

REMARKS ON THE HALL OF LEARNING

By Norberto Berrios

*Oh, happy who still hopes to rise
Out of this sea of errors and false views! Goethe*

One of the problems that aspirants encounter is the enticement that occult knowledge and information exert upon them; particularly those aspirants in which the energy of the self and the energy of mentality are in the process of intermingling, with ineffectual or limited fiery fusion with Soul quality.

These aspirants will exhaust all the fruits of knowledge and grow in mind accordingly, yet the esoteric understanding will elude them and the gained knowledge will be of limited practical application. The danger of overemphasis in the acquisition of knowledge and the amass of occult information should not be underestimated. H.P.B. warned us when she remarked that above all, aspirants need to learn to separate Head-learning from Soul-Wisdom. Forms of beliefs, hypotheses, and the like stand in front of the aspirant like a wall that separates him from his fellowmen and companions on the path. Consciousness expansion is not asserted by means of the motion or rotation in the plane of the concrete mind and its corresponding brain activity, but by means of the synthetic reasoning that comes with Soul identification. Then, fusion of the personality, mental and Soul energies can proceed harmoniously at their meeting place.

The concrete mind often hinders the flow of ideas as they seek expression in the three worlds. Ideas are a substance in which humanity and the planetary life draw its sustenance. In this sense, Head-learning, as H.P.B. called it, can create such an environment counterproductive to the growth of Soul-Wisdom, for knowledge is no longer sought as the outcome of work and service but as a goal in itself.

For over a century there has been a

concerted new effort to externalize certain aspects of the Mysteries. The teachings of H.P.B., H.R., F.L.D., and A.A.B. attest to this fact. As a result of this externalization, the content and quality of the experience undergone in the Hall of Learning have required certain readjustments. Aspirants need to become aware of the new demands and with clear thinking approach each gate. The crux of the matter, if these words may be used, is the proper reorganization, manipulation and redirection of energies and forces that are making an impact upon the vehicles of consciousness. The proper performance on the part of the aspirant depends on how much awareness he has about the next step ahead for him and for the group he is associated with. In this particular gate, the aspirant may raise the question as to how much appeal non-essential activities exert upon him. Due to the fact that energy follows the path of least resistance, the activities performed by an aspirant give a clue about the content of consciousness that is his keynote, and stage of spiritual maturity.

Another way to describe the experience undergone at this gate in the Hall of Learning is the realization of the need for positivity. Aspirants reach that point in which the forces of inertia and dynamic impulse are balanced against each other. This situation is controlled by karma and produces an impasse in which little can be accomplished unless the dynamic will is called into play. (The evocation of the Will aspect yields illumination, changing hypothesis into living awareness.) These forces of inertia are symbolically called Necessity, Laziness, and Habits. Each one relates to certain physical, astral, and mental lunar attributes. These obstacles are like a reservoir in which energies fall into, to be wasted in the self preservation of the past.

In the book *Initiation, Human and Solar* the following statement is found: *Let the applicant see to it that the solar Angel dims the light of the lunar angels, remaining the sole luminary in the microscopic shy.* These words sum up the objective for the aspirant as he pursues his way in this Hall. He aims for freedom from bondage and to establish a higher rate of vibration in the vehicles of sentiency by means of the positive interplay between the self and the Soul. The following statements will be of value to further elucidate this subject:

- 1) Positivity can be experienced as a tensive joyous syntony with the Soul Ray.
- 2) Positivity exalts daring.
- 3) Emulation of group vibration accomplishes reorientation of awareness from self to group.
- 4) Every aspirant must bring into emergence the capacity to see from the whole to the whole.
- 5) Disinterestedness and sacrifice destroy forms.
- 6) Hold the work in View. 1
- 7) Maintain the tension between the vertical magnetic life force and the horizontal radiatory force.

How is *group-consciousness* experienced?

Let's use the cells of the body as an analogy. The cells of the body demonstrate a remarkable independence from one another. However, they are organized in such a way that their actions do not contradict the function that other cells perform, but compliment each other. The laws governing cell life, as they are applied through the etheric body -- the soul level of the cell -- show how the energies of the etheric centres -- the equivalent to the Ashrams -- organize the life of the cells, their motions and progression. In spite of the fact that the cells perform different functions, they demonstrate unanimity and rhythmic intent. In the same manner, the laws governing the Soul kingdom, its motions and progression, are, so to speak, projected or reflected on the planes of phenomena by means of the subsidiary laws of number, geometry and rhythm. The aspirant need only observe

himself and the environment in which he associates to find the truth or falsehood of these statements.

The experiences encountered in this Hall are many. They inform the mind. But its main emphasis is to train the mind, and this cannot be too strongly impressed upon the aspirant. At all times he should be dealing in those activities that will bring conscious expansion and the Light of the Soul. The aspirant should not look for an ostentatious experience. Illumination, more often than not, stems from the small and outwardly minor signs that dwell on the periphery of consciousness. These signs often indicate a blindness on the part of the aspirant, or false vision (glamour) that must be addressed and brought up to the surface of consciousness. 2

The theme in this Hall is the development of awareness and sensitivity to impersonal forces, Soul induced forces and planetary induced currents that shape history in the four kingdoms of nature. The aspirant doesn't need to wait until he has developed the mind in order to develop the heart. It is the mind that sets stages, steps and conditions for growth. The heart is the unifier of energies. And this should not be understood abstractly, but tested in daily living. Discipline of the mind should go hand in hand with synthesis and creative blending of forces. Every aspirant has at his disposal in his own environment, and in his own community, the fields in which he can verify most occult assertions. Each aspirant has at his disposal all the powers needed to fulfill the promises of a full spiritual life.

Notes

1. The concept of View is a complex one. In this context it can be defined as the fusion of method and intuition.
2. For the astrologically inclined reader, this event is the work of Pluto as it brings to light all forms and handicaps of character that must be destroyed.

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