

RESPONSIBILITY OF CO-STUDENTS

When the seeker has broken away from the world of purely external interest, and has first realized that there is a domain of occult knowledge which will make clear the baffling mysteries of life and also open doors to new powers, he often feels a sense of annoyance when he meets on every side emphasis upon principles of conduct in human relationships. Jesus gave the Golden Rule, and emphasized the love of man for man, and man for God. Buddha in his exoteric preaching gave very little more than a code of conduct, though for his arhats he reserved a profound metaphysical teaching. Krishna gave to Arjuna the philosophy of Dharma or the faithful performance of duty. On every side, in all the finer literature of this field, this self-same note is struck. To one with a strong intellectual desire for knowledge this often arouses a feeling of impatience, and perhaps a thought like this arises: O yes, ethical principles are all very well, but what I want is the sturdier food of knowledge and power. All too often it is not realized that back of the moral teachings of the Great Ones there lies the most profound Wisdom.

The suffering and the yearning of the human soul always, in the last analysis, grows out of the heresy of separateness; the idea that I am a creature apart from my fellows. Now the vault in which lies hidden the resolution of all mysteries is closed by a door with a compound lock, each part of which is a secret combination known only to one individual living form. All parts of the

lock must be turned before the door will open, hence no one alone can force this door. He must unite with his fellows, and by uniting their garnered wisdom to his own, turn all the combinations which guard the secret within. Thus separate selfish action can never penetrate to the hidden arcana. That knowledge which is more than personal is revealed alone to those who have become more than the little self.

Thus the practice of brotherhood is not an idle one, but indeed the most basic key of all which opens to the mysteries. It opens the heart, and only the opened heart can receive. Also, it makes a blessing of a knowledge which otherwise would be a curse.

All groups are replicas of the whole, and those who come together for the deeper study should especially practice among themselves that which ultimately must hold among all men when the "Great Day Be With Us" has come. Thus each student should be happy in each other's joy, and feel sorrow in the other's sorrow; feel attainment and failure in a brother's attainment and failure. This will bring Peace and prepare the soil for the sowing of the seeds of Wisdom, which the Master is ever ready to spread, and ultimately it will make of each a safe custodian for what otherwise would be dangerous knowledge.

However, the student should guard against a misplaced service. It is not true ^{service} ~~service~~ to take from a brother the experience which is so necessary for the unfolding of his soul knowledge. Yet the helping hand at the moment when the burden may be overpowering often serves to keep a brother from sinking down in despair. It is never wise to try to perform another's duty, nor is anyone wise

enough to determine what another's duty may be. Each must find his duty for himself and have the courage to follow his own perception whatever others may think. The point is not that one seeks to perform another's task, but rather than he finds himself acting in another's acts and thus comprehends all in his most intimate sympathy.

