God. You must however well understand that the word "God" does not convey to me any meaning attached to that word by the Westerns. When I say God, I understand it to be Nature or Universe and no more. Therefore, I might more appropriately be called a "Naturalist." To my mind there is no possibility of the existence of an extra-cosmical Deity. For if there were such a possibility the harmony or equilibrium in nature could not be preserved and the whole Universe instead of being one harmonious whole would be but a Tower of Babel. This harmony can be kept only by the working of the Immutable Laws of Nature. And if the Laws of Nature are Immutable, they must be blind and require no guidance.*

*Allowance must be made all through for a lack of complete knowledge of the English language. What is here meant is that the inherent impulse acts according to its own laws without any *extra-cosmic* power meddling with it as a guide. — EDITOR [Damodar himself appends a similar note at this point in the Letter where it appears in *The Theosophist*, and calls the attention of the reader to his article "The Metaphysical Basis of Esoteric Buddhism." See Chapter II of this volume. — EDS.]

Hence the existence of an extra-cosmical Deity is impossible. This, as

far as I can understand, is the Chief teaching and principle of Aryan Philosophy. The Aryan and the Shemite Philosophies differ from each other in this fundamental Idea, viz., that while the former is pantheistic, *i. e.*, not acknowledging the existence of an extra-cosmical God, the latter is Monotheistic, *i. e.*, admitting the existence of an intelligent Creator existing outside the cosmos. How far either of this is true I cannot say. But, as I think the former to be a logical position while the latter merely a matter of blind faith, I accept the former. Now some of the Pantheists recognise the existence of two distinct existences, viz., Matter and Spirit. But thinking deeply over the Subject has led me to the conclusion that this position is not quite logical. For, as far as I can understand, there can be but one Infinite Existence and not two. Call it either Matter or Spirit, anything you like, but it is one and the same. For who can say that this is Spirit and this is Matter? Can you draw any where a line between the two? Take an instance. Ice is a gross form of matter. Suppose it is a little rarefied, you will have water, which you will still call matter. Higher still, you have vapour, but it is still matter. Higher again, it becomes atmosphere, but still it is matter. Furthermore, it becomes ether, but still it is matter, and thus you may go *ad infinitum*. Thus becoming more and more sublimated it will reach its climax of the process of spiritualization. But still it does not become nothing. For if it does, there must come a time when the whole Universe will be nothing. If it is so, it is not infinite as it has an end. If it has an end, it must have a beginning. If it had a beginning, it must have been created and thus we must assume the existence of an extra-cosmical Deity, which, as said above, is not a logical position. Then we thus find logically that this highest sublimated form of matter cannot be nothing. In this case matter has reached that climax of Sublimation or Spiritualization when any further action would make it grosser, not finer. What is commonly understood by the word "Spirit" then is nothing but that highly etherealized form of matter which we with our finite senses can not comprehend. But it is still matter in as much as it is still something and liable to be grosser. Some argue that these terms are adopted to signify the two extreme conditions of matter. But then I can not with my finite senses comprehend where you can draw the line

between Matter and Spirit. And the gradations being infinite, I give up this task as hopeless for me, an imperfect finite being. Well then, there is *only one* eternal Infinite Existence, call it either Spirit or Matter. I will however designate it by the latter name as that term is most suited in its common understanding for what I am to state. Matter, as you know, we call *Maya*. Now some say that Matter, when assuming form and shape and being temporary, is illusion and therefore does not really exist. But I do not agree there. In my opinion — and such is that of every rational metaphysician — it is *the only* Existence. And it is called *Maya simply on account of these Transformations*. It is never steady. The Process is ever working. The one Infinite Agglomeration of matter is in some of its modes becoming grosser and grosser, while, in others, becoming more and more sublimated. The Circle is ever turning its round. Nothing goes out of that Circle. Every thing is kept within its bounds by the action of the Centripetal and the Centrifugal Forces. The forms are changing but the *Inner* substance remains the same. You will naturally ask what is the use of our being good or bad, if Nature has her own course? Our souls will be etherealised in their proper time? But then, what is a Soul? Is it material or immaterial? Well it is material for me as there is nothing immaterial as said above. Then what is it? Well, as far as I can think, it is an agglomeration of all the attributes together with that something which gives us the consciousness that we are. And just as Thought is Matter, so is every attribute Matter. It might be then asked, will not our souls be etherealised in their proper turn? Well, then take here again the instance of Ice. It is the grossest form of matter. We say it then becomes water. But will it be so unless it comes in contact with heat? Decidedly not. The action of the Centripetal Force is strong and it keeps up together the particles of Ice. It requires the action of Centrifugal Force, which is done by the supply of heat. If that piece of Ice be left in a cold place it will remain so until by accident Sun's rays might penetrate there or in some such way heat might be supplied. Just so then with man. The action of the Centripetal Force keeps us to our gross forms. And if we have to etherealise ourselves we must supply the Centrifugal Force, which is our WILL. And this is the first principle of OCCULTISM. Just as the etherealisation of our Souls is

the result of the action of our Will, so is everything else the result of something else. The action of the working of the Circle of Matter is regulated by the Law of Cause and Effect. Nothing can be without it. And everything is at the same time in itself a Cause and an Effect. Take, for instance, heat. It is the cause of the melting of ice into water and at the same time it is the result of some other force. It did not come out of nothing. Then, how can we etherealise ourselves? By studying the action of Causes and Effects and acting accordingly. Or, in other words, by obtaining knowledge of the Forces of Nature — in one word, by studying occultism. You might ask, Can we not rise higher and higher without being Occultists? I reply, decidedly not to that extent to which an Occultist will rise. You will simply desire to rise higher? Well, as said above, this is only the first principle of occultism. And just as one step leads you to certain progress, more Knowledge will lead you to a greater progress; for every result must be in proportion to the cause producing it. As said above the action of matter is always going on. And we are every instant emitting and attracting various atoms of matter. Now a person who is not an occultist will have various desires and unconsciously to himself he will produce a Cause which will attract to him such atoms of matter as are not suited for his higher progress. The same way, when he is emitting others, he may give them such a tendency that they will mix with others evilly inclined and thus other Individualities which are thus formed will have to suffer for no fault of theirs. While an Occultist directs both. He is the Master of the Situation. He is not guided by the blind Forces of Nature. He guides them. And by knowing their action, he produces such conditions as are favourable to his attaining "Nirvana." [*It is said that Buddha attained to Nirvana before he left this earth, hence he was always free.] But what is Nirvana? By Nirvana I do not mean any locality but a *state*. It is that condition in which we are so etherealised that instead of being merely a mode of the one Infinite Existence as at present, we are merged into Totality or we become THE WHOLE. There is also another reason why an advanced occultist is superior to one who merely is content with the first step mentioned above. The more he studies and understands the action of the Forces of Nature, the more is he in a position to benefit

Humanity. While the one is merely content with his own advancement — the other one, the advanced occultist, places his happiness in the good of Humanity which he practically assists and benefits. Perhaps you might ask that as the Universe is evolving, there must come a time when this process of evolution must cease and involution begin; and when the latter process has done her course, everything will be in Nirvana; and therefore what is the use of troubling oneself with the study of Occultism, etc., if we can be just as well in that state? But then there are two reasons why we should do it. The first is, we do not know when the process of involution will begin and perhaps millions and billions of years might pass before everything is in Nirvana, and who knows through how many transformations we may have to pass, for, as said above, Matter is never steady but is ever changing forms. A practical occultist reaches that state in a comparatively very short time. The other reason is — When everything will be in Nirvana, it will not be *me* that attains Nirvana. And here I must state I believe that a man can attain Nirvana only *in this life and no other*. If I do not go to *Nirvana* some time after death, where do I go in the end, you will naturally ask? My reply is that if I do not keep up my Individuality, I lose it. My *Ego* remains; but my Individuality is lost. I lose that something which at present furnishes to me the consciousness that I am Damodar, that I exist as such. My Spiritual Soul or *Ego* if pure and good may be ethrealised and reach Nirvana state but it will no longer be the Individuality of Damodar that will attain that state. Therefore I must keep up that Individuality until I reach Nirvana state. And how to do it is taught by occultism. I did not come out of Nothing. The particles of which I am formed have always existed, and yet I do not know in what form they existed before. Probably they have passed through millions or billions of Transformations.* [*That all the particles of the matter of our universe have passed through millions of transformations, and been in every sort of form, is an old assertion of the Adepts. H. P. B. in *Isis Unveiled*, and the *Secret Doctrine* points this out as showing how the Adept may use matter, and it will also bear upon the protean shapes the astral matter may assume.] And why do I not know it now? Because I did not retain my Individuality. I did not

supply the action of the Force that would not have allowed the disintegration of my Individuality.* [*This word is used to mean the personalities; the person in any birth. Since the letter was written, *individuality* is much used to mean the indestructible part.] Occultism furnishes that Key. And if I act up accordingly I may attain Nirvana. But then I shall not be eternally in that state. For it is unjust that the actions of a few years should be rewarded or punished eternally. At the most, how long can a human life last? Not more than four hundred years. Would it then be just that my actions of so short a period should be punished or rewarded eternally? For what are even billions of years compared to eternity? Well, then you might say what is the use of our attaining Nirvana if we are to come back again? The reasons are twofold. The first is — I shall be in Nirvana for some time, so long as the action of the Force keeps me there, or, in other words, I shall be there until the completion of the result of my endeavours to attain it, the effect being always in proportion to the Cause. Here again you might ask, but can we not keep up this process *ad infinitum*? Certainly you can not, because the Law of Exhaustion must assert itself.* [*If this be right — and I agree with it — Nirvana has to come to an end, just as Devachan must; and being ended, the individual must return to some manifested plane or world for further work. — EDITOR] Everything you do must be to the detriment of another, or, in other words, you exhaust a certain amount of Energy to produce a certain Result. The other reason is that while you are passing through this process of etherealisation you all along give a certain tendency to the particles of which you are formed. This tendency will always assert itself and thus in every Cycle, i. e., in each Circle of your transformation or Re-incarnation, you will have the same advantages which you can always utilise to be soon free, and, by remaining longer in Nirvana State than the generality of Humanity, you are comparatively free.* [*The comparison made is with the general run of men in all races. They are not free at any time. In the writer's opinion there is a certain amount of freedom in being in Nirvana; but he refers to other and secret doctrines which he does not explain. — EDITOR] So every consciousness which has been once fully developed must disintegrate if

not preserved by the purity of its successive *Egos* till the attainment of Nirvana State. Now I believe that the full development of my consciousness as Damodar is possible only upon this earth* and therefore should a person die before his consciousness is developed, he must be reborn on this earth. And this is possible only in two states, viz., if one dies in childhood, or as a congenital idiot. Or there is a third state possible, which is this. Suppose I am studying Occultism and I reach a certain stage where I am able to retain my Individuality suppose my body should be incapacitated for my practical purposes. Then with my Knowledge I can choose any body I like, for, as I said above, Nirvana State is possible of attainment only in this earthly life. I may be in any other body, but my Individuality will be the same as now and I shall know myself as Damodar.

*This has always been accepted, that only on earth could we unify the great potential trinity in each, so that we are conscious of the union, and that when that is done, and not before, we may triumph over all illusions, whether of name or form, place or time, or any other. — EDITOR [It is interesting to note that in the sentence in the text to which this note is appended, Mr. Judge in his *Path* publication uses the name *Krishna* instead of *Damodar*, as also at the end of the paragraph. This same substitution is found in *The Theosophist* article, which seems to indicate that Damodar himself may have suggested the change. — EDS]

And now I suppose this is sufficient for you. It is very difficult to put such ideas on paper, for the process is tedious. Such things are to be understood intuitionally and therefore our conceptions of them are more ethereal. The first thing I have to do is to materialise my thought, put it into shape and then write down. I have also to think of the objections that might be naturally raised. And therefore in such matters I find it easier to discuss orally than write or speak. I must have missed many points but I have given you the principal ideas so that you may put your questions and I will be most happy to answer them. I must however ask you to hold me alone responsible for any mistakes. I have merely read "Isis Unveiled" and heard H. P. B. talk

often with others as also *The Higher Powers* on some few occasions. I have got hints from them. But the subsequent working is entirely of my own making. If you think it good and correct, all credit is due to them — our Brothers — for having got the hints from them and H. P. B. If there are any mistakes, the whole fault rests entirely with me for not having properly understood their teachings. And this would but show that I am greatly lacking in my intuition.

You ask me what my opinion about the West is? Well, to be candid, I can not think very highly of a Theosophical Society that can not go on without the child's toy of a ritual! This very fact itself proves to me that the West is not

[Here the MS. ends abruptly, but it is evident that at most a paragraph or two only have been lost. — EDS.]

Letters to A. P. Sinnett

Letter I

THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

February, 1881.

With reference to the Rules and Organization of the Society, I beg to make the following suggestions. The points I urge, appear to me very necessary as I have had conversation with many Natives and have a claim to know the Hindu character better than a foreigner can.

A general impression appears to prevail that the Society is a religious sect. This impression owes its origin, I think, to a common belief that the whole Society is devoted to Occultism. As far as I can judge, this is not the case. If it is, the best course to adopt would be to make the entire Society a secret one, and shut its doors against all except those very few who may have shown a determination to devote their whole lives to the study of Occultism. If it is not so, and is based upon the broad Humanitarian principle of Universal Brotherhood, let Occultism, one of its several Branches, be an entirely secret study. From time

immemorial this sacred knowledge has been guarded from the vulgar with great care, and because a few of us have had the great fortune to come into contact with some of the custodians of this invaluable treasure, is it right on our part to take advantage of their kindness and vulgarize the secrets they esteem more sacred than even their lives? The world is not yet prepared to hear truth about this subject. By placing the facts before the unprepared general public, we only make a laughing stock of those who have been kind to us and have accepted us as their co-workers for doing good to humanity. By harping too much upon this subject, we have made ourselves in a measure odious in the eyes of the public. We went even to such an extent that, unconsciously to ourselves, we led the public to believe that our Society is under the sole management of the Adepts, while the fact is that the entire executive management is in the hands of the Founders, and our Teachers give us advice only in rare exceptional cases of the greatest emergency. The public saw that they must have misapprehended the facts, since errors in the Management of the Society — some of which could have been very well avoided by the exercise of ordinary common sense — were from time to time exposed. Hence they came to the conclusion that

- (1) Either Adepts do not exist at all; or
- (2) If they do, they have no connection with our Society, and therefore we are dishonest imposters; or
- (3) If they have any connection with the Society, it must be only those of a very low degree, since, under their management, such errors occurred.

With the few noble exceptions who had entire confidence in us, our Native Members came to one of these three conclusions. It is therefore necessary in my opinion that prompt measures should be adopted to remove these suspicions. For this, I see only one alternative:— (1) Either the entire Society should be devoted to occultism, in which case it should be quite as secret as the Masonic or the Rosicrucian Lodge or, (2) Nobody should know anything about occultism except those very few who may have by their conduct shown their determination to

devote themselves to its study. The first alternative being found inadvisable by our "Brothers" and positively forbidden, the second remains.

Another important question is that of the admission of Members. Until now, anyone who expressed a desire to join and could get two sponsors was allowed to come into the Society, without our inquiring closely what the motives in joining were. This led to two evil results. People thought or pretended to think that we took in Members simply for their Initiation Fees on which we lived; and many joined out of mere curiosity, as they thought that by paying an Initiation Fee of Rupees Ten, they could see phenomena. And when they were disappointed in this, they turned round on us, and began to revile our CAUSE for which we have been working and to which we have pledged our lives. The best way to remedy this evil would be to exclude this class of persons. The question naturally arises how can this be done, since our Rules are so liberal as to admit every one? But, at the same time our Rules prescribe an Initiation Fee of Rupees Ten. This is too low to keep out the curiosity seekers, who, for the chance of being satisfied, feel they can very well afford to lose such a paltry sum. The fee should therefore be so much increased that those only would join who are really in earnest. We need men of principle and serious purpose. One such man can do more for us than hundreds of phenomena-hunters. The fee should in my judgment be increased to Rs: 200 or Rs: 300. It might be urged that thus we might exclude really good men who may be sincere and earnest but unable to pay. But I think it is preferable to risk the possible loss of one good man than take in a crowd of idlers, one of whom can undo the work of all the former. And yet, even this contingency can be avoided. For, as now we admit some to membership, who appear especially deserving, without their paying their own fees, so could the same thing be done under the proposed change.

DAMODAR K. MAVALANKAR, F. T. S.

Respectfully submitted to the consideration of Mr. Sinnett.

Letter II

Respectfully submitted for the consideration of Mr. Sinnett, under the direct orders of Brother Koot Hoomi.

DAMODAR K. MAVALANKAR.

With the exception of fee — too exaggerated — his views are quite correct. Such is the impression produced upon the native mind. I trust, my dear friend, that you add a paragraph showing the Society in its true light. Listen to your *inner voice*, and oblige me once more,

Yours very faithfully,

K. H.

Letter III

[type p. 280]

Letter IV

Last evening Mme. B. received a letter from Mr. Hume, from which she read to me the portion relating to myself. I accused of being a forger! Mme. B. asked me what Mr. Hume meant for no one could be more surprised at such a groundless charge than she was, for *she* KNOWS *me*. I now remember that about three months ago (I am not sure about the time) a letter was thrown to me at night. I took it up and saw the address. I could distinctly see that the handwriting was familiar to me but it was neither K. H.'s nor M. sahib's, nor Gjwala Khool's. I thought over it and suspected that it was Fern's own signature. I then compared the superscription with the signature in one of Mr. Fern's letters and found them identical. *Knowing* that even the *chelas* (advanced ones of course) can do such phenomenal things, I said nothing about it except, when forwarding the letter to Mr. Fern I expressed my surprise, or what I do not remember. The address on that letter is now made the pretext for my being called a FORGER!!! Now you know me, Mr. Sinnett, you have seen me, talked with me: — I appeal to your sense of

an English gentleman to say whether you consider me *capable* of such an infamy. It is for you to decide what you would call a person who dubs you with the title of a forger for your being merely instrumental in forwarding to him the letter from a mutual friend. My only sin consisted in volunteering to be such a medium of communication. Last year when Mme. B. was so much abused and when it was thought desirable that she should be out of this business as much as possible, *for her sake* I took it upon myself to be a medium of correspondence between my MASTERS and the Simla Eclectic Theosophists. You know very well under what circumstances I took this thing up. But alas! with what result: to be called a forger or be suspected to be one! Until now I was proud enough to think that I would not be suspected of any such infamy at least by persons who now seem to do so, since all my nearest friends, acquaintances and all, will give their life to proclaim that I have never uttered *an untruth even* as yet, and never will. Well, this proves to me one thing. The world and especially the several sceptical European races *are not prepared and utterly unfit* for Occultism. Those of our MASTERS who will have nothing to do with the Europeans are, I say, perfectly right. I care a fig for the opinion of the outside world. I *know* that I stand like a mirror before *my* MASTERS. They *do* know me and *They* are quite sure that with all my faults I am yet honest, truthful, sincere, and faithful. Weaknesses I have many, foremost among which are indiscretion, imprudence, and still a lingering particle of diffidence of undertaking any work of serious responsibility. But *THEY know* I have never played either a "double" or any game with anyone, much less with *Them*. But when I am once suspected, I can have nothing to do with the business. I am a perfect slave of my MASTERS and if *They* order me I have but to obey. Otherwise I now positively decline to have anything to do with the correspondence any of you may have to keep with *Them*. Mme. B. has already broken her connection. I should like to see *what chela* would now volunteer to do it. I am afraid none. And I do not believe *THEY* will under the circumstances *compel* any *Chela* to do it. If therefore for want of an intervening channel the communication between *THEM* and the outside world is at an end, it is neither *Their* fault nor ours. A cold shoulder ought to be shown to the European

world as it well deserves. Of course I do not mean you. If the Europeans have self-respect, we poor Hindoos have too. We never set ourselves up as of *the superior race* but we have some sense in us of self-respect. I see that the cycle is at an end or rather will be in about two months and a half, and this affair must gradually stop. I have too much respect, reverence and love for my MASTERS, to hear THEM talked of as if THEY were so many ignorant babies. And I feel very much for Mme. B. She has been worrying herself for over three years so much so that she has utterly spoiled her constitution. She is unwell and last evening the Doctor said that her whole blood is spoiled. We know what it means. My only hope and prayer is that she may be spared for some time for the sake of the Society. By the Society I mean the Asiatics, for I am firmly convinced that the Europeans have not the stuff in them of Occultists. Of course there are some *very rare exceptions* like you but exceptions only confirm the Rule. I am afraid that if H. P. B. is still worried as she has been, I do not know what may soon happen. I have been trying to induce her to go beyond Darjeeling or some such place for two or three months, where she will neither see nor hear of the world's vilest tricks which has been the chief cause of her ill-health — and then return after she is completely cured. But she says it is better to die when she is almost dead rather than be well and again go through the same process of gradual death. Some day I do not know what news we may learn of her if she is thus persistently ill-treated so mercilessly.

. [Half a page of the original has been cut out here. — ED.] of retiring and we shall probably soon have to follow. For you personally I have the highest regard for I believe you to be one of the exceptions mentioned above, but I am compelled to adopt the present course. I have at least one consolation and that is I stand clear before my MASTERS who being clairvoyant can see through me *any time*, and to try to deceive Them when writing or speaking to Them is an useless dodge which can be at once detected.

As if to add insult to injury, Mr. Hume sends to Mme. B. for publication in the *Theosophist* an article about my MASTERS, which, to say the

least, is most repulsive to the feelings of us Hindoos!

With the profoundest sympathies and kindest regards for you, I remain,

Yours truly,

DAMODAR K. MAVALANKAR.

Letter V

PUBLICATION OFFICE OF THE "THEOSOPHIST,"
BREACH CANDY, BOMBAY, INDIA, *4th September, 1882.*

A. P. SINNETT ESQ.,
THE TENDRIL, SIMLA.

My dear Sir,

I am very sorry to learn that my last long letter has offended you. Personally for you I have always entertained the highest regard, and as Mme. Blavatsky might tell you I have never lost an opportunity to express to her and to others sentiments of great admiration for you on account of your devotion to the Cause of Theosophy and to the Brothers. My last letter was meant not for you but for Mr. Hume; but as I find I have thereby hurt you, I beg to be excused for the same. I wrote it when I was under a feeling of excitement to see the Brothers and Mme. B. talked of so lightly and myself accused in plain language of forgery. But to offend you in any way — you who have all along been doing every thing in your power for the Society — was as far from my mind as to commit a forgery or a murder. I hope therefore that this letter of apology will atone for my unconscious sin. I can assure upon my word that not a single syllable of what I wrote in my last, applied to you personally. Now however that I see my fault in having given way to a feeling of despair and annoyance, I cannot do better than apologise for the same. With kind regards, Believe me,

Ever yours sincerely,

LETTER TOMRS. CABLES

SECRETARY'S OFFICE OF THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY,

Adyar (Madras), India, 25th May, '84.

Mrs. Josephine W. Cables, F.T.S.,

40 Ambrose St., Rochester, N.Y., U.S.A.

Dear Madame and Sister, — I have carefully and with pleasure read your letter received two days ago. It should be at first realized that the Mahatmas are constantly and incessantly engaged in the helping of the onward progress of humanity. The higher they rise the more they are united to the more permanent and more ubiquitous. In fact, it is this union which marks the progress. Thus in one sense the real Mahatmas may be said to be almost everywhere, although they may not take cognizance of everything. But at the same time they cannot help giving their attention to where the magnetic attraction draws them; and hence to come under the notice of the Mahatmas depends upon oneself. We must also remember that what we are is the result of what we were, and hence whatever we enjoy or suffer is the just retribution meted out by the law of Karma, which cannot err. To our undeveloped minds various sufferings may look like acts of injustice on the part of nature, but we should not forget that justice is the immutable and fundamental law of nature, and whatever result may appear unjust must be the effect of some remote cause, although the apparent cause and the immediate one may seem to produce an unjust effect — whatever is, is right in nature. It rests with us to so produce the causes as will make our future destiny better, and ensure our future progress, but we cannot meddle with effects. Of course it is possible that while certain causes are operating we may combine to them a cause or set of them as will modify the result; but we must not forget that it is impossible for us to obliterate the causes already produced. Now, if we want to rise higher, we must produce the necessary conditions. In the first place we know that the higher states are more and more

ubiquitous. Hence what we must first do is to centre our *manas* (the fifth principle) in those higher ubiquitous states, and this can be done only by constantly disassociating ourselves from the lower desires, &c., which chain us to our narrow personality, and by transferring our consciousness to the *Divine Atma*, and its vehicle (6th and 7th principles) by incessantly cultivating within ourselves the highest aspirations.

The more we succeed in doing that, the more do we obtain knowledge, for the seventh principle is itself absolute knowledge, and by our living in it, as it were, we live in knowledge.

In the second place, we must know that to help purity of thought in ourselves, we must be surrounded by the pure thoughts of others. Hence the more we help others to be pure by education, by teaching them the *Law of Karma* and of *Cosmic Evolution*, the more we help ourselves, for the purity of others elevates the surrounding objective nature into a more subjective state, and those subjective currents react upon us to help us in our higher evolution. Hence a feeling of *unselfish philanthropy* is an essential necessity. Also a sense of discrimination and an intellect that can properly understand the operation of the *Law of Karma* and of *cause* and *effect*. You will thus see that no interference or recommendation is necessary, and that for the *Mahatmas* to assist any one is the result of a purely psychological attraction — an immutable *Law of Nature*, which no one can override.

I have read carefully the new paper you have started, and wish you success in the same. The Theosophical Society affords to every one the best means of assisting humanity and thereby assisting himself and whoever increases its sphere of usefulness *unselfishly* cannot but be rewarded by the *Mahatmas* and *Nature*.

With fraternal regards to all the brothers and sisters.

Sincerely yours,

DAMODAR K. MAVALANKAR

Part VI
Contents

Part VI

References to Damodar

by the Mahatmans and H. P. Blavatsky

Part I: [Quotations from The Mahatma Letters to A. P. Sinnett](#)

Part II: [Quotations from The Letters of H. P. Blavatsky to A. P. Sinnett](#)

[The extensive correspondence between the Mahatmans and the two Englishmen, A. P. Sinnett and A. O. Hume, as well as the many letters written to the latter by H. P. Blavatsky in the early days of the Theosophical Society, contain many references to a large number of those most closely connected with the work of the Society, outstanding among whom was Damodar.

This Chapter is devoted to relevant passages from these Letters. A large number of short references have been omitted, which simply mention Damodar as transmitting messages and letters from the Mahatmans and H. P. Blavatsky by occult means and otherwise; and one or two other unimportant references which are not comprehensible without long explanations.

Signatures are herein given as they appear at the end of the Letters quoted from. Chronological arrangement has been followed according to the latest information published by Mrs. Margaret Conger and Miss Mary K. Neff. — EDS]

Part I

Quotations from "The Mahatma Letters to A. P. Sinnett"

Letter VIII

[Received at Bombay. Feb. 20, 1881.]

I wrote a few words in the Maratha boy's letter, only to show you that he was obeying *orders* in submitting his views to you. Apart from his

exaggerated idea about *huge fees*, his letter is in a way worth considering. For Damodar is a Hindu — and knows the mind of his people at Bombay; though the Bombay Hindus are about as unspiritual a group as can be found in all India. But, like the devoted enthusiastic lad he is, he jumped after the misty form of his own ideas even before I could give them the right direction. . . . — K. H.

Letter CXXXIV

[Sent from Debra Dun. Nov. 4, 1881.]

Received at Allahabad. Nov. (?) 1881.]

. . . Adetyarom B. wrote a foolish letter to Damodar and Benemadhab writes a foolish request to Mr. Sinnett.

I will be pleased if Mr. Sinnett says, to everyone of those who may address him with similar pretensions the following: "The 'Brothers' desire me to inform one and all of you, *natives*, that unless a man is prepared to become a thorough theosophist *i. e.* to do as D. Mavalankar did, — give up entirely caste, his old superstitions and show himself a true reformer (especially in the case of child marriage) he will remain simply a member of the Society with no hope whatever of ever hearing from us. . . ."

— H. P. BLAVATSKY

Letter XLIII

[Received at Allahabad. 1882.]

. . . As you have already been notified by Damodar thro' the D----, I did not call you a chela — examine your letter to assure yourself of it — I but jokingly asked O. the question whether he recognised in you the stuff of which chelas are made. — M.

Letter XLVIII

[Received at Allahabad. March 3, 1882.]

... Bhavani Shanker is with O., and he is stronger and fitter in many a way more than Damodar or even our mutual "female" friend. . . . — K. H.

Letter LXXXVIII

[Received at Allahabad. March 11, 1882.]

... My good friend — it is very easy for us to give phenomenal proofs when we have necessary conditions. For instance — Olcott's magnetism after six years of purification is intensely sympathetic with ours — physically and morally is constantly becoming more so. Damodar and Bhavani Rao being congenitally sympathetic their auras help — instead of repelling and impeding

Letter XI

[Received at Allahabad. June 30, 1882.]

... Yes, I am quite ready to look over your 50 or 60 pages and make notes on the margins: have them set up by all means and send them to me either through little "Deb" or Damodar and Djual Kul will transmit them. . . . — K. H.

Letter XVI

[Received at Simla. July, 1882.]

... Olcott is on his way to Lanka and Damodar packed up to Poona for a month, his foolish austerities and hard work having broken down his physical constitution. I will have to look after him, and perhaps, to take him away, if it comes to the worst. . . . — K. H.

Letter XXX

[Received at Simla. Aug., 1882.]

... None of our *Upasika* or *Yu-posah*, neither H. P. B. nor O., nor even

Damodar, nor any of them can be incriminated. . . . — K. H.

Letter XXXII

[Received at Simla. (Aug. or Sept) 1882.]

. . . Since we have mixed ourselves with the outside world, we have no right to suppress the personal opinion of its individual members, nor eschew their criticisms, however unfavourable to us — hence the positive order to H. P. B. to publish Mr. Hume's article. Only, as we would have the world see both sides of the question, we have also allowed the joint protest [see Ch. IV, 'A Protest.' — EDS.] of Deb, Subba Row, Damodar and a few other chelas — to follow his criticism of ourselves and our System in the Theosophist. . . . — K. H.

Letter LXXXIII

[Received at London. (Sept. or Oct.) 1883.]

I am advised to request that, for the future, communications intended for me may be sent thro' either Damodar or Henry Olcott, Madam B's discretion is not improving in ratio with her physiological enfeeblement. — K. H.

Letter CXXVIII

INDIAN TELEGRAPH.

To Station Adyar Madras From Station Jammoo
To Person Madame Blavatsky From Person Colonel Olcott
Editor of the Theosophist.

Damodar left before dawn at about eight o'clock letters from him and Koothumi found on my table -Don't say whether return or not — Damodar bids us all farewell conditionally and says brother theosophists should all feel encouraged knowing that he has found the blessed masters and been called by them. The dear boys recent developments astonishing Hooney bids me await orders.

Madras 25-11-83. Hour 17.30.

LETTER CXXIX

Class P. INDIAN TELEGRAPH.

To Station Adyar Madras From Station Jummur

To Person Madame Blavatsky From Person Col. Olcott

The Masters have taken Damodar return not promised

We will send him back. K. H. Adyar

25-11-83. Hour 10.15.

Letter LV

[Received at Elberfeld. (Sept. or Oct.) 1884.]

. . . It would be well also to burn wood-fires in the rooms now and then, and carry about as fumigators open vessels (braziers?) with burning wood. You might also ask Damodar to send you some bundles of incense-sticks for you to use for this purpose. These are helps, but the best of all means to drive out unwelcome guests of this sort, is to live purely in deed and thought. . . .

I can now send my occasional instructions and letters with any certainty only thro' Damodar. But before I can do even so much the Soc. especially the H. Qrs. will have to pass first thro' the coming crisis
K. H.

Letter LXIII

[Received at London. Oct., 1884.]

My letters *must not* be published, in the manner you suggest, but on the contrary if you save Djual K. trouble copies of some should be sent to the Literary Committee at Adyar — about which Damodar has written to you — so that with the assistance of S. Y. K. Charya, Djual K., Subba Row and the Secret

Committee (from which H. P. B. was purposely excluded by us to avoid new suspicions and calumnies) they might be able to utilise the information for the realization of the object with which the Committee was started, as explained by Damodar in the letter written by him under orders. . . . — K. H.

Letter CXXXVIII

[Sent from Adyar. March 17, 1885,]

. . . Happy Damodar! He went to the land of Bliss, to Tibet and must now be far away in the regions of our Masters. No one will ever see him now, I expect. . . . — H. P. BLAVATSKY

Part II

Quotations from *The Letters of H. P. Blavatsky to A. P. Sinnett*

Letter VII

[Received at Allahabad. Nov., 1881.]

. . . The Disinherited wants to write to you he says — if you permit him — through Damodar. The Boss said something about going to see Damodar. But D---- does not say a word. . . . — H. P. BLAVATSKY

Letter XX

[Sent from Bombay. Dec. 7, 1881. Received at Allahabad. Dec., 1881.]

. . . *The Theosophist* not out yet and we are the 8th to-day! Why? Because *without me* all went topsy-turvy and 2,000 Rupees of subscription money spent for what — better ask the wind. Damodar is as loony as a March hare. . . . — H. P. B.

Letter XC

[Received at Simla. June 4, 1882.]

. . . As for O'Connor's letter it is such a stupid transparent thing for me

that it is not worth talking about. I did receive his letter *one hour later* than E.'s for Mrs. Gordon; and with it orders to do about it as I liked, to either answer it or not but *to hold my tongue* as to the fact of my having received it until further developments. I left it with Damodar and Deb on March 30th with instructions. And to prove it *to you* — (about others I do not care) let me, my dear Boss, set your heart at ease. I happened to write to you about this O'Connor's letter on Friday — (at Madras) the Disinherited having advised me to do so. I sent my letter Friday. On Saturday, at 1.35 p.m. I received your telegram with your enquiry about O'Connor's letter. I answered as *I was ordered* and wrote to you that I should telegraph to Damodar in whose possession I left my answer to O'Connor to send it to you immediately. I sent the telegram on Saturday evening, but whether sent or not that night, it reached Damodar but Sunday when it was too late to send you a *registered* letter as he always does. Well, he sent it on Monday and you must have received it. Do not send it to O'Connor. I will have nothing to do with Mrs. Scott's friends now. I will have no more *tests*, no more *insults*, no more *humiliation and explanation*. Tear it after showing it to Mr. Hume. You are at liberty to show him also *this letter*. If your friends and sceptics will insist that, after receiving your telegram of enquiry I had time between Saturday and Monday to send to my "confederate" Damodar instructions, well show them the telegram he received from me on Sunday. This will prove, at least, that he had O'Connor's answer in his possession ever since March. — H. P. BLAVATSKY

Letter Xd

To Malabar Hill From Madras St. Thome

To Damodar K. Mavalankar From H. P. Blavatsky

c/o Theosophical Society,

Breach Candy

Letter to Oconor
given you March
thirty send Sinnett.

Letter XIV

[Sent from Bombay. Aug. 4, 1882.]

... Poor Damodar is still at Poona, but is all right now in health. The brothers picked him up and even endowed him with such a mesmeric force that he cured several desperate cases (one *blindness* in a boy) in a few days. Whether it will last or not I do not know. But the Poona Fellows craved for something phenomenal and he gave it to them. ...

— H. P. BLAVATSKY

Letter XVI

[Sent from Bombay. Aug. 26, 1882.]

... Damodar will write to Fern to decline receiving his letters to M. henceforth. He will not run the risk of being called a *forger*, and impostor and what not. *Damodar a deceiver!!* I may as well suspect Olcott or yourself of forgery or deceit as him. I won't have him insulted and that's all. ... — H. P. B.

Letter XXV

[Sent from 'Ooty.' Aug. 23, 1883. Rec'd. at London. Oct. 1883.]

... Then about "Uncle Sam's" complaint — what the devil do I know about office doings? What have I to do with the business management of Damodar which is Olcott's business. He sent to Ward this *printed* notice as he did to thousands, and as Olcott is an American business man, so is Ward, and it is not for a *Yankee* to kick at sharp business as they call it. I was furiously *ashamed* when I received your letter and Ward's telegram. But I felt I was a fool; for Olcott, whom I blew up and skinned for it (he has just arrived here to form an Anglo-Indian Branch) says they send such printed compliments to everyone and Damodar did not know at that time that I had or rather was going to receive these 20 rupees Mr. Ward sent, enclosed in a private and even

non-registered to me. Of course he ought to make a difference, but he does not because he is a boy and was not brought up for office business, and shall S. Ward think bad or any worse of me for it? Did I not send him the whole last year the *Theosophist*, and forbade Damodar to even ask the money for it. . . . — H. P. BLAVATSKY

Letter XXVII

[Sent from Adyar. Sept. 27, 1883. Rec'd. at London. Nov., 1883.]

I would be happy to find *one* member in your L. L. [London Lodge. — EDS.] doing unremunerated one fourth of the work done by Damodar or Balloi Babu. . . . — H. P. BLAVATSKY

Letter XXIX

[Sent from Madras. Nov. 17, 1883. Received at London. Dec., 1883.]

. . . Most extraordinary phenomena took place among the travellers — Olcott, Brown, Damodar and two Madrassee secretaries. Damodar has so developed that he can get out of his body at will. They sent him on the 10th to me, giving him a message and asking him to tell me to telegraph to them the message back as a sure sign he was indeed in his astral body. At the same hour Coulomb heard his voice in my room and I saw and heard him, and telegraphed what he had asked me immediately. You will find it in the *Supplement*. Then Brown puts letters and questions under Damodar's pillow and receives answers a few minutes later, in K. H.'s handwriting and his usual paper and from my Boss too. Now they will say that it is Damodar the third *humourist* an "Oriental" one this once. Olcott saw K. H. at last and so will Brown at Jammu — D. K. says. . . . — H. P. BLAVATSKY

Letter XXX

[Sent from Adyar. Nov. 24 (26?), 1883. Received at London. Dec., 1883.]

. . . Well there's news again. Day before yesterday I received telegram

from Jummar from Olcott "Damodar taken away by the Masters."
Disappeared!! I thought and feared as much though it is strange for it is
hardly four years he is chela. I send you both telegrams from Olcott
and Mr. Brown's second one. Why should Brown be so favoured — is
what I cannot understand. He may be a good man, but what the devil
has he done [of] so holy and good! That's all I know about him that it
seems to be K. H.'s second visit *personally* to him. He is expected here
or in the neighbourhood by two chelas who have come from Mysore to
meet Him. He is going somewhere to the Buddhists of the Southern
Church. Shall we see him? I do not know. But there's a commotion here
among the chelas. Well strange things are taking place. Earthquakes,
and blue and green sun; Damodar spirited away and Mahatma coming.
And now what *shall* we do in the office without Damodar! . . . — H. P.
BLAVATSKY

Letter XXXI

[Sent from Madras. Jan. 25, 1884. Received at London. Feb., 1884.]

. . . Ragonath Row and Subba Row are to take charge of the *Theosophist*
and Damodar and a new chela who will be sent here in my absence. . .
— H. P. BLAVATSKY

Letter XLIV

[Sent from Torre del Greco. June 21, 1885.]

. . . The only friend I have in life and death is poor little exiled Bowajee
D. Nath in Europe; and poor dear Damodar — in Tibet. . . — H. P. B.

Letter XLVI

[Sent from Wurzburg. Aug. 19, 1885.]

. . . Alexis Coulomb's handwriting is naturally like mine. We know all
how Damodar was once deceived by an order written *in my*
handwriting to go upstairs and seek for me in my bedroom in Bombay
when I was at Allahabad. It was a trick of M. Coulomb, who thought it

good fun to deceive him, "a chela" — and had prepared a semblance of myself lying on my bed, and having startled Damodar — laughed at him for three days. . . . And if he could imitate so well my handwriting in a note why could he not copy (he had four years to study and do it) every scrap and note of mine to Mme. Coulomb on identical paper and make any interpolations he liked? . . . I have seen Coulomb copying one of such scraps of mine, at his table, in a scene shown to me by Master in the Astral light. — H. P. BLAVATSKY

Letter CXIX

[Sent from Wurzburg. Oct., 1885.]

. . . Well you say you got that "impression" while reading some matter among the *Secret Doctrine* (in Dharbagiri's writing). I looked over carefully page by page and found nothing in D. N.'s writing, but in Damodar's which you probably mistook. It is about what the Earth (and other planets) does during "obscuration"? Is it this? For if so, then I can tell you that Damodar wrote it *under dictation* — but you have not understood the meaning quite correctly. . . . — H. P. BLAVATSKY

Letter L

[Sent from Wurzburg. Oct. 9, 1885.]

. . . He [D. N.] had heard from some one in Paris *whom he won't name but whom I suspect*, that Mr. Sinnett had said while in Paris that all the Hindus at Hd. Qtr. were *liars*; and that made him desperate, for he then thought that every word he said to Mr. Sinnett would be regarded as a lie. Now I feel sure Mr. Sinnett said nothing of the kind and if he has, he did not mean to include in that category our friend D. N. . . . his return to his Master depends upon the restoration of the T. S.'s previous *status*: unless the Society begins again to run smoothly, at least in appearance, he has *to remain exiled* -- as he says — for it appears that his Master — Mahatma K. H. holds him, Damodar, and Subba Row responsible for the two thirds of Mr. Hodgson's "mayas" — he says. It is *they*, who, irritated and insulted at his appearance at Adyar, regarding

his (Hodgson's) cross-examination and talk about the *Masters* — degrading to themselves and blasphemous with regard to Masters; instead of being frank with H. and telling him openly that there were many things they could not tell him — went on to work to augment his perplexity, allowed him to suggest things without contradicting them, and threw him out of the saddle altogether. You see, Hodgson counted without his host: he had no idea of the character of the true Hindu — especially of a chela — of his ferocious veneration for things sacred, of his reserve and exclusiveness in *religious* matters; and they (our Hindus) whom even I had never heard pronounce or mention one of the Masters *by name* — were goaded into fury in hearing Hodgson make so cheap of those names — speaking laughingly of "K. H.", and "M." — etc. with the Oakleys. And it is unfortunate me who now pays for all! . . . [see *The Letters of H. P. Blavatsky to A. P. Sinnett*, pp.157-8 for further description of the attitude of a Hindu chela when trying to defend his Teacher. — EDS.] — H. P. BLAVATSKY

Letter LIV

[Sent from Wurzburg. 1885 (?1886)]

I have a number of diagrams with reference to the evolution of the septenary globes and Cosmogony of Esoteric Buddhism, made by Djual Khool and Sarma for me to explain to you, and Hume during the first year of the Simla teaching; and several of them I had copied by a Parsee, a good draughtsman of the School of Arts at Bombay, who could not do them well — and then, I copied them from D. Kh.'s with Tibetan signs and names, translating them and doing it the best I could — since I did not want to give the originals out to a stranger and you could not have understood them — and gave them to Olcott to be copied and one of them — the one I sent to Hume I believe — *was* copied by Coulomb who is a very good draughtsman — *too* good unfortunately [cf. Letter XLVI, page 304 of this volume. — EDS.] I remember how well he *copied* the few lines in English, a remark by D. K. on the cosmogony — in a way that I was astonished: it was a *perfect* copy of D. K.'s writing, grammatical mistakes, and all. Neither Olcott, nor I, nor Damodar, ever

made a secret of such copies. . . . [This letter was unsigned, but it is in H. P. B.'s handwriting. — EDS.]

Letter LXV

[Sent from Wurzburg. Jan., 1886.]

. . . You have perhaps heard, that Hurrissingjee (Thakur of Baunagar's cousin) took it into his head to build a shrine for the portraits of the two Masters and meant to spend over it 10,000 rupees. He several times asked Master; He would not answer. Then he asked Olcott, who bothered Mah. K. H. through Damodar, as I had refused point blank to put such questions to Masters. Then the Mahatma answered "Let him talk with the chelas about it I do not care" or something to that effect. Well Damodar and Chundra Coosho I think and others went to work to make a plan of the shrine. Even the dirty Coulomb, was called in for his draughtsman's capacities. We were in Europe then. But as soon as we were gone came the Coulomb row. When we returned, Hurrissingjee, to show that the exposure had no effect on him, wanted to *sell a village* and build the shrine *quand meme*. The day after my return Mahatma told me to write to Hurrissingjee that He expressly *forbid* spending such amount of money. That it was useless and foolish. So I wrote. Then came the anniversary and Hurrissingjee sent a delegate for himself as he was sick. When the superlatively idiotic idea of a Temple of Humanity or Universal Brotherhood came into Olcott's pumpkin, the delegate, when the others were subscribing, was asked by Olcott and he said (in full convention in the *Pandala* before hundreds of people) "I believe His Highness wants to subscribe Rs. 1,000"— I said to Olcott "too much — it's a shame" — but he pitched into me for my trouble and as I was then sitting there in the light of a prisoner in dock — I shut up. Well; Olcott came one day and said, "Do ask Master to permit me to have money (generally) subscribed for the Temple." So I sent his temple and himself to a hot place and said *I would not*. Then he went to Damodar, and D.---- asked I think, for two or three days after I heard through Damodar that the prohibition to Hurrissingjee of spending money on such flapdoodles had been removed and that Hurrissingjee

had a letter to that effect. . . . — H. P. B.

Letter LXXVII

[Sent from Wurzburg. Feb. 16, 1886.]

I never said, what he charges me with, either to the Coulomb or Damodar. Both were told by a party wronged by Mohini of that affair, one that happened *before* Mohini had even heard of the Theos. Soc. But, as Coulomb will swear to anything against me, and that Damodar is not there to answer it — hence Mr. Bowaji's *safe charges* against me, whom HE HATES — well in a way he did not conceal before the Countess. . . .
— H. P. BLAVATSKY

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Appendix

A Hindu Chela's Diary (text)

NOTES ON "A HINDU CHELA'S DIARY"

The series called "A Hindu Chela's Diary" was published by William Q. Judge in four parts in *The Path*, beginning in June, 1886. It was a specially attractive and significant feature in his then recently started magazine, and has commanded the attention of earnest Theosophical aspirants for light and wisdom ever since. It contains rare glimpses of the relationship between an 'accepted chela' and his Guru described as plainly as was permissible by one who was receiving instruction while living a normal and very busy life in the outer world.

W. Q. Judge did not publish the name of the Hindu chela whose experiences are described in the 'Diary,' but from the Letters addressed to Judge and preserved in the archives of the Theosophical Society (Point Loma) which are reproduced in Chapter V of this volume, it is clear that the chela was none other than Damodar K. Mavalankar.

Comparison of the contents of the above-mentioned letters with the contents of the 'Diary' shows that the latter was far more than a mere record of certain events in their natural order. It was a piece of skilful literary workmanship, in which facts described in the letters and others not mentioned therein were woven into a record of enthralling interest. Certain incidents described in the 'Diary' are omitted or only casually referred to in the letters, and *vice versa*.

In regard to the authorship, the letters are of course by Damodar, and are plain statements of fact, including the real names of persons mentioned written as from one chela to another with open heart and profound sincerity and impersonality. As to the 'Diary,' we have no definite evidence of authorship. It may have been

written entirely by Damodar from his own recollections modified sufficiently to conceal his personality, but it seems more likely that W. Q. Judge compiled and reconstructed the material supplied by Damodar, for at the end of the 'Diary' the editor ("Trans.") says he was left with discretion to give out certain matters. Probably there was another letter (or letters) now lost, from which Judge derived information, because Damodar refers in one place to a fact (the Council Room) evidently familiar to Judge but not previously mentioned in the letters. W. Q. Judge received the letters more than five years before he published the 'Diary.' Damodar says on January 24, 1880, that he was admitted into the Society about six months earlier, and the writer of the 'Diary' says that it is about seven months since he began to listen to *Kunala*. Who was Kunala?

This leads to the question of identification of the Hindu names given in the 'Diary' with the names given in the letters, an easy task in nearly every case.

"A certain X," living at Benares was Maji or Majji. Swamiji K. was Pandit Dayanand Saraswati Swamiji. Vishnurama was Pandit Mohunlal Vishnulal Pande. The English 'officer' is A. P. Sinnett. The Rest House "in B." is in Ceylon. Kunala is certainly H. P. Blavatsky, but the name also appears in connection with some occult experiences in Ceylon, where 'Kunala' appears to have been overshadowed by, or at least taken on the appearance of, one of the Masters, probably the Mahatman Morya, H. P. Blavvatsky's Guru, who is said to spend much of his time in Ceylon. 'Nilakant' in one place is also H. P. Blavatsky, but in the other two references may be Damodar himself. The latter are the two occult letters received by the chela. They are prefaced by the word 'Nilakant' as if addressing him by name. — C. J. RYAN

A Hindu Chela's Diary

The original MS. of this Diary as far as it goes is in our possession. The few introductory lines are by the friend who communicated the

matter to us. — [ED.]

In the month of December he arrived at Benares, on what he hoped would be his last pilgrimage. As much as I am able to decipher of this curious manuscript, written in a mixture of Tamil — the South Indian language — with Mahratta, which, as you know, is entirely dissimilar, shows that he had made many pilgrimages to India's sacred places, whether by mere impulse or upon actual direction, I know not. If he had been only any ordinary religiously disposed Hindu we might be able to come to some judgment hereupon, for the pilgrimages might have been made in order to gain merit, but as he must long ago have risen above the flowery chains of even the Vedas, we cannot really tell for what reason these journeys were made. Although, as you know, I have long had possession of these papers, the time had not until now seemed ripe to give them out. He had, when I received them, already long passed away from these busy scenes to those far busier, and now I give you liberty to print the fragmentary tale without description of his person. These people are, you know, not disposed to have accurate descriptions of themselves floating about. They being real disciples, never like to say that they are, a manner quite contrary to that of those famed professors of occult science who opportunely or inopportunely declare their supposed chelaship from the house top.

* * * "Twice before have I seen these silent temples standing by the rolling flood of sacred Ganges. They have not changed, but in me what changes have occurred! And yet that cannot be, for the I changeth not, but only the veil wrapped about, is either torn away or more closely and thickly folded round to the disguising of the reality. * * * It is now seven months since I began to use the privilege of listening to Kunala. Each time before, that I came to see him, implacable fate drove me back. It was Karma, the just law, which compels when we would not, that prevented me. Had I faltered then and returned to the life then even so far in the past, my fate in this incarnation would have been sealed — and he would have said nothing. Why? Happy was I that I knew the silence would have not indicated in him any loss of interest in my welfare, but only that the same Karma prevented interference.

Very soon after first seeing him I felt that he was not what he appeared exteriorly to be. Then the feeling grew into a belief within a short time so strong that four or five times I thought of throwing myself at his feet and begging him to reveal himself to me. But I thought that was useless, as I knew that I was quite impure and could not be trusted with that secret. If I remained silent I thought that he would confide to me whenever he found me worthy of it. I thought he must be some great Hindu Adept who had assumed that illusionary form. But there this difficulty arose, for I knew that he received letters from various relatives in different parts, and this would compel him to practice the illusion all over the globe, for some of those relatives were in other countries, where he had been too. Various explanations suggested themselves to me. * * * I was right in my original conception of Kunala that he is some great Indian Adept. Of this subject I constantly talked with him since — although I fear I am not, and perhaps shall not be in this life worthy of their company. My inclination has always been in this direction. I always thought of retiring from this world and giving myself up to devotion. To Kunala I often expressed this intention, so that I might study this philosophy, which alone can make man happy in this world. But then he usually asked me what I would do *there* alone? He said that instead of gaining my object I might perhaps become insane by being left alone in the jungles with no one to guide me; that I was foolish enough to think that by going into the jungles I could fall in with an adept; and that if I really wanted to gain my object I should have to work in the reform in and through which I had met so many good men and himself also, and when the Higher Ones, whom I dare not mention by any other names, were satisfied with me they themselves would call me away from the busy world and teach me in private. And when I foolishly asked him many times to give me the names and addresses of some of those Higher Ones he said once to me: 'One of our Brothers has told me that as you are so much after me I had better tell you once for all that I have no right to give you any information about them, but if you go on asking Hindus you meet what they know about the matter you might hear of them, and one of those Higher Ones may perhaps throw himself in your way without your

knowing him, and will tell you what you should do.' These were orders, and I knew I must wait, and still I knew that through Kunala only would I have my object fulfilled. * * *

"I then asked one or two of my own countrymen, and one of them said he had seen two or three such men, but that they were not quite what he thought to be '*Raj Yogs*.' He also said he had heard of a man who had appeared several times in Benares, but that nobody knew where he lived. My disappointment grew more bitter, but I never lost the firm confidence that Adepts do live in India and can still be found among us. No doubt too there are a few in other countries, else why had Kunala been to them. * * * In consequence of a letter from Vishnurama, who said that a certain X [I find it impossible to decipher this name] lived in Benares, and that Swamiji K knew him. However, for certain reasons I could not address Swamiji K directly, and when I asked him if *he* knew X he replied: "If there be such a man here at all he is not known." Thus evasively on many occasions he answered me, and I saw that all my expectations in going to Benares were only airy castles. I thought I had gained only the consolation that I was doing a part of my duty. So I wrote again to Nilakant: "As directed by you I have neither let him know what I know of him nor what my own intentions are. He seems to think that in this I am working to make money, and as yet I have kept him in the dark as regards myself, and am myself groping in the dark. Expecting enlightenment from you, etc." * * * The other day Nilakant came suddenly here and I met Sw. K. and him together, when to my surprise K at once mentioned X, saying he knew him well and that he often came to see him, and then he offered to take us there. But just as we were going, arrived at the place an English officer who had done Kunala a service in some past time. He had in some way heard of X and was permitted to come. Such are the complications of Karma. It was absolutely necessary that he should go too, although no doubt his European education would never permit him to more than half accept the doctrine of Karma, so interwoven backward and forwards in our lives, both those now, that past and that to come. At the interview with X, I could gain nothing, and so we came away. The next day came X to

see us. He never speaks of himself, but as 'this body.' He told me that he had first been in the body of a Fakir, who, upon having his hand disabled by a shot he received while he passed the fortress of Bhurtpore, had to change his body and choose another, the one he was now in. A child of about seven years of age was dying at that time, and so, before the complete physical death, this Fakir had entered the body and afterwards used it as his own. He is, therefore, doubly not what he seems to be. As a Fakir he had studied Yoga science for 65 years, but that study having been arrested at the time he was disabled, leaving him unequal to the task he had to perform, he had to choose this other one. In his present body he is 53 years, and consequently the inner X is 118 years old. * * * In the night I heard him talking with Kunala, and found that each had the same Guru, who himself is a very great Adept, whose age is 300 years, although in appearance he seems to be only 40. [there is a peculiarity in this, that all accounts of Cagliostro, St. Germain and other Adepts, give the apparent age as forty only. — [ED.]] He will in a few centuries enter the body of a *Kshatriya* [the warrior caste of India] and do some great deeds for India, but the time had not yet come."

"Yesterday I went with Kunala to look at the vast and curious temples left here by our forefathers. Some are in ruins, and others only showing the waste of time. What a difference between my appreciation of these buildings now, with Kunala to point out meanings I never saw, and that which I had when I saw them upon my first pilgrimage, made so many years ago with my father." * * * * *

A large portion of the MS. here, although written in the same characters as the rest, has evidently been altered in some way by the writer, so as to furnish clues meant for himself. It might be deciphered by a little effort, but I must respect his desire to keep those parts of it which are thus changed, inviolate. It seems that some matters are here jotted down relating to secret things, or at least, to things that he desired should not be understood at a glance. So I will write out what small portion of it as might be easily told without breaking any

confidences.

It is apparent that he had often been before to the holy city of Benares, and had merely seen it as a place of pilgrimage for the religious. Then, in his sight, those famous temples were only temples. But now he found, under the instruction of Kunala, that every really ancient building in the whole collection had been constructed with the view to putting into imperishable stone, the symbols of a very ancient religion. Kunala, he says, told him, that although the temples were made when no supposition of the ordinary people of those eras leaned toward the idea that nations could ever arise who would be ignorant of the truths then universally known, or that darkness would envelop the intellect of men, there were many Adepts then well known to the rulers and to the people. They were not yet driven by inexorable fate to places remote from civilization, but lived in the temples, and while not holding temporal power, they exercised a moral sway which was far greater than any sovereignty of earth.* And they knew that the time would come when the heavy influence of the dark age would make men to have long forgotten even that such beings had existed, or that any doctrines other than the doctrine based on the material rights of *mine* and *thine*, had ever been held. If the teachings were left simply to either paper or papyrus or parchment, they would be easily lost, because of that decay which is natural to vegetable or animal membrane. But stone lasts, in an easy climate, for ages. So these Adepts, some of them here and there being really themselves Maha Rajahs, (King or Ruler) caused the temples to be built in forms, and with such symbolic ornaments, that future races might decipher doctrines from them. In this, great wisdom, he says, is apparent, for to have carved them with sentences in the prevailing language would have defeated the object, since languages also change, and as great a muddle would have resulted as in the case of the Egyptian hieroglyphics, unless a key stone had also been prepared; but that itself might be lost, or in its own turn be unintelligible. The ideas underneath symbols do not alter, no matter what might be the language, and symbols are clear immortally, because they are founded in nature

itself. In respect to this part of the matter, he writes down that Kunala informed him that the language used then was not Sanscrit, but a far older one now altogether unknown in the world.

*In the ancient Aztec civilization in Mexico, the Sacerdotal order was very numerous. At the head of the whole establishment were two high priests, elected from the order, solely for their qualifications, as shown by their previous conduct in a subordinate station. They were equal in dignity and inferior only to the sovereign, who rarely acted without their advice in weighty matters of private concern. (Sahagun *Hist. de Nueva Espana*, lib. 2; lib. 3 cap. 9 — *Torq. Mon. Ind.* lib. 8 cap. 20; lib. 9, cap. 3, 56; cited by Prescott in vol. 1, *Conq. Mex.* p. 66).

From a detached sentence in the MS., it is shadowed out that Kunala referred to a curious building put up many years ago in another part of India and now visible, by which he illustrated the difference between an intelligent construction and unintelligent one. This building was the product of the brain of a Chandala [a low caste man, *e. g.*, a sweeper. Such a building can now be seen at Bijapur, India. — ED.], who had been enriched through a curious freak. The Rajah had been told upon some event occurring, by his astrologers, that he must give an immense sum of money to the first person he saw next day, they intending to present themselves at an early hour. Next day, at an [un]usually early season, the Rajah arose, looked out of the window, and beheld this Chandala. Calling his astrologers and council together and the poor sweeper into his presence, he presented him with lacs upon lacs of rupees, and with the money the Chandala built a granite building having immense monolithic chains hanging down from its four corners. Its only symbology was, the change of the chains of fate; from poor low caste to high rich low caste. Without the story the building tells us nothing.

But the symbols of the temple, not only those carved on them, but also their conjuncture, need no story nor knowledge of any historical events. Such is the substance of what he writes down as told him by

Kunala. He says also that this symbology extends not only to doctrines and cosmology, but also to laws of the human constitution, spiritual and material. The explanation of this portion, is contained in the altered and cryptic parts of the MS. He then goes on:

* * * "Yesterday, just after sunset, while Kunala and X were talking, Kunala suddenly seemed to go into an unusual condition, and about ten minutes afterwards a large quantity of malwa flowers fell upon us from the ceiling.

"I must now go to ----- and do that piece of business which he ordered done. My duty is clear enough, but how am I to know if I shall perform it properly. * * * When I was there and after I had finished my work and was preparing to return here, a wandering fakir met me and asked if he could find from me the proper road to Karli. I directed him, and he then put to me some questions that looked as if he knew what had been my business; he also had a very significant look upon his face, and several of his questions were apparently directed to getting me to tell him a few things Kunala had told me just before leaving Benares with an injunction of secrecy. The questions did not on the face show that, but were in the nature of inquiries regarding such matters, that if I had not been careful, I would have violated the injunction. He then left me saying: 'you do not know me but we may see each other.' * * * I got back last night and saw only X, to whom I related the incident with the fakir, and he said that, 'it was none other than Kunala himself using that fakir's body who had said those things, and if you were to see that fakir again he would not remember you and would not be able to repeat his questions, as he was for the time being taken possession of for the purpose, by Kunala, who often performs such things.' I then asked him if in that case Kunala had really entered the fakir's body, as I have a strange reluctance toward asking Kunala such questions, and X replied that if I meant to ask if he had really and in fact entered the fakir's person, the answer was no, but that if I meant to ask if Kunala had overcome that fakir's senses, substituting his own, the answer was, yes; leaving me to make my own conclusions. * * * I was fortunate enough yesterday to be shown the process pursued in either entering

an empty body, or in using one which has its own occupant. I found that in both cases it was the same, and the information was also conveyed that a Bhut [an obsessing astral shell; the Hindus consider them to be the reliquiae of deceased persons. — ED.] goes through just the same road in taking command of the body or senses of those unfortunate women of my country who sometimes are possessed by them. And the Bhut also sometimes gets into possession of a part only of the obsessed person's body, such as an arm or a hand, and this they do by influencing that part of the brain that has relation with that arm or hand; in the same way with the tongue and other organs of speech. With any person but Kunala I would not have allowed my own body to be made use of for the experiment. But I felt perfectly safe, that he would not only let me in again, but also that he would not permit any stranger, man or gandharba [nature spirit or elemental], to come in after him. We went to —— and he * * The feeling was that I had suddenly stepped out into freedom. He was beside me and at first I thought he had but begun. But he directed me to look, and there on the mat I saw my body, apparently unconscious. As I looked * * * the body of myself, opened its eyes and arose. It was then superior to me, for Kunala's informing power moved and directed it. It seemed to even speak to me. Around it, attracted to it by those magnetic influences, wavered and moved astral shapes, that vainly tried to whisper in the ear or to enter by the same road. In vain! They seemed to be pressed away by the air or surroundings of Kunala. Turning to look at him, and expecting to see him in a state of samadhi, he was smiling as if nothing, or at the very most, but a part, of his power had been taken away * * * another instant and I was again myself, the mat felt cool to my touch, the bhuts were gone, and Kunala bade me rise.

"He has told me to go to the mountains of —— where —— and —— usually live, and that even if I were not to see any body the first time, the magnetized air in which they live would do me much good. They do not generally stop in one place, but always shift from one place to another. They, however, all meet together on certain days of the year in a certain place near Bhadrinath, in the northern part of India. He

reminded me that as India's sons are becoming more and more wicked, those adepts have gradually been retiring more and more toward the north, to the Himalaya mountains. * * * Of what a great consequence is it for me to be always with Kunala. And now X tells me this same thing that I have always felt. All along I have felt and do still feel strongly that I have been once his most obedient and humble disciple in a former existence. All my hopes and future plans are therefore centred in him. My journey therefore to up country has done me one good, that of strengthening my belief, which is the chief foundation on which the grand structure is to be built. * * * As I was walking past the end of Ramalinga's compound holding a small lamp of European make, and while there was no wind, the light three several times fell low. I could not account for it. Both Kunala and X were far away. But in another moment, the light suddenly went out altogether, and as I stopped, the voice of revered Kunala, who I supposed was many miles away, spoke to me, and I found him standing there. For one hour we talked; and he gave me good advice, although I had not asked it — thus it is always that when I go fearlessly forward and ask for nothing I get help at an actual critical moment — he then blessed me and went away. Nor could I dare to look in what direction. In that conversation, I spoke of the light going down and wanted an explanation, but he said I had nothing to do with it. I then said I wanted to know, as I could explain it in two ways, viz: 1st, that he did it himself, or 2d, that some one else did it for him. He replied, that even if it were done by somebody else, *no Yogee will do a thing unless he sees the desire in another Yogee's mind.** The significance of this drove out of my mind all wish to know who did it, whether himself, or an elemental or another person, for it is of more importance for me to know even a part of the laws governing such a thing, than it is to know who puts those laws into operation. Even some blind concatenation of nature might put such natural forces in effect in accordance with the same laws, so that a knowledge that nature did it would be no knowledge of any consequence.

* This sentence is of great importance. The Occidental mind delights much more in effects, personalities and authority, than in seeking

for causes, just as many Theosophists have with persistency sought to know when and where Madame Blavatsky did some feat in magic, rather than in looking for causes or laws governing the production of phenomena. In this italicized sentence is the clue to many things, for those who can see. — [ED.]

[A footnote to the title of the section appearing in *The Path* for August, 1886, reads: "In reply to several inquiries as to the meaning of *Chela*, we answer that it here means an accepted disciple of an Adept. The word, in general, means, *Disciple*." — EDS.]

"I have always felt and still feel strongly that I have already once studied this sacred philosophy with Kunala, and that I must have been, in a previous life, his most obedient and humble disciple. This must have been a fact, or else how to account for the feelings created in me when I first met him, although no special or remarkable circumstances were connected with that event. All my hopes and plans are centred in him, and nothing in the world can shake my confidence in him especially when several of my Brahmin acquaintances tell me the same things without previous consultation. * *

"I went to the great festival of Durga yesterday, and spent nearly the whole day looking in the vast crowd of men, women, children and mendicants for some of Kunala's friends, for he once told me to never be sure that they were not near me, but I found none who seemed to answer my ideas. As I stood by the ghaut at the river side thinking that perhaps I was left alone to try my patience, an old and apparently very decrepit Bairagee plucked my sleeve and said: 'Never expect to see any one, but always be ready to answer if they speak to you; it is not wise to peer outside of yourself for the great followers of Vasudeva: look rather within.'

"This amazed me, as I was expecting him to beg or to ask me for information. Before my wits returned, he had with a few steps mingled with a group of people, and in vain searched I for him: he had disappeared. But the lesson is not lost.

"To-morrow I return to I-----.

"Very wearying indeed in a bodily sense was the work of last week and especially of last evening, and upon laying down on my mat last night after continuing work far into the night I fell quickly sound asleep. I had been sleeping some hour or two when with a start I awoke to find myself in perfect solitude and only the horrid howling of the jackals in the jungle to disturb me. The moon was brightly shining and I walked over to the window of this European modeled house threw it open and looked out. Finding that sleep had departed, I began again on those palm leaves. Just after I had begun, a tap arrested my attention and I opened the door. Overjoyed was I then to see Kunala standing there, once more unexpected.

"Put on your turban and come with me,' he said and turned away.

"Thrusting my feet into my sandals, and catching up my turban, I hurried after him, afraid that the master would get beyond me, and I remain unfortunate at losing some golden opportunity.

"He walked out into the jungle and turned into an unfrequented path. The jackals seemed to recede into the distance; now and then in the mango trees overhead, the flying foxes rustled here and there, while I could distinctly hear the singular creeping noise made by a startled snake as it drew itself hurriedly away over the leaves. Fear was not in my breast for master was in front. He at last came to a spot that seemed bare of trees, and bending down, seemed to press his hand into the grass. I then saw that a trap door or entrance to a stairway very curiously contrived, was there. Stairs went down into the earth. He went down and I could but follow. The door closed behind me, yet it was not dark. Plenty of light was there, but where it came from I cared not then nor can I now, tell. It reminded me of our old weird tales told us in youth of pilgrims going down to the land of the Devas where, although no sun was seen, there was plenty of light.

"At the bottom of the stairs was a passage. Here I saw people but they did not speak to me and appeared not to even see me although their

eyes were directed at me. Kunala said nothing but walked on to the end, where there was a room in which were many men looking as grand as he does but two more awful, one of whom sat at the extreme end."

* * * * *

[Here there is a confused mass of symbols and ciphers which I confess I cannot decipher, and even if I had the ability to do so, I would check myself, because I surmise that it is his own way of jotting down for his own remembrance, what occurred in that room. Nor do I think that even a plain reading of it would give the sense to any one but the writer himself, for this reason, that it is quite evidently fragmentary. For instance, I find among the rest, a sort of notation of a division of states or planes: whether of consciousness, of animated, or of elemental life, I cannot tell — and in each division are hieroglyphs that might stand for animals, or denizens of the astral world, or for anything else — even for ideas only, so I will proceed at the place of his returning.]

"Once more I got out into the passage, but never to my knowledge went up those steps, and in a moment more was I again at my door. It was as I left it, and on the table I found the palm leaves as I dropped them, except that beside them was a note in Kunala's hand, which read:

" 'Nilakant — strive not yet to think too deeply on those things you have just seen. Let the lessons sink deep into your heart, and they will have their own fruition. Tomorrow I will see you.' * * * * *

"What a very great blessing is mine to have had Kunala's company for so many days even as we went to ----- . Very rarely however he said a few words of encouragement and good advice as to how I should go on. He seems to leave me as to that to pick my own way. This is right, I think, because otherwise one would never get any individual strength or power of discrimination. Happy were those moments, when alone at midnight, we then had conversation. How true I then found the words of the Agroushada Parakshai to be:

" 'Listen while the Sudra sleeps like the dog under his hut, while the Vaysa dreams of the treasures that he is hoarding up, while the Rajah sleeps among his women. This is the moment when just men, who are not under the dominion of their flesh, commence the study of the sciences.' (See Agroushada Parakshai, 2d book, 23d dialogue.)

"The midnight hour must have powers of a peculiar nature. And I learned yesterday from glancing into an Englishman's book, that even those semi barbarians speak of that time as 'the witching hour,' and it is told me that among them 'witching' means to have magic power. * * *

"We stopped at the Rest House in B----- yesterday evening, but found it occupied and so we remained in the porch for the night. But once more I was to be blessed by another visit with Kunala to some of his friends whom I revere and who will I hope bless me too.

"When every one had quieted down he told me to go with him to the sea which was not far away. We walked for about three quarters of an hour by the seashore, and then entered as if into the sea. At first a slight fear came into me, but I saw that a path seemed to be there, although water was all around us. He in front and I following, we went for about seven minutes, when we came to a small island; on it was a building and on top of that a triangular light. From the sea shore, the island would seem like an isolated spot covered all over by green bushes. There is only one entrance to go inside. And no one can find it out unless the occupant wishes the seeker to find the way. On the island we had to go round about for some space before we came in front of the actual building. There is a little garden in front and there was sitting another friend of Kunala with the same expression of the eyes as he has. I also recognized him as one of those who was in the room underground. Kunala seated himself and I stood before them. We stayed an hour and saw a portion of the place. How very pleasant it is! And inside he has a small room where he leaves his body when he himself moves about in other places. What a charming spot, and what a delightful smell of roses and various sorts of flowers! How I should

wish to visit that place often. But I cannot indulge in such idle dreams, nor in that sort of covetousness. The master of the place put his blessing hand upon my head, and we went away back to the Rest House and to the morrow full of struggles and of encounters with men who do not see the light, nor hear the great voice of the future; who are bound up in sorrow because they are firmly attached to objects of sense. But all are my brothers and I must go on trying to do the master's work which is only in fact the work of the Real Self which is All and in All.

"I have been going over that message I received just after returning from the underground room, about not thinking yet too deeply upon what I saw there, but to let the lessons sink deep into my heart. Can it be true — must it not indeed be true — that we have periods in our development when rest must be taken for the physical brain in order to give it time as a much less comprehensive machine than these English college professors say it is, to assimilate what it has received, while at the same time the real brain — as we might say, the spiritual brain — is carrying on as busily as ever all the trains of thought cut off from the head. Of course this is contrary to this modern science we hear so much about now as about to be introduced into all Asia, but it is perfectly consistent for me.

"To reconsider the situation: I went with Kunala to this underground place, and there saw and heard most instructive and solemn things. I return to my room and begin to puzzle over them all, to revolve and re-revolve them in my mind, with a view to clearing all up and finding out what all may mean. But I am interrupted by a note from Kunala directing me to stop this puzzling, and to let all I saw sink deep into my heart. Every word of his I regard with respect, and consider to hold a meaning, being never used by him with carelessness. So when he says, to let it sink into my 'heart,' in the very same sentence where he refers to my thinking part — the mind — why he must mean to separate my heart from my mind and to give to the heart a larger and greater power.

"Well, I obeyed the injunction, made myself, as far as I could, forget

what I saw and what puzzled me and thought of other things. Presently, after a few days while one afternoon thinking over an episode related in the *Vishnu Purana* [an ancient Hindu book full of tales as well as doctrines], I happened to look up at an old house I was passing and stopped to examine a curious device on the porch; as I did this, it seemed as if either the device, or the house, or the circumstance itself, small as it was, opened up at once several avenues of thought about the underground room, made them all clear, showed me the conclusion as vividly as a well demonstrated and fully illustrated proposition, to my intense delight. Now could I perceive with plainness, that those few days which seemed perhaps wasted because withdrawn from contemplation of that scene and its lessons, had been with great advantage used by the spiritual man in unraveling the tangled skein, while the much praised brain had remained in idleness. All at once the *flash* came and with it knowledge [these *flashes* of thought are not unknown even in the scientific world, as, where in such a moment of lunacy, it was revealed to an English scientist, that there must be iron in the sun; and Edison gets his ideas thus. — [ED.]. But I must not depend upon these flashes, I must give the brain and its governor, the material to work with.

"Last night just as I was about to go to rest, the voice of Kunala called me from outside and there I went at once. Looking steadily at me he said: 'we want to see you,' and as he spoke he gradually changed, or disappeared, or was absorbed, into the form of another man with awe-inspiring face and eyes, whose form apparently rose up from the material of Kunala's body. At the same moment two others stood there also, dressed in the Tibetan costume; and one of them went into my room from which I had emerged. After saluting them reverently, and not knowing their object, I said to the greatest,

" 'Have you any orders to give?'

" 'If there are any they will be told to you without being asked,' he replied, 'stand still where you are.'

"Then he began to look at me fixedly. I felt a very pleasant sensation as

if I was getting out of my body. I cannot tell now what time passed between that and what I am now to put down here. But I saw I was in a peculiar place. It was the upper end of —— at the foot of the —— range. Here was a place where there were only two houses just opposite to each other, and no other sign of habitation; from one of these came out the old faquir I saw at the Durga festival, but how changed, and yet the same: then so old, so repulsive; now so young, so glorious, so beautiful. He smiled upon me benignly and said:

"Never expect to see anyone, but always be ready to answer if they speak to you; it is not wise to peer outside of yourself for the great followers of Vasudeva: look rather within."

"The very words of the poor faquir!"

"He then directed me to follow him."

"After going a short distance, of about half a mile or so, we came to a natural subterranean passage which is under the ----- range. The path is very dangerous; the River —— flows underneath in all the fury of pent up waters, and a natural causeway exists upon which you may pass; only one person at a time can go there and one false step seals the fate of the traveller. Besides this causeway, there are several valleys to be crossed. After walking a considerable distance through this subterranean passage we came into an open plain in L-----K. There stands a large massive building thousands of years old. In front of it is a huge Egyptian Tau. The building rests on seven big pillars each in the form of a pyramid. The entrance gate has a large triangular arch, and inside are various apartments. The building is so large that I think it can easily contain twenty thousand people. Some of the rooms were shown to me."

"This must be the central place for all those belonging to the ----- class, to go for initiation and stay the requisite period."

"Then we entered the great hall with my guide in front. He was youthful in form but in his eyes was the glance of ages. * * * * The grandeur and serenity of this place strikes the heart with awe. In the

centre was what we would call an altar, but it must only be the place where focuses all the power, the intention, the knowledge and the influence of the assembly. For the seat, or place, or throne, occupied by the chief ----- the highest ----- has around it an indescribable glory, consisting of an effulgence which seemed to radiate from the one who occupied it. The surroundings of the throne were not gorgeous, nor was the spot itself in any way decorated — all the added magnificence was due altogether to the aura which emanated from Him sitting there. And over his head I thought I saw as I stood there, three golden triangles in the air above — Yes, they were there and seemed to glow with an unearthly brilliance that betokened their inspired origin. But neither they nor the light pervading the place, were produced by any mechanical means. As I looked about me I saw that others had a triangle, some two, and all with that peculiar brilliant light."

[Here again occurs a mass of symbols. It is apparent that just at this spot he desires to jot down the points of the initiation which he wished to remember. And I have to admit that I am not competent to elucidate their meaning. That must be left to our intuitions and possibly future experience in our own case.]

* * * * *

"14th day of the new moon. The events of the night in the hall of initiation gave me much concern. Was it a dream? Am I self deluded? Can it be that I imagined all this? Such were the unworthy questions which flew behind each other across my mind for days after. Kunala does not refer to the subject and I cannot put the question. Nor will I. I am determined, that, come what will, the solution must be reached by me, or given me voluntarily.

"Of what use to me will all the teachings and all the symbols be, if I cannot rise to that plane of penetrating knowledge, by which I shall myself, by myself, be able to solve this riddle, and know to discriminate the true from the false and the illusory? If I am unable to cut asunder these questioning doubts, these bonds of ignorance, it is proof that not yet have I risen to the plane situated above these doubts. * * * * * Last

night after all day chasing through my mental sky, these swift destroyers of stability — mental birds of passage — I lay down upon the bed, and as I did so, into my hearing fell these words:

"Anxiety is the foe of knowledge; like unto a veil it falls down before the soul's eye; entertain it, and the veil only thicker grows; cast it out, and the sun of truth may dissipate the cloudy veil.'

"Admitting that truth; I determined to prohibit all anxiety. Well I knew that the prohibition issued from the depths of my heart, for that was master's voice, and confidence in his wisdom, the self commanding nature of the words themselves, compelled me to complete reliance on the instruction. No sooner was the resolution formed, than down upon my face fell something which I seized at once in my hand. Lighting a lamp, before me was a note in the well known writing. Opening it, I read:

"Nilakant. It was no dream. All was real, and more, that by your waking consciousness could not be retained, happened there. Reflect upon it all as reality, and from the slightest circumstance draw whatever lesson, whatever amount of knowledge you can. Never forget that your spiritual progress goes on quite often to yourself unknown. Two out of many hindrances to memory are anxiety and selfishness. Anxiety is a barrier constructed out of harsh and bitter materials. Selfishness is a fiery darkness that will burn up the memory's matrix. Bring then, to bear upon this other memory of yours, the peaceful stillness of contentment and the vivifying rain of benevolence.*" * * * * *

[*The careful student will remember that Jacob Boehme speaks of the "harsh and bitter anguish of nature which is the principle that produces bones and all corporification." So here the master, it appears, tells the fortunate chela, that in the spiritual and mental world, anxiety, harsh and bitter, raises a veil before us and prevents us from using our memory. He refers, it would seem, to the other memory above the ordinary. The correctness and value of what was said in this, must be admitted when we reflect that, after all, the whole process of development is the process of *getting back*

the memory of the past. And that too is the teaching found in pure Buddhism as well also as in its corrupted form. — [ED.]

[I leave out here, as well as in other places, mere notes of journeys and various small matters, very probably of no interest.]

"In last month's passage across the hills near V----, I was irresistibly drawn to examine a deserted building, which I first took for a grain holder, or something like that. It was of stone, square, with no openings, no windows, no door. From what could be seen outside, it might have been the ruins of a strong, stone foundation for some old building, gateway or tower. Kunala stood not far off and looked over it, and later on he asked me for my ideas about the place. All I could say, was, that although it seemed to be solid, I was thinking that perhaps it might be hollow.

"'Yes,' said he, 'it is hollow. It is one of the places once made by Yogees to go into deep trance in. If used by a chela (a disciple) his teacher kept watch over it so that no one might intrude. But when an adept wants to use it for laying his body away in while he travels about in his real, though perhaps to some unseen, form, other means of protection were often taken which were just as secure as the presence of the teacher of the disciple.' 'Well,' I said, 'it must be that just now no one's body is inside there.'

"'Do not reach that conclusion nor the other either. It may be occupied and it may not.'

"Then we journeyed on, while he told me of the benevolence of not only Brahmin Yogees, but also of Buddhist. No differences can be observed by the true disciple in any other disciple who is perhaps of a different faith. All pursue truth. Roads differ but the goal of all remains alike."

* * * "Repeated three times: 'Time ripens and dissolves all beings in the great self, but he who knows into what time itself is dissolved, he is the knower of the Veda.'

"What is to be understood, not only by this, but also by its being three times repeated?

"There were three shrines there. Over the door was a picture which I saw a moment, and which for a moment seemed to blaze out with light like fire. Fixed upon my mind its outlines grew, then disappeared, when I had passed the threshold. Inside, again its image came before my eyes. Seeming to allure me, it faded out, and then again returned. It remained impressed upon me, seemed imbued with life and intention to present itself for my own criticism. When I began to analyze it, it would fade, and then when I was fearful of not doing my duty or of being disrespectful to those beings, it returned as if to demand attention. Its description:

"A human heart that has at its centre a small spark — the spark expands and the heart disappears — while a deep pulsation seems to pass through me. At once identity is confused, I grasp at myself; and again the heart reappears with the spark increased to a large fiery space. Once more that deep movement; then sounds (7); they fade. All this in a picture? Yes! for in that picture there is life; there might be intelligence. It is similar to that picture I saw in Tibet on my first journey, where the living moon rises and passes across the view. Where was I? No, not afterwards! It was in the hall. Again that all pervading sound. It seems to bear me like a river. Then it ceased, — a soundless sound. Then once more the picture; here is Pranava [the mystic syllable OM. — [ED.]]. But between the heart and the Pranava is a mighty bow with arrows ready, and tightly strung for use. Next is a shrine, with the Pranava over it, shut fast, no key and no keyhole. On its sides emblems of human passions. The door of the shrine opens and I think within I will see the truth. No! another door? a shrine again. It opens too and then another, brightly flashing is seen there. Like the heart, it makes itself one with me. Irresistible desire to approach it comes within me, and it absorbs the whole picture.

"Break through the shrine of Brahman; use the doctrine of the teacher.'
" [There is some reference here apparently to the Upanishad, for they

contain a teacher's directions to break through all shrines until the last one is reached. — [ED.]

[There is no connection here of this exhortation with any person, and very probably it is something that was said either by himself, in soliloquy, or by some voice or person to him.

I must end here, as I find great rents and spaces in the notes. He must have ceased to put down further things he saw or did in his real inner life, and you will very surely agree, that if he had progressed by that time to what the last portions would indicate, he could not set down his reflections thereon, or any memorandum of facts. We, however, can never tell what was his reason. He might have been told not to do so, or might have lacked the opportunity.

There was much all through these pages that related to his daily family life, not interesting to you; records of conversations; worldly affairs; items of money and regarding appointments, journeys and meetings with friends. But they show of course that he was all this time living through his set work with men, and often harassed by care as well as comforted by his family and regardful of them. All of that I left out, because I supposed that while it would probably interest you, yet I was left with discretion to give only what seemed to relate to the period marked at its beginning, by his meetings with M----, and at the end by this last remarkable scene, the details of which we can only imagine. And likewise were of necessity omitted very much that is sufficiently unintelligible in its symbolism to be secure from revelation. Honestly have I tried to unlock the doors of the ciphers, for no prohibition came with their possession, but all that I could refine from its enfolding obscurity is given to you.

As he would say, let us salute each other and the last shrine of Brahman; Om, hari, Om! TRANS.]