

ADDRESS BY C. JINARĀJADĀSA

MY BROTHER,

I address you as a brother and not as a friend, because the whole basis of the work of our Society is based upon the attempt to realize and practise the significance of the great Law of Brotherhood.

When you signed your application to join, you read what are the Three Objects of the Society; but of these the first and foremost is that of Universal Brotherhood, without the various distinctions mentioned in the Object. You will remember, if you are a Christian, that Jesus Christ taught that man's two duties are first, to love God and, second, to love one's neighbour as oneself. If you are a Hindu or Jain or Sikh or Buddhist or Muslim or Zoroastrian or of the Hebrew faith, you will recall the doctrine

inculcated there of profound charity to all mankind. In exactly the same way, our life, if it is to be effective and spiritual, must be like a medallion with two faces: one of aspiration towards the Divine, and the other of working in all possible ways of Brotherhood to alleviate the lot of mankind. If you will think over this second aspect of our lives, you will see what hundreds of ways we can all find of making Theosophy *practical*.

I would like to make clear to you that in joining the Society you have not bound yourself to any ideas generally termed by the public as 'Theosophy' like Reincarnation, Karma, the existence of Adept Teachers, and so on. All these great ideas (which for some of us are intense realities) are presented to you for examination and evaluation in the light of your experiences and hopes. There is no kind of orthodoxy whatever in Theosophy, and your membership in a Lodge does not commit you to believe in any thing that is said or studied. The only moral obligation which you assume is that of joining in study and discussion and of being courteous where you must necessarily differ. But I would like to point to you the difference between

joining the Theosophical Society and other philosophical or philanthropical societies. We are a band of brothers earnestly seeking Truth, not for our personal salvation, but in order that we may dispel the darkness and ignorance around us. Wherever any group meets, even of two or three, for such a noble object, they do not work alone. Recall what Jesus Christ said: 'Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.' That is true with every group, of whatever faith or none, who meet as *brothers*, that is, in a bond of unselfish aspiration pledged to 'try to lift a little of the heavy karma of the world'. I hope you will attend as many Lodge meetings as possible; but when you cannot attend, think of the others where they are meeting, and send them your blessings, so that the joint work, yours and theirs, may come to swift fulfilment.

The Theosophical Society was organized by certain Adept Teachers of whom you will read, but in whom you are not obliged to believe. It was Their purpose to bring about a great change in human relations by emphasizing once again the ideal of Brotherhood. Of course every religion has taught this truth; but the innumerable

wars of mankind, and the strife amongst the industrial and other groups in each nation are a proof that the religions have succeeded only partially. Once again there began with the Theosophical Society a great attempt on the part of Those who are the Elder Brothers of Humanity to bring to the forefront of man's consciousness the idea of Brotherhood. It is only in so far as you train yourself to see *brothers* on all sides of you, that you will find mysteriously that not only does your own inner life expand, but that there comes to you a great sense of charity and peace.

Our life is composed of reactions to others every minute of the day. Some of these reactions are full of beauty and happiness, as those towards those whom we love or admire; but others cause us much trouble and misery. Whenever you have to react to someone who has troubled you or who is your enemy, then, before your reaction starts, say to yourself: 'He is my brother.' You will then find that your reaction towards him will be both more just and more charitable. Similarly, try to make the men and women around you less the ciphers they are now. As you sit in a bus or a tram, think of the one by

your side as your *brother*. Little by little, as you emphasize this thought, you will be able to discover for yourself many truths of Theosophy that will inspire you to better living and conduct.

A Theosophist *is* as a Theosophist *acts*. The only possible action is that which is irradiated with the spirit of Brotherhood. If you will try to be a brother to all that lives — human and non-human — you will be able to know for yourself that you yourself are 'the Way, the Truth and the Life' as also the Joy.