

San Fernando, Calif.,
May 21, 1931.

Laura Felver,
Chicago, Ill.

Fraternal Greeting
~~Dear Fellow-student:~~

We have just received from Mr. Clayberg the printed program of the class-work without having previously received the proposed form for our approval. It includes certain statements which we would not have authorized and this is serious. You did not do your part in permitting this to happen and frankly I am surprised.

You must realize that Sheila and I incur karmic responsibility for anything that is said or done in the name of the Rama Sangha in view of the fact that we stand back of it and brought it into outer form. If any student in the name of the Rama Sangha does that or says that which is not wise or true then we incur the consequent responsibility as well as the given student. It, therefore, is absolutely necessary that any statement which goes to the public, especially in printed form, shall pass our approval. A little reflection will, I think, make this principle clear to you.

There are three important points of criticism:

(a) The announcement designates classes in Yoga Philosophy, Philosophy of the Ancient Wisdom, Religion and kindred subjects. Now the classes in Yoga Philosophy are authorized within the limits of our text book. But the Ancient Wisdom and Religion are not. A wider range of study may be justified later but before that extension can be made Mr. Clayberg will have to prove himself further, and likewise any other student who may take a teaching part.

(b) Announcement of esoteric work in a folder that goes or may go to anyone of the general public.

Speaking of the inner work to students who may come to the class has been authorized but it should not be spoken of publicly as esoteric. The wisest course in this connection is that of speaking to individuals only who give some evidence of being fruitful soil. To speak to the general public of an esoteric work is to arouse into action the enemy of that work in an accentuated degree. By such course a truly esoteric work could be made impossible by having to face too large a portion of the force of Darkness. Right here lies one of the principle if not the principle reason why the Masters have veiled themselves from the world. Otherwise materialism of the world might destroy even their possibility of serving humanity.

(c) Announcement of the Summer School includes the statement:-- "Here one enters a Sphere created by the Masters of Compassion and the Masters of Wisdom etc."

For the reason given above such a statement given to the public could arouse such adverse force as to make such a Sphere impossible that otherwise might be. This is very serious indeed.

Those who really have come close to the Masters surround the latter with sacred silence so far specific reference is concerned save in the case of those few whose hearts are open and who knowingly or unknowingly seek the guidance of these Great Ones. The general public is, in this age, dominated by Mara or the embodied force of Evil. If you search you will find in the Mahatma letters where K.H. says that the force of evil is greater than that of good in this age. Hence the necessity of using the ~~the~~ weapon of discretion. "Be as wise as serpents and as harmless as doves", we are admonished. Never in public statement or in printed form which goes to the public say anything asserting specific relationship to the Masters. I know of no greater mistake than violating this rule.

Now in so far as the circular has gone forth the damage has been done. All further distribution of these circulars should be stopped at once. For the rest all that can be done is to draw a sort of subtle veil over these statements so that those who read them may at the same time be prevented as far as possible from realizing what they have read.

I am very sorry that this should have happened. Let the future be more carefully guarded.

May the door of practical Wisdom open before you,

P.S. Perhaps the distinction between "inner work" and "esoteric work" or "esoteric section" is not clear to you. "Inner work" is not necessarily esoteric in the sense in which that term is used in connection with inner mysteries or true occultism. It might be simply a more private aspect of an exoteric activity. Hence it is a term by which one may approach the public the members of which are potentially both friends and enemies. Yet even here discretion should be employed. On the other hand, esoteric work or an esoteric section should never be spoken of save among those initiated except in the case of a candidate who has been accepted for initiation. The altitude on which the esoteric work of a group is maintained depends in large measure on the integrity of the individuals. The pledge of secrecy is binding not alone on members but also on those who have resigned. Resigning does not free anyone so far as the pledge of secrecy is concerned. If esoteric work is to be maintained in the West the power to keep pledges must be cultivated.

Y.