

## The Turning Point in C. W. Leadbeater's Life: HPB and the Second Letter of Master K.H.

Compiled by Pedro Oliveira

*C. W. Leadbeater was ordained a priest in the Church of England on 21 December 1879 and had been appointed as Assistant Stipendiary Curate of the Parish Church of Bramshott in the County of Southampton on 22 December 1878. He joined the Theosophical Society in 1883 after reading A. P. Sinnett's The Occult World and corresponding with the author. When he joined the TS he was still a priest in the Anglican Church. He met Madame Blavatsky in London in 1884 when both she and Col. Olcott were in the city to address the problems besieging the London Lodge of the TS. Soon after the receipt of the second letter he departed for India.*

In March 1884, C. W. Leadbeater wrote a letter to Master K.H. through an English medium, William Eglinton. He only received a reply in October 1884. The Master's letter can be seen in the link below:

<http://www.cwlworld.info/First Letter received by CWL.pdf>

In his book *How Theosophy Came to Me* (The Theosophical Publishing House, Madras, 1930), C. W. Leadbeater describes the circumstances in which he received the second letter from Master K.H.:

I wished to say in answer to this that my circumstances were such that it would be impossible for me to come to Adyar for three months, and then return to the work in which I was then engaged; but that I was perfectly ready to throw up that work altogether, and to devote my life absolutely to His service. Ernest having so conspicuously failed me, I knew of no way to send this message to the Master but to take it to Madame Blavatsky, and as she was to leave England on the following day for India, I hastened up to London to see her.

It was with difficulty that I induced her to read the letter, as she said very decidedly that such communications were intended only for the recipient. I was obliged to insist, however, and at last she read it and asked me what I wished to say in reply. I answered to the above effect, and asked her how this information could be conveyed to the Master. She replied that He knew it already, referring of course to the exceedingly close relation in which she stood with Him, so that whatever was within her consciousness was also within His when He wished it.

She then told me to wait by her, and not to leave her on any account. She adhered absolutely to this condition, even making me accompany her into her bedroom when she went to put on her hat and, when a cab was required, declining to allow me to leave the room and go to the door to whistle for it. I could not at all understand the purpose of this at the time, but afterwards I realized that she wished me to be able to say that she had never been out of my sight for a moment between the time when she read my letter from the Master and my receipt of the reply to it. I remember as vividly as if it were yesterday how I rode with her in that hansom cab, and the bashful embarrassment that I felt, caused partly by the honour of doing so, and partly by my fear that I must be inconveniencing her horribly, for I was crushed side ways into a tiny corner of the seat, while her huge bulk weighed down her side of the vehicle, so that the springs were grinding all through the journey. Mr. and Mrs. Cooper-Oakley were to accompany her on the voyage to India, and it was to their house that I went with her very late that night—in fact, I believe it was after mid-night, so I really ought to say very early the next morning.

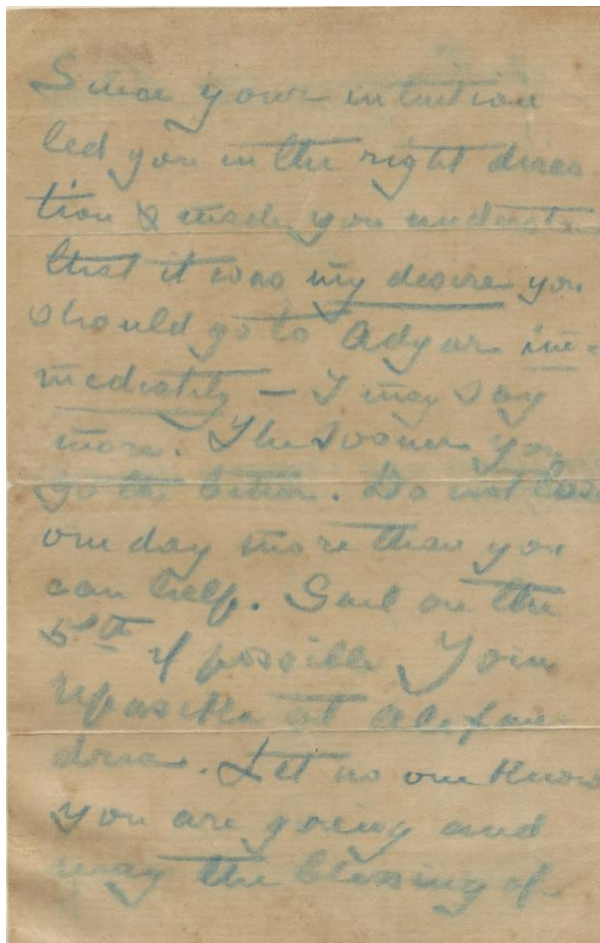
Even at that hour a number of devoted friends were gathered in Mrs. Oakley's drawing-room to say farewell to Madame Blavatsky, who seated herself in an easy-chair by the fireside. She was talking brilliantly to those who were present, and rolling one of her eternal cigarettes, when suddenly her right hand was jerked out towards the fire in a very peculiar fashion, and lay palm upwards. She looked down at it in surprise, as I did myself, for I was standing close to her, leaning with an elbow on the mantel-piece: and several of us saw quite clearly a sort of whitish mist form in the palm of her hand and then condense into a piece of folded paper, which she at once handed to me, saying: "There is your answer." Everyone in the room crowded round, of course, but she sent me away outside to read it, saying that I must not let anyone see its contents. It was a very short note and ran as follows:

**Since your intuition led you in the right direction and made you understand that it was *my desire* you should go to Adyar *immediately*, I may say more. The sooner you go the better. Do not lose one day more than you can help. Sail on the 5th, if possible. Join Upasika<sup>1</sup> at Alexandria. Let no one know that you are going, and may the blessing of our Lord and my poor blessing shield you from every evil in your new life.**

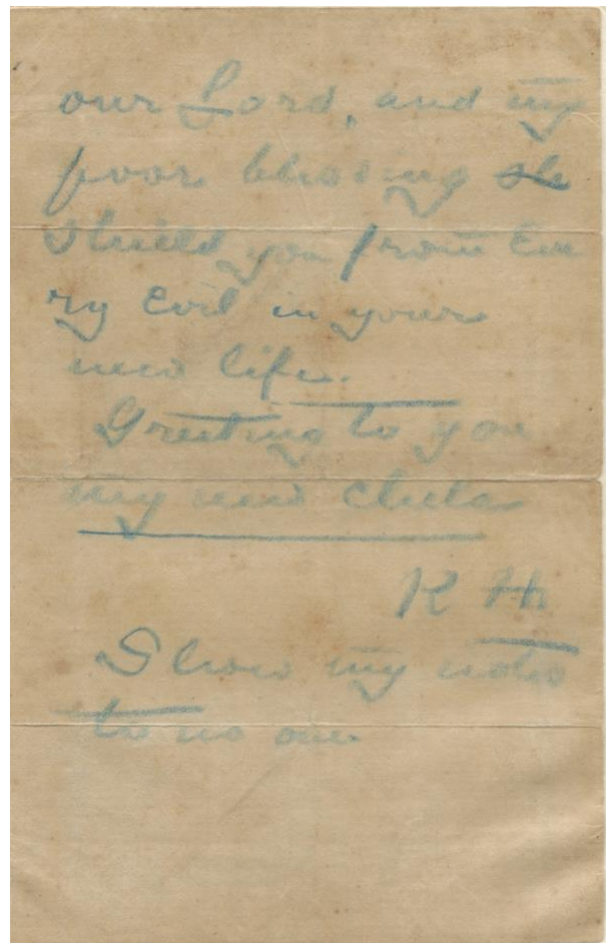
Greeting to you, *my new chela*.

K. H.

<sup>1</sup> Upasika means a disciple in a female body; our Masters often spoke of Madame Blavatsky by this title.



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our Lord, and my poor blessing shield you from every evil in your new life.  
Greeting to you  
my new chela  
K H  
Show my notes to no one

Facsimile of the second letter from Master K.H. to CWL.  
Source: Theosophy Wiki