

Adyar, Madras, S.  
October 31st., 1912.

My dear Fritz,

I have several letters of yours to answer, the last one bearing the date of September 27th, and enclosing a letter from Mrs. Maguire. Of course I should be glad if that family becomes friendly once more, though I think they did not behave very well at the time of the riot. I think that Howard must, or at any rate will recover his interest in Theosophy, because I find from the study of past lives that he has long been associated with the group of Servers in some capacity or other. He was a curious boy, but there was a nice side to him, and I always hoped to be able to strengthen it.

I notice that your sister Litta seems to have gone to Krotona as well as Alma; I suppose that means that she also is going to devote her life to the work. You ought to be able to make a very fine centre there, and the surrounding atmosphere should make both work and development easier than they would be elsewhere.

I am glad that the Convention was so harmonious and successful. It was certainly quite the right thing to put Dr. Van Hook in the chair at the E.S. meeting, and I hope that it may be found possible for all to work harmoniously towards the same goal, even if they do so along different lines. I am much interested to hear of the reappearance of our old friend Hotchner. For some years now he has been writing to me in the most friendly and genial manner, apparently quite ignoring the truly abominable manner in which he behaved at the critical moment. I fancy he has forgotten, or does not realise, what he did and said at that time; and if he has forgotten it, it is obviously best for us to forget it too, and to receive him precisely as though it had never happened. I believe that others besides Hotchner acted in those days under the stress of violent external influence, and were in that way caused to say and do things that otherwise they would not have dreamed of. On my side I am always most willing to forget the past, and to try to make use of the people in the work.

I note what you say about Mrs. Tuttle, and will be careful accordingly. Please do not suppose for a moment that I am in the least hostile to Mrs. Russak; I have always liked her personally very much, and I think her a valuable asset for the Society. She has a charming manner, and speaks very nicely, and I have always seen her most willing to take even a great amount of trouble when she saw an opportunity of helping in the world. I think she works best when she is the principal person of the party, and the centre of attraction. For that reason it is best to give her those conditions when possible, in order that the best work may be got out of her. In many cases she has seen things clairvoyantly quite correctly, but there is sometimes a tendency to exaggeration and to an undue magnification of the importance of things seen--as for example when an ordinary ceremony of admission into the church of the period (corresponding to a Christian baptism) is translated into a great initiation in the presence of practically the whole <sup>pecul</sup> Hierarchy. Therefore it is sometimes necessary to take her revelations cum grano salis. I hear from Mrs. Besant that Mrs. Russak believes herself to have been put on probation some years ago, and then that her seven years will be up in about twelve months' time. I know nothing about this one way or the other, and it is not in the least my business; but it does not alter the facts which I have mentioned above. Now that you have the Tuttles with you at Krotona you can probably guide their undoubted enthusiasm into safe channels, and prevent any unwise manifestations.



I do not remember whether the paper to be employed by the sixth root-race was of dull or glossy surface. My impression is that both were used. The colour was of pale sea-green, and the printing ink was dark blue, not violet. I note that Miss Holbrook has done much of the work on the Messenger; that is very good, but I rather doubt the wisdom of publishing such articles as those which she recently wrote in which she tried to discover connection between all sorts of obviously unconnected subjects--the Ram of Gad and the Lamb of God for example!

So Douglas Pettit is married! Is it to that Miss Forde of whom you wrote as being infatuated with him? I am afraid that he is quite a dangerous person. I have no doubt that he was hypnotised during his interviews with Mrs. Tingley, but the fact remains that she extracted from him some kind of affidavit of impure connection or improper connection with me; and no doubt that affidavit still remains, and will be used by the Tingleyites all over the world. Now Fullerton at the time of the original trouble made that very same enquiry from Douglas most indignantly and emphatically denied the insinuation; and his father wrote a letter to Mrs. Russak in which he reported this with much strong comment, and with much indignation that Fullerton should write such an abominable letter to his son. But most unfortunately old Pettit afterwards asked to have that letter back, and all believed that Mrs. Russak returned it to him--in fact I seem to remember writing to Mrs. Russak about it myself, as of course we did not then know that it would afterwards be of importance. If we could now recover that letter or get a copy of it it would be of value to set against the affidavit. I know that Mrs. Russak and Mr. Warrington obtained from Douglas a statement that he was under influence when he signed; but you can see that that other original statement, made so much nearer to the time of the alleged improprieties, would carry far greater weight. All the more is this important because of recent developments here.

(The bitter attack which has for so long been made upon the Society here in Madras has just entered upon a new phase, as you may see by the enclosed, which is the copy of a letter which I have just written to England about it. You will no doubt hear a good deal more next week. With very much love

I am ever,  
Yours most affectionately,

CW Leadbeater.