

*Return for  
yogas file  
as soon  
as recd. Sheld*

San Fernando, Calif.,  
Mar. 5, 1931.

Dear Mr. Clayberg:

I am returning herewith your answers to questions on chapters I and II. I have made notations in ink for one reason or another which I think you will find self-explanatory. Certain collateral reading has been suggested which will help to broaden your concepts if you follow them up.. For the most part your answers are accurate.

In the teaching of "Yoga" the first time <sup>half</sup> through it will be wise to confine the work to those who are already members of the "Rama Sangha". This will tend to build a more strongly knit group to stand the stress of admitting new individual centers of consciousness. It is highly important that this be thought of as a common work of the group, though naturally those best fitted to express themselves will occupy the platform more than others. But the individual on the platform is by no means the whole thing. He is dependent upon the group in making his expression possible.

Now I have certain warnings for you. Whenever a student moves in the direction of genuine occult unfoldment and particularly when he comes into an alignment working toward that end unavoidably the latent qualities in his nature, whether good or bad, come to the surface. The latent good qualities are a source of strength and support and do not make a problem, but the latent negative qualities do afford problems that often become crucially serious. In addition to the native force of these negative qualities there is another factor which the student of the occult must face. This has to do with a fundamental principle of occult mechanics. The forces of Light from the beginning of any cycle of manifestation are opposed by the forces of Darkness. From this conflict worlds are born and so in the metaphysical sense all this is necessary. But that which takes place on the grand scale also is reproduced in the small. On the plane of man's effort the forces of Darkness include the brothers of the Shadow who are men that have fallen into conscious evil. In the present cycle they are strong as any close observer can easily see. But they can affect any given individual only through his weaknesses. They do this by throwing their force into these weaknesses at any time the individual has allowed them to take over the reigns of his thought and action. Now as the average man of neutral qualities is not very important in the Great Battle he has to face the action of this law in only a general way. But he who aspires to Spiritual Power and places real force back of his aspiration attracts both the attention of the true Masters and also those who move in the Shadow. The result is he will find every little weakness tremendously intensified. The same thing happens on the positive side also, but I am warning you against a danger. Now there are two ways to guard against this negative aspect. One is to simply use your own skill in fighting the negative aspect to the best of your ability, and this every one should do. But in addition there is help which comes from alignment with the current flowing through the group, which is there for the protection of every individual save as he closes the door to its action. The student that keeps his alignment unbroken will find that the balance of strength is always on the positive side. But if he would invoke this protection he must obey

certain rules that are not arbitrary but simply necessary. Now one of these is that the student should restrict his group activities insofar as they bear upon the occult philosophy, to the one alignment. And in that alignment he should learn to hold his personal opinion in abeyance. Mind this is not interference with the individual freedom of thought. Holding an idea in abeyance is not abandoning an idea, but is simply doing what every scientist in the exoteric sense, even, has had to learn to do, i.e., suspend his judgment until he is thoroughly oriented. If any individual's personal opinion is true it will be vindicated in the end, but if the student would reach into depths beyond surface consciousness he must be willing to adnegate attachment to personal opinion in favor of Truth whatever that may be. This is the real asceticism that is an absolute requirement of all true occultism. Physical asceticism is a mere detail beside this and is of no value whatsoever unless built on the background of the higher asceticism.

Now you have possibilities which, I think, can ultimately flower into some degree of leadership. And rest assured that no one will be left unused who can truly qualify for leadership whether in the exoteric or esoteric worlds, for there are all too few such men and women. But you must be a pupil before you can teach. You must first master the lessons placed before you before you can be a self-directed teacher of those lessons or intelligently decide that they do not represent your line of action. Now this means that when you take this work, and especially if you carry a platform part, that you do no other teaching or leading outside this specific work. This does not apply to purely exoteric activities, such as science, politics etc., but to activities that bear upon the occult. Otherwise the lines of protection are broken. I know that this is not an easy step for those who have something of the possibilities of leadership and that is why so many such individuals drop out along the way. But cultivate patience, if you can, and in the end greater doors of opportunity will open. It is the LAW.

It is necessary that you keep yourself aligned with the one who is primarily responsible for the work in Chicago, i.e., Laura Felver. This means not to be her critic, so far as the specific work there is concerned. That is not your responsibility. This has nothing to do with the relative stature of you and her as individuals so you have no need to feel troubled on that score. Beyond the personal vessel there is the current of consciousness that flows through. You will do well to listen to her while you are placed where you are. The future lies in your hands.

In your letter of Feb. 23rd you say "there seems to be something missing-- something I cannot at present define". Well do as I have told you and -- BE PATIENT.

May the Gods of Light smile upon you and may the day be not far distant when you shall find Their Presence.

*Yogamani*