

San Fernando, Calif.,  
Jan. 9, 1931

Mr. Wm. Nelson Clayberg,  
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Mr. Clayberg:

It is with pleasure that I extend the hand of welcome to you as a fellow-worker in a common field. There is an occult psychological law by which those who are attuned to the same field of conscious interest tend to be drawn together. This principle applies in a special degree in the case of work of the type to which the Rama Sangha is devoted. Indeed, most if not all of us have been together before in a common endeavor and now meet once more in the continuance of a labor we had left unfinished. And perchance we will meet again and yet again in the Days of Time yet to come.

I have just seen your short article which our esteemed sister, Laura Felver, forwarded to us. I see your thought strikes true to our field of interest. I think that you are right. We are in the midst of a very serious crisis. In my opinion it is by far the worst in history's times and I believe that this is also the opinion of great thinkers like Keyserling, Bertrand Russell and that profound scientific sage, Einstein. And for those who see this situation there exists an especial demand that they shall put forth their best effort toward the turning of the current in human affairs away from an abyss that is yawning near. Whether our ability be large or small it is both our duty and opportunity to devote it to the end that our brothers may take the higher road that lies before them. The Rama Sangha is first of all devoted to this service.

There is one criticism which I should like to make, if I may, with respect to your article. You say: "Will humanity learn the lesson which the needs of the times are designed to teach? No." Now as a matter of mere prediction we may see that this is probably true. But the whole point of our effort is the creative direction of our forces so as to prevent this from being true. In other words, it is our duty not to formally accept defeat so long as we still remain on the field. To say before hand that humanity will not learn the lesson is tantamount to taking an attitude of defeatism. It may indeed prove to be the case in the end, but by expressing the idea we help to make the defeat more extensive than it need have been. For such words may lead one or more who reads them to take a position of fatalistic relaxation which will make that defeat inevitable for them, whereas a putting forth of self-induced effort would have turned the tide. I think that you will see the point, i.e., that that form of expression is psychologically unwise. It is well to warn against a danger, but we should always do it in such a way as to spur the reader or listener on to greater effort.

With best wishes for your future as a Rama Sanghi, I am

Yours in the Common Cause,