

LAYING THE FOUNDATION STONE OF THE AJNA ASHRAMA

On Sunday Morning, August 3, a brilliant sun rode the heavens and shed its rays with power upon the group gathered to lay the Foundation Stone of the Ajna Ashrama. This Stone was laid in direct alignment with the North Star, the Star that stands changelessly in its place in the Heavens above that far-famed mountain of the Sacred Land called Mt. Meru.

Yogagnani opened the Services with Certain Words of Power given for that occasion. This was followed by a Silence, during which each Group was linked up with this Center.

An address then followed in which Yogi pointed out the great opportunity we now have to serve humanity, especially emphasising our social duties along civic, national and occult lines of work.

A temporary Altar was placed just back of the Foundation Stone; at each side stood Yogi and Sheila, just back of them were placed four, Laura Felver, Carl Gatchell, Joanna Wilson and Peter de Cono. These four held the Silence steadily, until the dedication Service. Following Yogagnani's address, Sheila spoke a few words and then said: "In the Name of the Neophytes of this Order and of those who are to become one with us, let us all join in asking the blessing and guidance of Avalokitishvara this day." And together all sent forth the following request:

Avaloketishvara, Thou, to whom nothing is hidden, purify us;

Thou, from Whom all Power descends, make us powerful in this, Thy work.

Thou, Who doth control the tempests, help us to control our emotions and our hearts;

Thou, Who doth radiate the Light, illumine our minds;

Thou, Who doth show infinite Compassion to all living things, lead us to do likewise.

Om, Om, Om, Santee.

A moment of Silence followed and then the gifts for the building fund of the Ashrama were laid on the Altar, one by one, while the Four kept the AUM sounding softly in harmonious rythma. This was followed by words of reverence, spoken by the group, asking acceptance of the gifts by the Masters.

Sheila then said: "Now shall the WORD of POWER flow through each and every Stone whose name lies as a Jewel encased herein, and as its Sound leaps forth in space, bow each one your head and ask that Grace may rest upon that one." She then lifted the box containing the names of the enrolled Neophytes and holding them over the Foundation prepared for them said; "Here are the Foundation Stones, O Brothers of the Sacred Mountain. Deign to place the Seal of the Great Architect upon each one, that all may answer when their name is called on that Great Day, Be With Us: Here AM I!"

The Guru Line was then lined up with the Groups by a special invocation of the entire line.

Yogagnani then took the box and handed the names one by one to Sheila, who announced each name aloud and it was repeated by the group aloud, and during this period, the Four kept sounding the AUM in strong rythmical tones that lifted and vibrated through and into each name thus spoken. When all had been announced, Sheila returned them to the box, which included a copy of the Guru Line, and the photos of several members. He then locked it and the Chief of Construction, Mr. de Cono, and Mr. Clyde Reid stepped forward, Yogi placed it in the place prepared for it and the two cemented it in. The evening before James A. Briggs, had drawn the name of the Order and the date upon the cement surface under the box.

While the foundation stones were being cemented in all sang the following song:

All Together

Father, Mother, Sister, Brother, Central Sun of Love and Light
Here we place our hands together, and, as ONE, reflect Thy Light.

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Upon this, a firm foundation, pledge we now our hearts and hands,
For building the Ashrama, Place of Refuge, on this land.

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And on this, our Sacred Mountain, lies our choice of home to be,
And upon this firm foundation, it shall rise for you and me.

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We the Stones, and we the Builders, lift our hearts unto the ALL,
For within, above, about us, feel we now the Masters' Call.

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Now in Unity with Power, do we rise and place the Stone,
That shall be the Foundation Center of our Ashrama, of our dear Home.

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Then with Yogi's blessing and our response of "Peace be with Thee", and,
"With thee Peace", we dispersed.

The morning was glorious, air fresh and bright, birds singing, water
making its undertone of OM, the happy faces, and the splendid vibrations
radiated by true, sincere hearts gave us all an uplift that is not possible
to describe.

Yogi and Sheila wore the black silk robe, over white, black symbolizing
Matter or form-giving power, and, white under black pure spirit enshrined
within matter. Laura wore a robe of gold, and Joanna of deep sky blue.
The Gold of the Sun, and the Blue of Devotion. Carl was in white and Peter
in Indigo. Many of the Neophytes wore white and in the gleaming sun they made
a beautiful picture. Our only regret is that no photograph was taken of us
all as we stood that day.

An occult form of seating was used, and to those who understood its significance, much was revealed.

The week that followed we will leave the telling to those members of each group who were present. But hearts were knitted in selfless love and heavy tests met and passed by many. The Third Degree opened with Seven emplaced. This year will prove whether they have the power to stand, for 3 and seven are numbers of the mysteries.

It was said by some visitors that never had such unselfishness been seen, and never such true love been manifested anywhere. It was a privilege to be one of us.

Make your plans early for next summer, for none should miss that which will unfold during that season.