

*Helena Petrovna Blavatsky*  
***The Voice of the Silence***



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## About this edition

Until 1889, when HP Blavatsky first translated three treatises from the “Book of the Golden Precepts” and dedicated them to “The Few,” Higher Ethics were available only to Initiates of a certain trans-Himalayan Esoteric School. These treatises are “part of the same series as that from which the ‘Stanzas’ of the *Book of Dzyan* were taken, on which the *Secret Doctrine* is based,” says Blavatsky in her Preface. They have since become widely known as *The Voice of the Silence* from the title of the first.

This Students Edition was first released in 1996 following cross-verification of three reprints of the original edition of 1889, namely:

1. A reprint with notes and comments by Alice Leighton Cleather and Basil Crump, first published under the auspices of the Chinese Buddhist Research Society, Peking 1927; re-published by The H.P.B. Lending Library, Vernon, 1978. ISBN 0-9690784-0-4 [abbreviated as Peking ed.]
2. A reprint with introduction, notes and index by Arya Asanga (AJ Hamerster). Golden Jubilee Edition, published by the Theosophical Publishing House, Adyar, 1939. [abbreviated as Jubilee ed.]
3. A facsimile reprint with introduction and index by Boris de Zirkoff. Centenary edition, published posthumously by the Theosophical Publishing House, Wheaton, 1991; re-published by Quest, Wheaton, 1992. ISBN 0-8356-0680-5 [abbreviated as BdZ ed.]

### Paragraph numbering and annotations

Blavatsky had arranged her selections from the “Book of the Golden Precepts” in 316 paragraphs. She also inserted 24 brief explanatory footnotes in the main body (plus 1 in the Glossary to Part III), and provided 120 detailed endnotes in three glossaries.

The original paragraphs and annotations were numbered consecutively in the Golden Jubilee edition and we have adopted the latter system in this edition.

Our own notes are kept in square brackets.

EDITORS



FIRST SERIES

THE VOICE OF THE SILENCE

BEING

*CHOSEN FRAGMENTS*

FROM THE

“BOOK OF THE GOLDEN PRECEPTS.”

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*FOR THE DAILY USE OF LAMOOS (DISCIPLES).*

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TRANSLATED AND ANNOTATED

BY

“H. P. B.”

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1889



I<sup>st</sup> Series.

The Voice of the Silence

being  
Chosen fragments  
from the

"Book of the Golden Precepts"

For the daily use of Disciples  
(Disciples)

translated & rendered into English  
by  
"H. P. B."



## Preface

The following pages are derived from “The Book of the Golden Precepts,” one of the works put into the hands of mystic students in the East. The knowledge of them is obligatory in that school, the teachings of which are accepted by many Theosophists. Therefore, as I know many of these Precepts by heart, the work of translating has been relatively an easy task for me.

It is well known that, in India, the methods of psychic development differ with the Gurus (teachers or masters), not only because of their belonging to different schools of philosophy, of which there are six,\* but because every Guru has his own system, which he generally keeps very secret. But beyond the Himalayas the method in the Esoteric Schools does not [vi] differ, unless the Guru is simply a Lama, but little more learned than those he teaches.

The work from which I here translate forms part of the same series as that from which the “Stanzas” of the *Book of Dzyan* were taken, on which the *Secret Doctrine* is based. Together with the great mystic work called *Paramârtha*, which, the legend of *Nâgârjuna* tells us, was delivered to the great Arhat by the Nagas or “Serpents” (in truth a name given to the ancient Initiates), the “Book of the Golden Precepts” claims the same origin. Yet its maxims and ideas, however, noble and original, are often found under different forms in Sanskrit works, such as the *Dnyaneshwari*, that superb mystic treatise in which Krishna describes to Arjuna in glowing colours the condition of a fully illumined Yogi; and again in certain Upanishads. This is but natural, since most, if not all, of the greatest Arhats, the first followers of Gautama Buddha [vii] were Hindus and Aryans, not Mongolians, especially those who emigrated into Tibet. The works left by Aryasangâ alone are very numerous.

The original *Precepts* are engraved on thin oblong squares; copies very often on discs. These discs, or plates, are generally preserved on the altars of the temples attached to centres where the so-called “contemplative” or “Mahâyâna (Yogachârya) schools are established. They are written variously, sometimes in Tibetan but mostly in ideographs. The sacerdotal language (Senzar), besides an alphabet of its own, may be rendered in several modes of writing in cypher characters, which partake more of the nature of ideographs than of syllables. Another method (*lug*, in Tibetan) is to use the numerals and colours, each of which correspond to a letter of the Tibetan alphabet (thirty simple and seventy-four compound letters) thus forming a complete cryptographic alphabet. [viii] When the ideographs are used there is a definite mode of reading the text; as in this case the symbols and signs used in astrology, namely the

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\* [I.e.,

- (1) *Nyaya*, the logical school of Rishi Gautama;
- (2) *Vaisheshika*, the atomic system of Kanada;
- (3) *Sankhya*, the pantheistic school of Kapila;
- (4) *Yoga*, the mystical school of Patanjali;
- (5) *Purva* (early) Mimamsa; and
- (6) *Uttara* (later) Mimamsa of Vyasa, which is called *Vedanta*.

There is a seventh school, which is a much later one, the *Pauranika*, or the eclectic school which presents the teachings of the *Bhagavad-Gita*, but is not included in the number of the ancient *Darsanas*. None of the other, later schools are taken into account.” *Blavatsky Collected Writings*, (NEO-BUDDHISM) XII p. 343 & fn.]



twelve zodiacal animals and the seven primary colours, each a triplet in shade, *i.e.* the light, the primary and the dark — stand for the thirty-three letters of the simple alphabet, for words and sentences. For in this method, the twelve “animals” five times repeated and coupled with the five elements and the seven colours, furnish a whole alphabet composed of sixty sacred letters and twelve signs. A sign placed at the beginning of the text determines whether the reader has to spell it according to the Indian mode, when every word is simply a Sanskrit adaptation, or according to the Chinese principle of reading the ideographs. The easiest way however, is that which allows the reader to use no special, or *any* language he likes, as the signs and symbols were, like the Arabian numerals or figures, [ix] common and international property among initiated mystics and their followers. The same peculiarity is characteristic of one of the Chinese modes of writing, which can be read with equal facility by anyone acquainted with the character: for instance, a Japanese can read it in his own language as readily as a Chinaman\* in his.

The Book of the Golden Precepts — some of which are pre-Buddhistic while others belong to a later date — contains about ninety distinct little treatises. Of these I learnt thirty-nine by heart, years ago. To translate the rest, I should have to resort to notes scattered among a too large number of papers and memoranda collected for the last twenty years and never put in order, to make of it by any means an easy task. Nor could they be all translated and given to a world too selfish and too much attached to objects of sense to be in any way prepared to receive [x] such exalted ethics in the right spirit. For, unless a man perseveres seriously in the pursuit of self-knowledge, he will never lend a willing ear to advice of this nature.

And yet such ethics fill volumes upon volumes in Eastern literature, especially in the Upanishads. “Kill out all desire of life,” says Krishna to Arjuna. That desire lingers only in the body, the vehicle of the embodied Self, not in the SELF which is “eternal, indestructible, which kills not nor is it killed” (*Katha Upanishad*). “Kill out sensation,” teaches *Sutta Nipâta*; “look alike on pleasure and pain, gain and loss, victory and defeat.” Again, “Seek shelter in the eternal alone” (*ibid.*). “Destroy the sense of separateness,” repeats Krishna under every form. “The Mind (*Manas*) which follows the rambling senses, makes the Soul (*Buddhi*) as helpless as the boat which the wind leads astray upon the waters” (*Bhagavatgita II. 70*). [xi]

Therefore it has been thought better to make a judicious selection only from those treatises which will best suit the few real mystics in the Theosophical Society, and which are sure to answer their needs. It is only these who will appreciate the words of Krishna-Christos, the “Higher Self”:—

“Sages do not grieve for the living nor the dead. Never did I not exist, nor you, nor these rulers of men; nor will any one of us ever hereafter cease to be.” (*Bhagavatgita II. 27*).

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\* [Chinese, in Peking ed. Cf. “‘Chinaman’ originated with Pidgin English and the nickname ‘John Chinaman’; but since 1900 it has been more and more discarded in favour of the correct term ‘Chinese’. In Milton we read:

“Of *Sericana* (the ancient name of China, whereas Cathay is Mediaeval), where *Chineses* drive  
With Sails and wind their cany waggons light”; (*Paradise Lost*, Bk. II, l. 438)

Our Chinese friends having pointed out that ‘Chinaman’ was unsuitable for a serious work, we felt justified in making the alteration.” Peking ed.]



THE VOICE OF THE SILENCE  
PREFACE

In this translation, I have done my best to preserve the poetical beauty of language and imagery which characterise the original. How far this effort has been successful, is for the reader to judge.

“H.P.B.”



Amitabha Buddha



*Dedicated to the Few.*





*H.P. B. to H.P. Blavatsky  
with no kind regards.*

[Photograph of HP Blavatsky and antiphrastic autograph of her personal copy.]



# THE VOICE OF THE SILENCE

1 THESE instructions are for those ignorant of the dangers of the lower IDDHI.<sup>1</sup>

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2 He who would hear the voice of *Nada*,<sup>2</sup> “the Soundless Sound,” and comprehend it, he has to learn the nature of *Dhâranâ*.<sup>3</sup>

3 Having become indifferent to objects of perception, the pupil must seek out the *rajah* of the senses, the Thought-Producer, he who awakes illusion.

4 The Mind is the great Slayer of the Real.

5 Let the Disciple slay the Slayer. [2]

For: —

6 When to himself his form appears unreal, as do on waking all the forms he sees in dreams;

7 When he has ceased to hear the many, he may discern the ONE — the inner sound which kills the outer.

8 Then only, not till then, shall he forsake the region of *Asat*, the false, to come unto the realm of *Sat*, the true.

9 Before the soul can see, the Harmony within must be attained, and fleshly eyes be rendered blind to all illusion.

10 Before the Soul can hear, the image (man) has to become as deaf to roarings as to whispers, to cries of bellowing elephants as to the silvery buzzing of the golden fire-fly.

11 Before the soul can comprehend and may [3] remember, she must unto the Silent Speaker be united, just as the form to which the clay is modelled, is first united with the potter’s mind.

12 For then the soul will hear, and will remember.

13 And then to the inner ear will speak —

## THE VOICE OF THE SILENCE

And say: —

14 If thy soul smiles while bathing in the Sunlight of thy Life; if thy soul sings within her chrysalis of flesh and matter; if thy soul weeps inside her castle of illusion; if thy soul struggles to break the silver thread that binds her to the MASTER;<sup>4</sup> know, O Disciple, thy Soul is of the earth.

15 When to the World’s turmoil thy budding soul<sup>5</sup> lends ear; when to the roaring voice of the great illusion thy Soul responds;<sup>6</sup> when frightened at the sight of the hot tears of pain, when deafened by the [4] cries of distress, thy soul withdraws like the shy turtle within the carapace of SELFHOOD, learn, O Disciple, of her Silent “God” thy Soul is an unworthy shrine.



- 16 When waxing stronger, thy Soul glides forth from her secure retreat: and breaking loose from the protecting shrine, extends her silver thread and rushes onward; when beholding her image on the waves of Space she whispers, “This is I” — declare, O Disciple, that thy soul is caught in the webs of delusion.<sup>7</sup>
- 17 This earth, Disciple, is the Hall of Sorrow, wherein are set along the Path of dire probations, traps to ensnare thy EGO by the delusion called “Great Heresy.”<sup>8</sup>
- 18 This earth, O ignorant Disciple, is but the dismal entrance leading to the twilight that precedes the valley of true light — that light which no wind can extinguish, that light which burns without a wick or fuel. [5]
- 19 Saith the Great Law: — “In order to become the KNOWER of ALL SELF,<sup>9</sup> thou hast first of SELF to be the knower.” To reach the knowledge of that SELF, thou has to give up *Self* to Non-Self, Being to Non-Being, and then thou canst repose between the wings of the GREAT BIRD. Aye, sweet is rest between the wings of that which is not born, nor dies, but is the AUM<sup>10</sup> throughout eternal ages.<sup>11</sup>
- 20 Bestride the Bird of Life, if thou would’st know.<sup>12</sup>
- 21 Give up thy life, if thou would’st live.<sup>13</sup>
- 22 Three Halls, O weary pilgrim, lead to the end of toils. Three Halls, O conqueror of Mara, will bring thee through three states<sup>14</sup> into the fourth,<sup>15</sup> and thence into the seven worlds,<sup>16</sup> the worlds of Rest Eternal.
- 23 If thou would’st learn their names, then hearken, and remember. [6]
- 24 The name of the first Hall is IGNORANCE — *Avidya*.
- 25 It is the Hall in which thou saw’st the light, in which thou livest and shalt die.<sup>17</sup>
- 26 The name of Hall the second is the Hall of Learning.<sup>♦</sup> In it thy soul will find the blossoms of life, but under every flower a serpent coiled.<sup>18</sup>
- 27 The name of the third Hall is Wisdom, beyond which stretch the shoreless waters of AKSHARA, the indestructible Fount of Omniscience.<sup>19</sup>
- 28 If thou would’st cross the first Hall safely, let not thy mind mistake the fires of lust that burn therein for the Sunlight of life.
- 29 If thou would’st cross the second safely, stop not the fragrance of its stupefying blossoms to inhale. If [7] freed thou would’st be from the Karmic chains, seek not for thy Guru in those Mayavic regions.
- 30 The WISE ONES tarry not in pleasure-grounds of senses.
- 31 The WISE ONES heed not the sweet-tongued voices of illusion.

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<sup>♦</sup> The Hall of *Probationary Learning*.



- 32 Seek for him who is to give thee birth,<sup>20</sup> in the Hall of Wisdom, the Hall which lies beyond, wherein all shadows are unknown, and where the light of truth shines with unfading glory.
- 33 That which is uncreate abides in thee, Disciple, as it abides in that Hall. If thou would'st reach it and blend the two,\* though must divest thyself of thy dark garments of illusion. Stifle the voice of flesh, allow no image of the senses to get between its light and thine that thus the twain may blend in one. And having learnt thine own *Agyana*,<sup>21</sup> flee from the Hall of Learning. This Hall is dangerous in its perfidious [8] beauty, is needed but for thy probation. Beware, Lanoo, lest dazzled by illusive radiance thy Soul should linger and be caught in its deceptive light.
- 34 This light shines from the jewel of the Great Ensnarer, (Mara).<sup>22</sup> The senses it bewitches, blinds the mind, and leaves the unwary an abandoned wreck.
- 35 The moth attracted to the dazzling flame of thy night-lamp is doomed to perish in the viscid oil. The unwary Soul that fails to grapple with the mocking demon of illusion, will return to earth the slave of Mara.
- 36 Behold the Hosts of Souls. Watch how they hover o'er the stormy sea of human life, and how exhausted, bleeding, broken-winged, they drop one after other on the swelling waves. Tossed by the fierce winds, chased by the gale, they drift into the eddies and disappear within the first great vortex.
- 37 If through the Hall of Wisdom, thou would'st [9] reach the Vale of Bliss, Disciple, close fast thy senses against the great dire heresy of separateness that weans thee from the rest.
- 38 Let not thy "Heaven-born," merged in the sea of Maya, break from the Universal Parent (SOUL), but let the fiery power retire into the inmost chamber, the chamber of the Heart<sup>23</sup> and the abode of the World's Mother.<sup>24</sup>
- 39 Then from the heart that Power shall rise into the sixth, the middle region, the place between thine eyes, when it becomes the breath of the ONE-SOUL, the voice which filleth all, thy Master's voice.
- 40 'Tis only then thou canst become a "Walker of the Sky,"<sup>25</sup> who treads the winds above the waves, whose step touches not the waters.
- 41 Before thou set'st thy foot upon the ladder's upper rung, the ladder of the mystic sounds, thou hast to hear the voice of thy *inner* GOD<sup>♦</sup> in seven manners. [10]
- 42 The first is like the nightingale's sweet voice chanting a song of parting to its mate.
- 43 The second comes as the sound of a silver cymbal of the Dhyānis, awakening the twinkling stars.
- 44 The next is as the plaint melodious of the ocean-sprite imprisoned in its shell.

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\* [I.e., the create and uncreate, in Jubilee ed.]

♦ The Higher SELF.



- 45 And this is followed by the chant of Vina.<sup>26</sup>
- 46 The fifth like sound of bamboo-flute shrills in thine ear.
- 47 It changes next into a trumpet-blast.
- 48 The last vibrates like the dull rumbling of a thunder-cloud.
- 49 The seventh swallows all the other sounds. They die, and then are heard no more.
- 50 When the six<sup>27</sup> are slain and at the Master's [11] feet are laid, then is the pupil merged into the ONE,<sup>28</sup> becomes that ONE and lives therein.
- 51 Before that path is entered, thou must destroy thy lunar body,<sup>29</sup> cleanse thy mind-body<sup>30</sup> and make clean thy heart.
- 52 Eternal life's pure waters, clear and crystal, with the monsoon tempest's muddy torrents cannot mingle.
- 53 Heaven's dew-drop glittering in the morn's first sun-beam within the bosom of the lotus, when dropped on earth becomes a piece of clay; behold, the pearl is now a speck of mire.
- 54 Strive with thy thoughts unclean before they overpower thee. Use them as they will thee, for if thou sparest them and they take root and grow, know well, these thoughts will overpower and kill thee. Beware, Disciple, suffer not, e'en though it be their shadow, to approach. For it will grow, increase in size and power, and then this thing of darkness [12] will absorb thy being before thou hast well realised the black foul monster's presence.
- 55 Before the "mystic Power"<sup>♦31</sup> can make of thee a god, Lanoo, thou must have gained the faculty to slay thy lunar form at will.
- 56 The Self of matter and the SELF of Spirit can never meet. One of the twain must disappear; there is no place for both.
- 57 Ere thy Soul's mind can understand, the bud of personality must be crushed out, the worm of sense destroyed past resurrection.
- 58 Thou canst not travel on the Path before thou has become that Path itself.<sup>32</sup>
- 59 Let thy soul lend its ear to every cry of pain like as the lotus bares its heart to drink the morning sun. [13]
- 60 Let not the fierce Sun dry one tear of pain before thyself hast wiped it from the sufferer's eye.
- 61 But let each burning human tear drop on thy heart and there remain; nor ever brush it off, until the pain that caused it is removed.
- 62 These tears, O thou of heart most merciful, these are the streams that irrigate the fields of charity immortal. 'Tis on such soil that grows the midnight blossom of Buddha<sup>33</sup> more difficult to find, more rare to view than is the flower of the Vogay tree. It is the seed of freedom from rebirth. It isolates the Arhat both

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♦ Kundalini, the "Serpent Power" or mystic fire.



- from strife and lust, it leads him through the fields of Being unto the peace and bliss known only in the land of Silence and Non-Being.
- 63 Kill out desire; but if thou killest it take heed lest from the dead it should again arise.
- 64 Kill love of life; but if thou slayest *tanha*,<sup>34</sup> let [14] this not be for thirst of life eternal, but to replace the fleeting by the everlasting.
- 65 Desire nothing. Chafe not at Karma, nor at Nature's changeless laws. But struggle only with the personal, the transitory, the evanescent and the perishable.
- 66 Help Nature and work on with her; and Nature will regard thee as one of her creators and make obeisance.
- 67 And she will open wide before thee the portals of her secret chambers, lay bare before thy gaze the treasures hidden in the very depths of her pure virgin bosom. Unsullied by the hand of matter, she shows her treasures only to the eye of Spirit — the eye which never closes, the eye for which there is no veil in all her kingdoms.
- 68 Then will she show thee the means and way, the first gate and the second, the third, up to the very [15] seventh. And then, the goal — beyond which lie, bathed in the sunlight of the Spirit, glories untold, unseen by any save the eye of Soul.
- 69 There is but one road to the Path; at its very end alone the "Voice of the Silence" can be heard. The ladder by which the candidate ascends is formed of rungs of suffering and pain; these can be silenced only by the voice of virtue. Woe, then, to thee, Disciple, if there is one single vice thou has not left behind. For then the ladder will give way and overthrow thee; its foot rests in the deep mire of thy sins and failings, and ere thou canst attempt to cross this wide abyss of matter thou has to lave thy feet in Waters of Renunciation. Beware lest thou should'st set a foot still soiled upon the ladder's lowest rung. Woe unto him who dares pollutes one rung with miry feet. The foul and viscous mud will dry, become tenacious, then glue his feet unto the spot; and like a bird caught in the wily fowler's lime, he will be stayed from further progress. His vices will take shape and drag him down. His sins will [16] raise their voices like as the jackal's laugh and sob after the sun goes down; his thoughts become an army, and bear him off a captive slave.
- 70 Kill thy desires, Lanoo, make thy vices impotent, ere the first step is taken on the solemn journey.
- 71 Strangle thy sins, and make them dumb for ever, before thou dost lift one foot to mount the ladder.
- 72 Silence thy thoughts and fix thy whole attention on thy Master whom yet thou dost not see, but whom thou feelest.



- 73 Merge into one sense thy senses, if thou would'st be secure against the foe. 'Tis by that sense alone which lies concealed within the hollow of thy brain, that the steep path which leadeth to thy Master may be disclosed before the Soul's dim eyes.
- 74 Long and weary is the way before thee, O Disciple. One single thought about the past that thou has left [17] behind, will drag thee down and thou wilt have to start the climb anew.
- 75 Kill in thyself all memory of past experiences. Look not behind or thou art lost.
- 76 Do not believe that lust can ever be killed out if gratified or satiated, for this is an abomination inspired by Mara. It is by feeding vice that it expands and waxes strong, like to the worm that fattens on the blossom's heart.
- 77 The rose must re-become the bud born of its parent stem, before the parasite has eaten through its heart and drunk its life-sap.
- 78 The golden tree puts forth its jewel-buds before its trunk is withered by the storm.
- 79 The pupil must regain *the child-state he has lost* 'ere the first sound can fall upon his ear.
- 80 The light from the ONE Master, the one unfading [18] golden light of Spirit, shoots its effulgent beams on the disciple from the very first. Its rays thread through the thick dark clouds of matter.
- 81 Now here, now there, these rays illumine it, like sun-sparks light the earth through the thick foliage of the jungle growth. But, O Disciple, unless the flesh is passive, head cool, the soul as firm and pure as flaming diamond, the radiance will not reach the *chamber*,<sup>23</sup> its sunlight will not warm the heart, nor will the mystic sounds of the Akasic heights<sup>35</sup> reach the ear, however eager, at the initial stage.
- 82 Unless thou hearest, thou canst not see.
- 83 Unless thou seest thou canst not hear. To hear and see this is the second stage.
- . . . . .
- 84 When the disciple sees and hears, and when he smells and tastes, eyes closed, ears shut, with mouth and nostrils stopped; when the four senses blend and [19] ready are to pass into the fifth, that of the inner touch — then into stage the fourth he hath passed on.
- 85 And in the fifth, O slayer of thy thoughts, all these again have to be killed beyond reanimation.<sup>36</sup>
- 86 Withhold thy mind from all external objects, all external sights. Withhold internal images, lest on thy Soul-light a dark shadow they should cast.
- 87 Thou art now in DHÂRANĀ,<sup>37</sup> the sixth stage.



- 88 When thou hast passed into the seventh, O happy one, thou shalt perceive no more the sacred three,<sup>38</sup> for thou shalt have become that three thyself. Thyself and mind, like twins upon a line, the star which is thy goal, burns overhead.<sup>39</sup> The three that dwell in glory and in bliss ineffable, now in the world of Maya have lost their names. They have become one star, the fire that burns but scorches not, that fire which is the Upadhi<sup>40</sup> of the Flame. [20]
- 89 And this, O Yogi of success, is what men call Dhyâna,<sup>41</sup> the right precursor of Samâdhi.<sup>42</sup>
- 90 And now thy *Self* is lost in SELF, *thyself* unto THYSELF, merged in THAT SELF from which thou first didst radiate.
- 91 Where is thy individuality, Lanoo, where the Lanoo himself? It is the spark lost in the fire, the drop within the ocean, the ever-present Ray become the all and the eternal radiance.
- 92 And now, Lanoo, thou art the doer and the witness, the radiator and the radiation, Light in the Sound, and the Sound in the Light.
- 93 Thou art acquainted with the five impediments, O blessed one. Thou art their conqueror, the Master of the sixth, deliverer of the four modes of Truth.<sup>43</sup> The light that falls upon them shines from thyself, O thou who wast disciple, but art Teacher now. [21]
- And of these modes of Truth: —
- 94 Hast thou not passed through knowledge of all misery — Truth the first?
- 95 Hast thou not conquered the Maras' King at Tsi, the portal of assembling — truth the second?<sup>44</sup>
- 96 Hast thou not sin at the third gate destroyed and truth the third attained?
- 97 Has not thou entered *Tau*, the "Path" that leads to knowledge — the fourth truth?<sup>45</sup>
- 98 And now, rest 'neath the Bodhi tree, which is perfection of all knowledge, for, know, thou art the Master of SAMÂDHI — the state of faultless vision.
- 99 Behold! thou hast become the light, thou hast become the Sound, thou art thy Master and thy God. Thou art THYSELF the object of thy search: the [22] VOICE unbroken, that resounds throughout eternities, exempt from change, from sin exempt, the seven sounds in one, the

VOICE OF THE SILENCE

100

*Om Tat Sat*



## THE TWO PATHS

101 AND now, O Teacher of Compassion, point thou the way to other men. Behold, all those who knocking for admission, await in ignorance and darkness, to see the gate of the Sweet Law flung open!

The voice of the Candidates:

102 Shalt not thou, Master of thine own Mercy, reveal the Doctrine of the Heart?<sup>46</sup> Shalt thou refuse to lead thy Servants unto the Path of Liberation?

Quoth the Teacher:

103 The Paths are two; the great Perfections three; six are the Virtues that transform the body into the Tree of Knowledge.<sup>47</sup> [24]

104 Who shall approach them?

105 Who shall first enter them?

106 Who shall first hear the doctrine of two Paths in one, the truth unveiled about the Secret Heart?<sup>48</sup> \* The Law which, shunning learning, teaches Wisdom, reveals a tale of woe.

107 Alas, alas, that all men should possess Alaya, be one with the great Soul, and that possessing it, Alaya should so little avail them!

108 Behold how like the moon, reflected in the tranquil waves, Alaya is reflected by the small and by the great, is mirrored in the tiniest atoms, yet fails to reach the heart of all. Alas, that so few men should profit by the gift, the priceless boon of learning truth, the right perception of existing things, the Knowledge of the non-existent!

Saith the pupil: [25]

109 O Teacher, what shall I do to reach to Wisdom?

110 O Wise one, what, to gain perfection?

111 Search for the Paths. But, O Lanoo, be of clean heart before thou startest on thy journey. Before thou takest thy first step, learn to discern the real from the false, the ever-fleeting from the everlasting. Learn above all to separate Head-learning from Soul-Wisdom, the “Eye” from the “Heart” doctrine.

112 Yea, ignorance is like unto a closed and airless vessel; the soul a bird shut up within. It warbles not, nor can it stir a feather; but the songster mute and torpid sits, and of exhaustion dies.

113 But even ignorance is better than Head-learning with no Soul-wisdom to illuminate and guide it.

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\* [Note (2) in 1889 ed. should be corrected to (3).]



- 114 The seeds of Wisdom cannot sprout and grow in airless space. To live and reap experience the mind needs breadth and depth and points to draw it [26] towards the Diamond Soul.<sup>49</sup> Seek not those points in *Maya's* realm; but soar beyond illusions, search the eternal and the changeless SAT,<sup>50</sup> mistrusting fancy's false suggestions.
- 115 For mind is like a mirror; it gathers dust while it reflects.<sup>51</sup> It needs the gentle breezes of Soul Wisdom to brush away the dust of our illusions. Seek, O Beginner, to blend thy Mind and Soul.
- 116 Shun ignorance, and likewise shun illusion. Avert thy face from world deceptions; mistrust thy senses; they are false. But within thy body — the shrine of thy sensations — seek in the Impersonal for the “eternal man”;<sup>52</sup> and having sought him out, look inward: thou art Buddha.<sup>53</sup>
- 117 Shun praise, O Devotee. Praise leads to self-delusion. Thy body is not self, thy SELF is in itself without a body, and either praise or blame affects it not.
- 118 Self-gratulation, O disciple, is like unto a lofty tower, [27] up which a haughty fool has climbed. Thereon he sits in prideful solitude and unperceived by any but himself.
- 119 False learning is rejected by the Wise, and scattered to the Winds by the good Law. Its wheel revolves for all, the humble and the proud. The “Doctrine of the Eye”<sup>54</sup> is for the crowd; the “Doctrine of the Heart,” for the elect. The first repeat in pride: “Behold, I know,” the last, they who in humbleness have garnered, low confess, “thus have I heard.”<sup>55</sup>
- 120 “Great Sifter” is the name of the “Heart Doctrine,” O disciple.
- 121 The wheel of the good Law moves swiftly on. It grinds by night and day. The worthless husks it drives from out the golden grain, the refuse from the flour. The hand of Karma guides the wheel; the revolutions mark the beatings of the Karmic heart.
- 122 True knowledge is the flour, false learning is the [28] husk. If thou would'st eat the bread of Wisdom, thy flour thou hast to knead with Amrita's<sup>♦</sup> clear waters. But if thou kneadest husks with Maya's dew, thou canst create but food for the black doves of death, the birds of birth, decay and sorrow.
- 123 If thou art told that to become Arhan thou hast to cease to love all beings — tell them they lie.
- 124 If thou art told that to gain liberation thou hast to hate thy mother and disregard thy son; to disavow thy father and call him “householder”;<sup>56</sup> for man and beast all pity to renounce — tell them their tongue is false.
- 125 Thus teach the Tirthikas, the unbelievers.<sup>♥</sup>

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♦ Immortality.

♥ Brahman ascetics.



- 126 If thou art taught that sin is born of action and bliss of absolute inaction, then tell them that they err. Non-permanence of human action; deliverance of mind from thralldom by the cessation of sin and faults, [29] are not for “Deva Egos.”<sup>♠</sup> Thus saith the “Doctrine of the Heart.”
- 127 The Dharma of the “Eye” is the embodiment of the external, and the non-existing.
- 128 The Dharma of the “Heart” is the embodiment of Bodhi,<sup>♣</sup> the Permanent and Everlasting.
- 129 The Lamp burns bright when wick and oil are clean. To make them clean a cleaner is required. The flame feels not the process of the cleaning. “The branches of a tree are shaken by the wind; the trunk remains unmoved.”
- 130 Both action and inaction may find room in thee; thy body agitated, thy mind tranquil, thy Soul as limpid as a mountain lake.
- 131 Wouldst thou become a Yogi of “Time’s Circle”? Then, O Lanoo: — [30]
- 132 Believe thou not that sitting in dark forests, in proud seclusion and apart from men; believe thou not that life on roots and plants, that thirst assuaged with snow from the great Range — believe thou not, O Devotee, that this will lead thee to the goal of final liberation.
- 133 Think not that breaking bone, that rending flesh and muscle, unites thee to thy “silent Self.”<sup>57</sup> Think not, that when the sins of thy gross form are conquered, O Victim of thy Shadows,<sup>58</sup> thy duty is accomplished by nature and by man.
- 134 The blessed ones have scorned to do so. The Lion of the Law, the Lord of Mercy,<sup>♢</sup> perceiving the true cause of human woe, immediately forsook the sweet but selfish rest of quiet wilds. From Aranyaka<sup>59</sup> He became the Teacher of mankind. After Julai<sup>60</sup> had entered the Nirvâna, He preached on mount and plain, and held discourses in the cities, to Devas, men and gods.<sup>61</sup> [31]
- 135 Sow kindly acts and thou shalt reap their fruition. Inaction in a deed of mercy becomes an action in a deadly sin.
- Thus saith the Sage.
- 136 Shalt thou abstain from action? Not so shall gain thy soul her freedom. To reach Nirvâna one must reach Self-Knowledge, and Self-Knowledge is of loving deeds the child.
- 137 Have patience, Candidate, as one who fears no failure, courts no success. Fix thy Soul’s gaze upon the star whose ray thou art,<sup>62</sup> the flaming star that shines within the lightless depths of ever-being, the boundless fields of the Unknown.

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<sup>♠</sup> The reincarnating Ego.

<sup>♣</sup> True, divine Wisdom.

<sup>♢</sup> Buddha.



- 138 Have perseverance as one who doth for evermore endure. Thy shadows live and vanish,<sup>63</sup> that which in thee shall live for ever, that which in thee *knows*, for it is knowledge,<sup>64</sup> is not of fleeing\* life: it is the man that was that is, and will be, for whom the hour shall never strike. [32]
- 139 If thou would'st reap sweet peace and rest, Disciple, sow with the seeds of merit the fields of future harvests. Accept the woes of birth.
- 140 Step out from sunlight into shade, to make more room for others. The tears that water the parched soil of pain and sorrow, bring forth the blossoms and the fruits of Karmic retribution. Out of the furnace of man's life and its black smoke, winged flames arise, flames purified, that soaring onward, 'neath the Karmic eye, weave in the end the fabric glorified of the three vestures of the Path.<sup>65</sup>
- 141 These vestures are: Nirmānakāya, Sambhoga-Kāya, and Dharmakāya, robe Sublime.<sup>66</sup>
- 142 The *Shangna* robe,<sup>67</sup> 'tis true, can purchase light eternal. The Shangna robe alone gives the Nirvāna of destruction; it stops rebirth, but, O Lanoo, it also kills — compassion. No longer can the perfect Buddhas, who don the Dharmakāya glory, help man's salvation. Alas! shall SELVES be sacrificed to *Self*; mankind, unto the weal of Units? [33]
- 143 Know, O beginner, this is the *Open* PATH, the way to selfish bliss, shunned by the Bōddhisattvas† of the “Secret Heart,” the Buddhas of Compassion.
- 144 To live to benefit mankind is the first step. To practice the six glorious virtues<sup>68</sup> is the second.
- 145 To don Nirmānakāya's humble robe is to forego eternal bliss for *Self*, to help on man's salvation. To reach Nirvāna's bliss, but to renounce it, is the supreme, the final step — the highest on Renunciation's Path.
- 146 Know, O Disciple, this is the *Secret* PATH, selected by the Buddhas of Perfection, who sacrificed the *SELF* to weaker Selves.
- 147 Yet, if the “Doctrine of the Heart” is too high-winged for thee. If thou need'st help thyself and fearest to offer help to others,— then, thou of timid heart, be warned in time: remain content with the “Eye Doctrine” of the Law. Hope still. For if [34] the “Secret Path” is unattainable this “day,” it is within thy reach “to-morrow.”<sup>69</sup> Learn that no efforts, not the smallest — whether in right or wrong direction — can vanish from the world of causes. E'en wasted smoke remains not traceless. “A harsh word uttered in past lives, is not destroyed but ever comes again.”♦ The pepper plant will not give birth to roses, nor the sweet jessamine's silver star to thorn or thistle turn.

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\* [fleeing, in Peking ed.]

† [Bōddhisattvas, in Jubilee ed.]

♦ Precepts of the Prasanga School.



- 148 Thou canst create this “day” thy chances for thy “morrow.” In the “Great Journey,”<sup>70</sup> causes sown each hour bear each its harvest of effects, for rigid Justice rules the World. With mighty sweep of never erring action, it brings to mortals lives of weal or woe, the Karmic progeny of all our former thoughts and deeds.
- 149 Take then as much as merit hath in store for thee, O thou of patient heart. Be of good cheer and rest content with fate. Such is thy Karma, the Karma of [35] the cycle of thy births, the destiny of those, who, in their pain and sorrow, are born along with thee, rejoice and weep from life to life, chained to thy previous actions.
- . . . . .
- 150 Act thou for them to “day,” and they will act for thee “to-morrow.”
- 151 ’Tis from the bud of Renunciation of the Self, that springeth the sweet fruit of final Liberation.
- 152 To perish doomed is he, who out of fear of Mara refrains from helping man, lest he should act for Self. The pilgrim who would cool his weary limbs in running waters, yet dares not plunge for terror of the stream, risks to succumb from heat. Inaction based on selfish fear can bear but evil fruit.
- 153 The Selfish devotee lives to no purpose. The man who does not go through his appointed work in life — has lived in vain. [36]
- 154 Follow the wheel of life; follow the wheel of duty to race and kin, to friend and foe, and close thy mind to pleasures as to pain. Exhaust the law of Karmic retribution. Gain Siddhis for thy future birth.
- 155 If Sun thou can’st not be, then be the humble planet. Aye, if thou are debarred from flaming like the noon-day Sun upon the snow-capped mount of purity eternal, then choose, O Neophyte, a humbler course.
- 156 Point out the “Way” — however dimly, and lost among the host — as does the evening star to those who tread their path in darkness.
- 157 Behold Migmar,<sup>♦</sup> as in his crimson veils his “Eye” sweeps over slumbering Earth. Behold the fiery aura of the “Hand” of Lhagpa<sup>♥</sup> extended in protecting love over the heads of his ascetics. Both are now servants to Nyima<sup>♠</sup><sup>71</sup> left in his absence silent watchers in the night. Yet both in Kalpas past were bright Nyimas, and may in future “Days” [37] again become two Suns. Such are the falls and rises of the Karmic Law in nature.
- 158 Be, O Lanoo, like them. Give light and comfort to the toiling pilgrim, and seek out him who knows still less than thou; who in his wretched desolation sits starving for the bread of Wisdom and the bread which feeds the shadow, without a Teacher, hope or consolation, and — let him hear the Law.

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♦ Mars.

♥ Mercury.

♠ The Sun.



- 159 Tell him, O Candidate, that he who makes of pride and self-regard bond-  
maidens to devotion; that he, who cleaving to existence, still lays his patience  
and submission to the Law, as a sweet flower at the feet of Shakya-Thub-pa,<sup>♦</sup>  
becomes a *Srôtâpatti*<sup>72\*</sup> in this birth. The Siddhis of perfection may loom far,  
far away; but the first step is taken, the stream is entered, and he may gain  
the eye-sight of the mountain eagle, the hearing of the timid doe.
- 160 Tell him, O Aspirant, that true devotion may bring [38] him back the knowl-  
edge, that knowledge which was his in former births. The deva-sight and  
deva-hearing are not obtained in one short birth.
- 161 Be humble, if thou would'st attain to Wisdom.
- 162 Be humbler still, when Wisdom thou hast mastered.
- 163 Be like the Ocean which receives all streams and rivers. The Ocean's mighty  
calm remains unmoved; it feels them not.
- 164 Restrain by thy Divine thy lower Self.
- 165 Restrain by the Eternal the Divine.
- 166 Aye, great is he, who is the slayer of desire.
- 167 Still greater he, in whom the Self Divine has slain the very knowledge of de-  
sire.
- 168 Guard thou the Lower lest it soil the Higher. [39]
- 169 The way to final freedom is within thy SELF.
- 170 That way begins and ends outside of Self.<sup>73</sup>
- 171 Unpraised by men and humble is the mother of all Rivers, in *Tirthika's* proud  
sight; empty the human form though filled with Amrita's sweet waters, in the  
sight of fools. Withal, the birth-place of the sacred rivers is the sacred land,<sup>74</sup>  
and he who Wisdom hath, is honoured by all men.
- 172 Arhans and Sages of the boundless Vision<sup>75</sup> are rare as is the blossom of the  
Udumbara tree. Arhans are born at midnight hour, together with the sacred  
plant of nine and seven stalks,<sup>76</sup> the holy flower that opes and blooms in  
darkness, out of the pure dew and on the frozen bed of snow-capped heights,  
heights that are trodden by no sinful foot.
- 173 No Arhan, O Lanoo, becomes one in that birth when for the first the Soul be-  
gins to long for final liberation. Yet, O thou anxious one, no warrior [40] volun-  
teering fight in the fierce strife between the living and the dead,<sup>77</sup> not one re-  
cruit can ever be refused the right to enter on the Path that leads toward the  
field of Battle.
- 174 For, either he shall win, or he shall fall.

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♦ Buddha.

\* [Entrance into the river (leading to Nirvâna); Srôtâpanna is one who has entered such river, *Sanskrit-English Dictionary*.]



- 175 Yea, if he conquers, Nirvâna shall be his. Before he casts his shadow off his mortal coil, that pregnant cause of anguish and illimitable pain — in him will men a great and holy Buddha honour.
- 176 And if he falls, e'en then he does not fall in vain; the enemies he slew in the last battle will not return to life in the next birth that will be his.
- 177 But if thou would'st Nirvâna reach, or cast the prize away,<sup>78</sup> let not the fruit of action and inaction be thy motive, thou of dauntless heart.
- 178 Know that the Bôdhisattva who liberation changes for Renunciation to don the miseries of "Secret Life,"<sup>79</sup> [41] is called, "thrice Honoured," O thou candidate for woe throughout the cycles.
- 179 The PATH is one, Disciple, yet in the end, twofold. Marked are its stages by four and seven Portals. At one end — bliss immediate, and at the other — bliss deferred. Both are of merit the reward: the choice is thine.
- 180 The One becomes the two, the *Open* and the *Secret*.<sup>80</sup> The first one leadeth to the goal, the second, to Self-Immolation.
- 181 When to the Permanent is sacrificed the Mutable, the prize is thine: the drop returneth whence it came. The *Open* PATH leads to the changeless change — Nirvâna, the glorious state of Absoluteness, the Bliss past human thought.
- 182 Thus, the first Path is LIBERATION.
- 183 But Path the second is — RENUNCIATION, and therefore called the "Path of Woe." [42]
- 184 That *Secret* path leads the Arhan to mental woe unspeakable; woe for the living Dead,<sup>81</sup> and helpless pity for the men of Karmic sorrow, the fruit of Karma Sages dare not still.
- 185 For it is written: "teach to eschew all causes; the ripple of effect, as the great tidal wave, thou shalt let run its course."
- 186 The "Open Way," no sooner has thou reached its goal, will lead thee to reject Bôdhisattvic body and make thee, enter the thrice glorious state of Dharma-kâya<sup>82</sup> which is oblivion of the World and men for ever.
- 187 The "Secret Way" leads also to Parinirvânic\* bliss — but at the close of Kalpas without number; Nirvânas gained and lost from boundless pity and compassion for the world of deluded mortals.
- 188 But it is said: "The last shall be the greatest," *Samyak Sambuddha*, the Teacher of Perfection, gave [43] up his SELF for the salvation of the World, by stopping at the threshold of Nirvâna — the pure state.
- . . . . .
- 189 Thou has the knowledge now concerning the two Ways. Thy time will come for choice, O thou of eager Soul, when thou has reached the end and passed the seven Portals. Thy mind is clear. No more art thou entangled in delusive

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\* [Corrected from Paranirvânic.]



thoughts, for thou has learned all. Unveiled stands truth and looks thee sternly in the face. She says:

190 “Sweet are the fruits of Rest and Liberation for the sake of *Self*; but sweeter still the fruits of long and bitter duty. Aye, Renunciation for the sake of others, of suffering fellow men.”

191 He, who becomes Pratyêka-Buddha,<sup>83</sup> makes his obeisance but to his *Self*. The Bôdhisattva who has won the battle, who holds the prize within his palm, yet says in his divine compassion:

192 “For others’ sake, this great reward I yield” — accomplishes the greater Renunciation. [44]

193 A SAVIOUR OF THE WORLD is he.

. . . . .

194 Behold! The goal of bliss and the long Path of Woe are at the furthest end. Thou canst choose either, O aspirant to Sorrow, throughout the coming cycles! . . . .

195 ÔM VAJRAPANI HUM.



## THE SEVEN PORTALS

- 196 “UPADYA,<sup>84</sup> the choice is made, I thirst for Wisdom. Now hast thou rent the veil before the secret Path and taught the greater Yâna.<sup>85</sup> Thy servant here is ready for thy guidance.”
- 197 ’Tis well, Srâvaka.<sup>86</sup> Prepare thyself, for thou wilt have to travel on alone. The Teacher can but point the way. The Path is one for all, the means to reach the goal must vary with the Pilgrims.
- 198 Which wilt thou choose, O thou of dauntless heart? The Samtan<sup>87</sup> of “eye Doctrine,” four-fold Dhyâna, or thread thy way through Pâramitâs,<sup>88</sup> six in number, noble gates of virtue leading to Bodhi and to Prajna, seventh step of Wisdom?
- 199 The rugged Path of four-fold Dhyâna winds on [46] uphill. Thrice great is he who climbs the lofty top.
- 200 The Pâramitâ heights are crossed by a still steeper path. Thou hast to fight thy way through portals seven, seven strongholds held by cruel crafty Powers — passions incarnate.
- 201 Be of good cheer, Disciple; bear in mind the golden rule. Once thou has passed the gate Srôtâpatti,<sup>89\*</sup> “he who the stream hath entered”; once thy foot hath pressed the bed of the Nirvânic stream in this or any future life; thou hast but seven other births before thee, O thou of adamant Will.
- 202 Look on. What see’st thou before thine eye, O aspirant to god-like Wisdom?
- 203 “The cloak of darkness is upon the deep of matter; within its folds I struggle. Beneath my gaze it deepens, Lord; it is dispelled beneath the waving of thy hand. A shadow moveth, creeping like the stretching serpent coils . . . . It grows, swells out and disappears in darkness.” [47]
- 204 It is the shadow of thyself outside the Path, cast on the darkness of thy sins.
- 205 “Yea, Lord; I see the PATH; its foot in mire, its summits lost in glorious light Nirvânic. And now I see the ever narrowing Portals on the hard and thorny way to Gnyana.”♦
- 206 Thou seest well, Lanoo. These Portals lead the aspirant across the waters on “to the other shore.”<sup>90</sup> Each Portal hath a golden key that openeth its gate; and these keys are: —
- 207 1. DÂNA, the key of charity and love immortal.
- 208 2. SHÎLA, the key of Harmony in word and act, the key that counterbalances the cause and the effect, and leaves no further room for Karmic action.

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\* [Entrance into the river (leading to Nirvâna); Srôtâpanna is one who has entered such river, *Sanskrit-English Dictionary*.]

♦ Knowledge, Wisdom.



- 209 3. KSHANTI, patience sweet, that nought can ruffle. [48]
- 210 4. VIRAG', indifference to pleasure and to pain, illusion conquered, truth alone perceived.
- 211 5. VIRYA, the dauntless energy that fights its way to the supernal TRUTH, out of the mire of lies terrestrial.
- 212 6. DHYĀNA, whose golden gate once opened leads the Narjol<sup>♥</sup> toward the realm of Sat eternal and its ceaseless contemplation.
- 213 7. PRAJNA, the key to which makes of a man a god, creating him a Bôdhi-sattva, son of the Dhyānis.
- 214 Such to the Portals are the golden keys.
- 215 Before thou canst approach the last, O weaver of thy freedom, thou hast to master these Paramitas of perfection — the virtues transcendental six and ten in number — along the weary Path.
- 216 For, O Disciple! Before thou wert made fit to [49] meet thy Teacher face to face, thy MASTER light to light, what wert thou told?
- 217 Before thou canst approach the foremost gate thou hast to learn to part thy body from thy mind, to dissipate the shadow, and to live in the eternal. For this, thou hast to live and breathe in all, as all that thou perceivest breathes in thee; to feel thyself abiding in all things, all things in SELF.
- 218 Thou shalt not let thy senses make a playground of thy mind.
- 219 Thou shalt not separate thy being from BEING, and the rest, but merge the Ocean in the drop, the drop within the Ocean.
- 220 So shalt thou be in full accord with all that lives; bear love to men as though they were thy brother-pupils, disciples of one Teacher, the sons of one sweet mother.
- 221 Of teachers there are many; the MASTER- [50] SOUL is one,<sup>91</sup> Alaya, the Universal soul. Live in that MASTER as ITS ray in thee. Live in thy fellows as they live in IT.
- 222 Before thou standest on the threshold of the Path; before thou crossest the foremost Gate, thou hast to merge the two into the One and sacrifice the personal to SELF impersonal, and thus destroy the “path” between the two — *An-taskarana*.<sup>92</sup>
- 223 Thou hast to be prepared to answer Dharma, the stern law, whose voice will ask thee at thy first, at thy initial step:
- 224 “Hast thou complied with all the rules, O thou of lofty hopes?”

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<sup>♥</sup> A saint, an adept.



- 225 “Hast thou attuned thy heart and mind to the great mind and heart of all mankind? For as the sacred River’s roaring voice whereby all Nature-sounds are echoed back,<sup>93</sup> so must the heart of him “who in the stream would enter,” thrill in [51] response to every sigh and thought of all that lives and breathes.”
- 226 Disciples may be likened to the strings of the soul-echoing *Vina*; mankind, unto its sounding board; the hand that sweeps it to the tuneful breath of the GREAT WORLD-SOUL. The string that fails to answer ’neath the Master’s touch in dulcet harmony with all the others, breaks — and is cast away. So the collective minds of *Lanoo-Sravakas*. They have to be attuned to the Upadya’s mind — one with the Over-soul — or, break away.
- 227 Thus do the “Brothers of the Shadow” — the murderers of their Souls, the dread Dad-Dugpa clan.<sup>94</sup>
- 228 Hast thou attuned thy being to Humanity’s great pain, O candidate for light?
- 229 Thou hast? . . . Thou mayest enter. Yet, ere thou settest foot upon the dreary Path of sorrow, ’tis well thou should’st first learn the pitfalls on thy way.
- [52]
- 230 Armed with the key of Charity, of love and tender mercy, thou art secure before the gate of *Dāna*, the gate that standeth at the entrance of the PATH.
- 231 Behold, O happy Pilgrim! The portal that faceth thee is high and wide, seems easy of access. The road that leads therethrough is straight and smooth and green. ’Tis like a sunny glade in the dark forest depths, a spot on earth mirrored from Amitabha’s paradise. There, nightingales of hope and birds of radiant plumage sing perched in green bowers, chanting success to fearless Pilgrims. They sing of *Bôdhisattvas*’ virtues five, the fivefold source of Bodhi power, and of the seven steps in Knowledge.
- 232 Pass on! For thou has brought the key; thou art secure.
- 233 And to the second gate the way is verdant too. But it is steep and winds up hill; yea, to its rocky top. Grey mists will overhang its rough and stony height, and all be dark beyond. As on he goes, the [53] song of hope soundeth more feeble in the pilgrim’s heart. The thrill of doubt is now upon him; his step less steady grows.
- 234 Beware of this, O candidate! Beware of fear that spreadeth, like the black and soundless wings of midnight bat, between the moonlight of thy Soul and thy great goal that loometh in the distance far away.
- 235 Fear, O disciple, kills the will and stays all action. If lacking in the *Shila* virtue, — the pilgrim trips, and Karmic pebbles bruise his feet along the rocky path.
- 236 Be of sure foot, O candidate. In Kshanti’s<sup>♦</sup> essence bathe thy Soul; for now thou dost approach the portal of that name, the gate of fortitude and patience.

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<sup>♦</sup> Kshanti, “patience,” *vide supra* the enumeration of the golden keys.



- 237 Close not thine eyes, nor lose thy sight of Dorje;<sup>95</sup> Mara's arrows ever smite the man who has not reached Virâga.<sup>96</sup>♥ [54]
- 238 Beware of trembling. 'Neath the breath of fear the key of Kshanti rusty grows: the rusty key refuseth to unlock.
- 239 The more thou dost advance, the more thy feet pitfalls will meet. The path that leadeth on, is lighted by one fire — the light of daring, burning in the heart. The more one dares, the more he shall obtain. The more he fears, the more that light shall pale — and that alone can guide. For as the lingering sunbeam, that on the top of some tall mountain shines, is followed by black night when out it fades, so is heart-light. When out it goes, a dark and threatening shade will fall from thine own heart upon the path, and root thy feet in terror to the spot.
- 240 Beware, disciple, of that lethal shade. No light that shines from Spirit can dispel the darkness of the nether Soul, unless all selfish thought has fled therefrom, and that the pilgrim saith: "I have renounced this passing frame; I have destroyed the cause: the shadows cast can, as effects, no longer be." [55] For now the last great fight, the final war between the *Higher* and the *Lower* Self, hath taken place. Behold, the very battlefield is now engulfed in the great war, and is no more.
- 241 But once that thou hast passed the gate of Kshanti, step the third is taken. Thy body is thy slave. Now, for the fourth prepare, the Portal of temptations which do ensnare the *inner* man.
- 242 Ere thou canst near that goal, before thine hand is lifted to upraise the fourth gate's latch, thou must have mustered all the mental changes in thy Self and slain the army of the thought sensations that, subtle and insidious, creep unasked within the Soul's bright shrine.
- 243 If thou would'st not be slain by them, then must thou harmless make thy own creations, the children of thy thoughts, unseen, impalpable, that swarm round humankind, the progeny and heirs to man and his terrestrial spoils. Thou hast to study the voidness of [56] the seeming full, the fulness of the seeming void. O fearless Aspirant, look deep within the well of thine own heart, and answer. Knowest thou of Self the powers, O thou perceiver of external shadows?
- 244 If thou dost not — then art thou lost.
- 245 For, on Path fourth, the lightest breeze of passion or desire will stir the steady light upon the pure white walls of Soul. The smallest wave of longing or regret for Maya's gifts illusive, along *Antaskarana* — the path that lies between thy Spirit and thy self, the highway of sensations, the rude arousers of *Ahankara*<sup>97</sup> — a thought as fleeting as the lightning flash will make thee thy three prizes forfeit — the prizes thou has won.
- 246 For know, that the ETERNAL knows no change.

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♥ Ibid.



- 247 “The eight dire miseries forsake for evermore. If not, to wisdom, sure, thou can’st not come, nor yet to liberation,” saith the great Lord, the Tathâgata of [57] perfection, “he who has followed in the footsteps of his predecessors.”<sup>98</sup>
- 248 Stern and exacting is the virtue of Virâga. If thou its Path would’st master, thou must keep thy mind and thy perceptions far freer than before from killing action.
- 249 Thou hast to saturate thyself with pure Alaya, become as one with Nature’s Soul-Thought. At one with it thou art invincible; in separation, thou becomest the playground of Samvriti,<sup>99</sup> origin of all the world’s delusions.
- 250 All is impermanent in man except the pure bright essence of Alaya. Man is its crystal ray; a beam of light immaculate within, a form of clay material upon the lower surface. That beam is thy life-guide and thy true Self, the Watcher and silent Thinker, the victim of thy lower Self. Thy Soul cannot be hurt but through thy erring body; control and master both, and thou art safe when crossing to the nearing “Gate of Balance.” [58]
- 251 Be of good cheer, O daring pilgrim “to the other shore.” Heed not the whisperings of Mara’s hosts; wave off the tempters, those ill-natured Sprites, the jealous Lhamayin<sup>100</sup> in endless space.
- 252 Hold firm! Thou nearest now the middle portal, the gate of Woe, with its ten thousand snares.
- 253 Have mastery o’er thy thoughts, O striver for perfection, if thou would’st cross its threshold.
- 254 Have mastery o’er thy Soul, O seeker after truths undying, if thou would’st reach the goal.
- 255 Thy Soul-gaze centre on the One Pure Light, the Light that is free from affection, and use thy golden Key. . . . .
- 256 The dreary task is done, thy labour well-nigh o’er. [59] The wide abyss that gaped to swallow thee is almost spanned. . . . .
- 257 Thou has now crossed the moat that circles round the gate of human passions. Thou hast now conquered Mara and his furious host.
- 258 Thou hast removed pollution from thine heart and bled it from impure desire. But, O thou glorious combatant, thy task is not yet done. Build high, Lanoo, the wall that shall hedge in the Holy Isle,<sup>♦</sup> the dam that will protect thy mind from pride and satisfaction at thoughts of the great feat achieved.

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♦ The Higher Ego, or Thinking Self.



- 259 A sense of pride would mar the work. Aye, build it strong, lest the fierce rush of battling waves, that mount and beat its shore from out the great World Maya's Ocean, swallow up the pilgrim and the isle — yea, even when the victory's achieved. [60]
- 260 Thine "Isle" is the deer, thy thoughts the hounds that weary and pursue his progress to the stream of Life. Woe to the deer that is o'ertaken by the barking fiends before he reach the Vale of Refuge — Dnyan Mârğa, "path of pure knowledge" named.
- 261 Ere thou canst settle in Dnyan Mârğa,<sup>101</sup> and call it thine, thy Soul has to become as the ripe mango fruit: as soft and sweet as its bright golden pulp for others' woes, as hard as that fruit's stone for thine own throes and sorrows, O Conqueror of Weal and Woe.
- 262 Make hard thy Soul against the snares of *Self*; deserve for it the name of "Diamond-soul."<sup>102</sup>
- 263 For, as the diamond buried deep within the throbbing heart of earth can never mirror back the earthly lights; so are thy mind and Soul; plunged in Dnyan Mârğa, these must mirror nought of Maya's realm illusive. [61]
- 264 When thou hast reached that state, the Portals that thou hast to conquer on the Path fling open wide their gates to let thee pass, and Nature's strongest might possess no power to stay thy course. Thou wilt be master of the seven-fold Path: but not till then, O candidate for trials passing speech.
- 265 Till then, a task far harder still awaits thee: thou hast to feel thyself ALL-THOUGHT, and yet exile all thoughts from out thy Soul.
- 266 Thou hast to reach that fixity of mind in which no breeze, however strong, can waft an earthly thought within. Thus purified, the shrine must of all action, sound, or earthly light be void; e'en as the butterfly, o'ertaken by the frost, falls lifeless at the threshold — so must all earthly thoughts fall dead before the fane.
- Behold it written:
- 267 "Ere the gold flame can burn with steady light, the lamp must stand well guarded in a spot free from [62] all wind."♦ Exposed to shifting breeze, the jet will flicker and the quivering flame cast shades deceptive, dark and ever-changing, on the Soul's white shrine.
- 268 And then, O thou pursuer of the truth, thy Mind-Soul will become as a mad elephant, that rages in the jungle. Mistaking forest trees for living foes, he perishes in his attempts to kill the ever-shifting shadows dancing on the wall of sunlit rocks.
- 269 Beware, lest in the care of Self thy Soul should lose her foothold on the soil of Deva-knowledge.

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♦ Bhagavatgita.



- 270 Beware, lest in forgetting SELF, thy Soul lose o'er its trembling mind control,  
and forfeit thus the due fruition of its conquests.
- 271 Beware of change! For change is thy great foe. This change will fight thee off,  
and throw thee back, out of the Path thou treadest, deep into viscous swamps  
of doubt. [63]
- 272 Prepare, and be forewarned in time. If thou hast tried and failed, O dauntless  
fighter, yet lose not courage: fight on and to the charge return again, and yet  
again.
- 273 The fearless warrior, his precious life-blood oozing from his wide and gaping  
wounds, will still attack the foe, drive him from out his stronghold, vanquish  
him, ere he himself expires. Act then, all ye who fail and suffer, act like him;  
and from the stronghold of your Soul, chase all your foes away — ambition,  
anger, hatred, e'en to the shadow of desire — when even you have failed. . .
- 274 Remember, thou that fightest for man's liberation,<sup>103</sup> each failure is success,  
and each sincere attempt wins its reward in time. The holy germs that sprout  
and grow unseen in the disciple's soul, their stalks wax strong at each new  
trial, they bend like reeds but never break, nor can they e're be lost. But when  
the hour has struck they blossom forth.<sup>104</sup> . . . . . [64]
- 275 But if thou cam'st prepared, then have no fear.  
. . . . .
- 276 Henceforth thy way is clear right through the *Virya* gate, the fifth one of the  
Seven Portals. Thou art now on the way that leadeth to the Dhyâna haven, the  
sixth, the Bodhi Portal.
- 277 The Dhyâna gate is like an alabaster vase, white and transparent; within  
there burns a steady golden fire, the flame of Prajna that radiates from At-  
man.
- 278 Thou art that vase.
- 279 Thou has estranged thyself from objects of the senses, travelled on the "Path  
of seeing," on the "Path of hearing," and standest in the light of Knowledge.  
Thou hast now reached Titiksha state.<sup>105</sup>
- 280 O Narjol thou art safe.  
. . . . . [65]
- 281 Know, Conqueror of Sins, once that a Sowanee<sup>106</sup> hath cross'd the seventh  
Path, all Nature thrills with joyous awe and feels subdued. The silver star now  
twinkles out the news to the night-blossoms, the streamlet to the pebbles rip-  
ples out the tale; dark ocean-waves will roar it to the rocks surf-bound, scent-  
laden breezes sing it to the vales, and stately pines mysteriously whisper: "A  
Master has arisen, a MASTER OF THE DAY."<sup>107</sup>



- 282 He standeth now like a white pillar to the west, upon whose face the rising Sun of thought eternal poureth forth its first most glorious waves. His mind, like a becalmed and boundless ocean, spreadeth out in shoreless space. He holdeth life and death in his strong hand.
- 283 Yea, He is mighty. The living power made free in him, that power which is HIMSELF, can raise the tabernacle of illusion high above the gods, above great Brahm and Indra. *Now* he shall surely reach his great reward! [66]
- 284 Shall he not use the gifts which it confers for his own rest and bliss, his well-earn'd weal and glory — he, the subduer of the great Delusion?
- 285 *Nay*, O thou candidate for Nature's hidden lore! If one would follow in the steps of holy Tathâgata, those gifts and powers are not for Self.
- 286 Would'st thou thus dam the waters born on Sumeru?<sup>108</sup> Shalt thou divert the stream for thine own sake, or send it back to its prime source along the crests of cycles?
- 287 If thou would'st have that stream of hard-earn'd knowledge, of Wisdom heaven-born, remain sweet running waters, thou should'st not leave it to become a stagnant pond.
- 288 Know, if of Amitabha, the "Boundless Age," thou would'st become co-worker, then must thou shed the light acquired, like to the Bôdhisattvas twain,<sup>109</sup> upon the span of all three worlds.<sup>110</sup> [67]
- 289 Know that the stream of superhuman knowledge and the Deva-Wisdom thou hast won, must, from thyself, the channel of Alaya, be poured forth into another bed.
- 290 Know, O Major, thou of the Secret Path, its pure fresh waters must be used to sweeter make the Ocean's bitter waves — that mighty sea of sorrow formed of the tears of men.
- 291 Alas! when once thou has become like the fix'd star in highest heaven, that bright celestial orb must shine from out the spatial depths for all — save for itself; give light to all, but take from none.
- 292 Alas! when once thou hast become like the pure snow in mountain vales, cold and unfeeling to the touch, warm and protective to the seed that sleepeth deep beneath its bosom — 'tis now that snow which must receive the biting frost, the northern blasts, thus shielding from their sharp and cruel tooth the earth that holds the promised harvest, the harvest that will feed the hungry. [68]
- 293 Self-doomed to live through future Kalpas, ♦ unthanked and unperceived by men; wedged as a stone with countless other stones which form the "Guardian Wall,"<sup>111</sup> such is thy future if the seventh gate thou passest. Built by the hands of many Masters of Compassion, raised by their tortures, by their blood

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♦ Cycles of ages.



- cemented, it shields mankind, since man is man, protecting it from further and far greater misery and sorrow.
- 294 Withal, man sees it not, will not perceive it, nor will he heed the word of Wisdom . . . for he knows it not.
- 295 But thou hast heard it, thou knowest all, O thou of eager guileless Soul . . . and thou must choose. Then hearken yet again.
- 296 On Sowans Path, O Srôtâpatti,<sup>♥</sup> thou art secure. Aye, on that Marga,<sup>♠</sup> where nought but darkness [69] meets the weary pilgrim, where torn by thorns the hands drip blood, the feet are cut by sharp unyielding flints, and Mara wields his strongest arms — there lies a great reward *immediately* beyond.
- 297 Calm and unmoved the Pilgrim glideth up the stream that to Nirvâna leads. He knoweth that the more his feet will bleed, the whiter will himself be washed. He knoweth well that after seven short and fleeting births Nirvâna will be his. . . .
- 298 Such is the Dhyâna Path, the haven of the Yogi, the blessed goal that Srôtâpattis crave.
- 299 Not so when he hath crossed and won the Aryhatta Path.<sup>♠</sup>
- 300 There Klesha<sup>112</sup> is destroyed for ever, Tanha's<sup>113</sup> roots torn out. But stay, Disciple . . . Yet, one word. Canst thou destroy divine COMPASSION? Compassion is no attribute. It is the LAW of LAWS — eternal Harmony, Alaya's SELF; a shoreless [70] universal essence, the light of ever-lasting Right, and fitness of all things, the law of love eternal.
- 301 The more thou dost become at one with it, thy being melted in its BEING, the more thy Soul unites with that which IS, the more thou wilt become COMPASSION ABSOLUTE.<sup>114</sup>
- 302 Such is the Arya Path, Path of the Buddhas of perfection.
- 303 Withal, what mean the sacred scrolls which make thee say?
- 304 “OM! I believe it is not all the Arhats that get of the Nirvânic Path the sweet fruition.”
- 305 “OM! I believe that the Nirvâna-Dharma is entered not by all the Buddhas.”<sup>♦115</sup>
- 306 “Yea; on the Arya Path thou art no more Srotâ- [71] patti, thou art a Bôdhisattva.<sup>116</sup> The stream is cross'd. 'Tis true thou hast a right to Dharmakâya vesture; but Sambhogakâya is greater than a Nirvânee, and greater still is a Nirmânakâya — the Buddha of Compassion.”<sup>117</sup>

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<sup>♥</sup> Sowan and Srôtâpatti are synonymous terms.

<sup>♠</sup> Marga — “Path.”

<sup>♠</sup> From the Sanskrit Arhat or Arhan.

<sup>♦</sup> *Thegpa Chenpoido*, “Mahâyâna Sutra,” Invocations to the Buddhas of Confession, Part I, iv. [Buddhas of Compassion, in Jubilee ed.]





## Glossary to Part I

[Annotation numbers match those of the 1889 edition. Corresponding paragraphs are indicated by ¶.]

- 1 ¶1 The Pali word *Iddhi*, is the synonym of the Sanskrit *Siddhis*, or psychic faculties, the abnormal powers in man. There are two kinds of *Siddhis*. One group which embraces the lower, coarse, psychic and mental energies; the other is one which exacts the highest training of Spiritual powers. Says Krishna in *Shrimad-Bhagavat*: —  
  
“He who is engaged in the performance of yoga, who has subdued his senses and who has concentrated his mind in me (Krishna), such yogis all the *Siddhis* stand ready to serve.”
- 2 ¶2 The “Soundless Voice,” or the “Voice of the Silence.” *Literally* perhaps, this would read “Voice in the *Spiritual Sound*,” as *Nada* is the equivalent word in Sanskrit, for the *Sen-sar* term.
- 3 ¶2 *Dhâranâ*, is the intense and perfect concentration of the mind upon some one interior object, accompanied by complete abstraction from everything pertaining to the external Universe, or the world of the senses.
- 4 ¶14 The “great Master” is the term used by *lanoos* or *chelas* to indicate one’s “Higher Self.” It is the equivalent of *Avalôkitêswara*, and the same as *Adi-Buddha* with the Buddhist Occultists, *ATMAN* the “Self” (the Higher Self) with the Brahmins, and *CHRISTOS* with the ancient Gnostics.
- 5 ¶15 Soul is used here for the *Human Ego* or *Manas*, that which is referred to in our Occult Septenary division as the “Human Soul” (*Vide the Secret Doctrine*) in contradistinction to the Spiritual and Animal Souls.
- 6 ¶15 *Maha Maya* “Great Illusion,” the objective Universe.
- 7 ¶16 *Sakkâyaditthi* “delusion” of personality.
- 8 ¶17 *Attavâda*, the heresy of the belief in Soul or rather in the separateness of Soul or *Self* from the One Universal, infinite SELF.
- 9 ¶19 The *Tatwagyane* is the “knower” or discriminator of the principles in nature and in man; and *Atmagyane* is the knower of *ATMAN* or the Universal, ONE SELF.
- 10 ¶19 *Kala Hamsa*, the “Bird” or Swan (*Vide No. 11*). Says the *Nada-Bindu Upanishad* (Rig Veda) translated by the *Kumbakonam Theos. Society* — “The syllable A, is considered to be its (the bird Hamsa’s) right wing, U, its left, M, its tail, and the *Ardha-matra* (half metre) is said to be its head.”
- 11 ¶19 Eternity with the Orientals has quite another signification than it has with us. It stands generally for the 100 years or “age” of *Brahmâ*, the duration of a *Kalpa* or a period of 4,320,000,000 years.
- 12 ¶20 Says the same *Nada-Bindu*, “A Yogi who bestrides the Hamsa (thus contemplates on Aum) is not affected by Karmic influences or crores of sins.”
- 13 ¶21 Give up the life of physical *personality* if you would live in spirit.



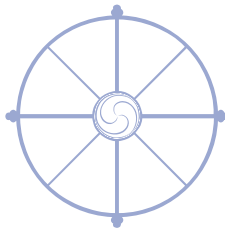
- 14 ¶22 The three states of consciousness, which are *Jagrat*, the waking; *Swapna*, the dreaming; and *Sushupti*, the deep sleeping state. These three *Yogi* conditions, lead to the fourth, or —
- 15 ¶22 The *Turya*, that beyond the dreamless state, the one above all, a state of high spiritual consciousness.
- 16 ¶22 Some Sanskrit mystics locate seven planes of being, the seven spiritual *lokas* or worlds within the body of *Kala Hamsa*, the Swan out of Time and Space, convertible into the Swan *in* Time, when it becomes *Brahmâ*, instead of *Brahma* (neuter).
- 17 ¶25 The phenomenal World of Senses and of terrestrial consciousness — only.
- 18 ¶26 The astral region, the Psychic World of super-sensuous perceptions and of deceptive sights — the world of Mediums. It is the great “Astral Serpent” of Éliphas Lévi. No blossom plucked in those regions has ever yet been brought down on earth without its serpent coiled around the stem. It is the world of the *Great Illusion*.
- 19 ¶27 The region of the full Spiritual Consciousness beyond which there is no longer danger for him who has reached it.
- 20 ¶32 The Initiate who leads the disciple through the Knowledge given to him to his spiritual, or second, birth is called the *Father* guru or Master.
- 21 ¶33 *Agn yana* is ignorance or *non-wisdom* the opposite of “Knowledge” *gnyana*.
- 22 ¶34 *Mara* is in exoteric religions a demon, an *Asura*, but in esoteric philosophy it is personified temptation through men’s vices, and translated literally means “that which kills” the Soul. It is represented as a King (of the Maras) with a crown in which shines a jewel of such lustre that it blinds those who look at it, this lustre referring of course to the fascination exercised by vice upon certain natures.
- 23 ¶38 The *inner* chamber of the Heart, called in Sanskrit *Brahma poori*. The “fiery power” is *Kundalini*.
- 24 ¶38 The “Power” and the “World-mother” are names given to *Kundalini* — one of the mystic “Yogi powers.” It is *Buddhi* considered as an active instead of a passive principle (which it is generally, when regarded only as the vehicle, or casket of the Supreme Spirit ATMA). It is an electro-spiritual force, a creative power which when aroused into action can as easily kill as it can create.
- 25 ¶40 *Keshara* or “sky-walker” or “goer.” As explained in the 6th *Adhyaya* of that king of mystic works the *Dhyaneswari* — the body of the *Yogi* becomes as one *formed of the wind*; as “a cloud from which limbs have sprouted out,” after which — “he (the *Yogi*) beholds the things beyond the seas and stars; he hears the language of the *Devas* and comprehends it, and perceives what is passing in the mind of the ant.”
- 26 ¶45 *Vina* is an Indian stringed instrument like a lute.
- 27 ¶50 The six principles; meaning when the lower personality is destroyed and the inner individuality is merged into and lost in the Seventh or Spirit.



- 28 ¶50 The disciple is one with Brahmâ or the ATMAN.
- 29 ¶51 The astral form produced by the *Kamic* principle, the *Kama rupa* or body of desire.
- 30 ¶51 *Manasa rupa*. The first refers to the astral or *personal* Self; the second to the individuality or the reincarnating *Ego* whose consciousness on our plane or the *lower Manas* — has to be paralyzed.
- 31 ¶55 *Kundalini* is called the “Serpentine” or the *annular* power on account of its spiral-like working or progress in the body of the ascetic developing the power in himself. It is an electric fiery occult or *Fohatic* power, the great pristine force, which underlies all organic and inorganic matter.
- 32 ¶58 This “Path” is mentioned in all the Mystic Works. As Krishna says in the *Dhyânésuari*: “When this Path is beheld . . . whether one sets out to the bloom of the east or to the chambers of the west, *without moving*, O holder of the bow, *is the travelling in this road*. In this path, to whatever place one would go, *that place one’s own self* becomes.” “Thou art the Path” is said to the adept guru and by the latter to the disciple, after initiation. “I am the way and the Path” says another MASTER.
- 33 ¶62 Adeptship — the “blossom of *Bôdhisattva*.”
- 34 ¶64 *Tanha* — “the will to live,” the fear of death and love for life, that force or energy which causes the rebirths.
- 35 ¶81 These mystic sounds or the melody heard by the ascetic at the beginning of his cycle of meditation called *Anâhad-shabd* by the Yogis.
- 36 ¶85 This means that in the sixth stage of development which, in the occult system is *Dhâranâ*, every sense as an individual faculty has to be “killed” (or paralyzed) on this plane, passing into and merging with the *Seventh* sense, the most spiritual.
- 37 ¶87 See number 3.
- 38 ¶88 Every stage of development in *Raja Yoga* is symbolised by a geometrical figure. This one is the sacred *Triangle*, and precedes *Dhâranâ*. The  $\Delta$  is the sign of the high chelas, while another kind of triangle is that of high Initiates. It is the symbol “I” discoursed upon by Buddha and used by him as a symbol of the embodied form of Tathâgata when released from the three methods of the *Prajna*. Once the preliminary and lower stages passed, the disciple sees no more the  $\Delta$  but the — the abbreviation of the —, the full Septenary. *Its true form is not given here, as it is almost sure to be pounced upon by some charlatans and* — desecrated in its use for fraudulent purposes.
- 39 ¶88 The star that burns overhead is the “the star of initiation.” The castemark of Saivas, or devotees of the sect of Siva, the great patron of all Yogins, is a black round spot, the symbol of the *Sun* now, perhaps, but that of the star of initiation, in Occultism, in days of old.
- 40 ¶88 The *basis (upadhi)* of the ever unreachable “FLAME,” so long as the ascetic is still in this life.



- 41 ¶89 *Dhyâna* is the last stage before the final *on this Earth* unless one becomes a full MAHATMA. As said already, in this state the Raj Yogi is yet spiritually conscious of Self, and the working of his higher principles. One step more, and he will be on the plane beyond the Seventh (or fourth according to some schools). These, after the practice of *Pratyêhara* — a preliminary training, in order to control one’s mind and thoughts — count Dhâsena, Dhyâna and Samâdhi and embraces the three under the generic name of SANNYAMA.
- 42 ¶89 *Samâdhi* is the state in which the ascetic loses the consciousness of every individuality including his own. He becomes — the ALL.
- 43 ¶93 The “four modes of truth” are, in Northern Buddhism, *Ku* “suffering or misery”; *Tu*<sup>\*</sup> the assembling of temptations; *Mu*<sup>†</sup> “their destructions” and *Tau*<sup>‡</sup> the “path.” The “five impediments” are the knowledge of misery, truth about human frailty, oppressive restraints, and the absolute necessity of separation from all the ties of passion and even of desires. The “Path of Salvation”— is the last one.
- 44 ¶95 At the portal of the “assembling” the King of the Maras the *Maha Mara* stands trying to blind the candidate by the radiance of his “Jewel.”
- 45 ¶97 This is the fourth “Path” out of the five paths of rebirth which lead and toss all human beings into perpetual states of sorrow and joy. These “paths” are but sub-divisions of the One, the Path followed by Karma.



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\* [Tu corrected to Chi (Tsi). Tsi, Southern pronunciation of Chi, is correctly given in the original text with its meaning, “assembling,” Peking ed.]

† [Mu corrected to Mi (should be Mi-eh), Peking ed.]

‡ [Tau corrected to Tao. Tau is the Egyptian cross ⊕, whereas Tao is the Way or Path, and the Anima Mundi in the philosophy of Lao-Tze called Taoism, Peking ed.]



## Glossary to Part II

[Annotation numbers continue from Part I. Corresponding paragraphs are indicated by ¶.]

- 46 ¶102 The two schools of Buddha's doctrine, the esoteric and the exoteric, are respectively called the "Heart" and the "Eye" Doctrine. Bodhidharma called them in China — from whence the names reached Tibet — the *Tsung-men* (esoteric) and *Kiau-men* (exoteric school). It [the "Heart" doctrine]\* is so named, because it is the teaching which emanated from Gautama Buddha's *heart*, whereas the "Eye" Doctrine was the work of his head or brain. The "Heart Doctrine" is also called the "seal of truth" or the "true seal," a symbol found on the heading of almost all esoteric works.
- 47 ¶103 The "tree of knowledge" is a title given by the followers of the *Bodhidharma* (Wisdom religion) to those who have attained the height of mystic knowledge — adepts. Nāgārjuna the founder of the Madhyamika School was called the "Dragon Tree," Dragon standing as a symbol of Wisdom and Knowledge. The tree is honoured because it is under the Bodhi (wisdom) Tree that Buddha received his birth and enlightenment, preached his first sermon and died.
- 48 ¶107 "Secret Heart" is the esoteric doctrine.
- 49 ¶114 "Diamond Soul" "Vajrasattva," a title of the supreme Buddha, the "Lord of all Mysteries," called Vajradhara and Adi-Buddha.
- 50 ¶114 SAT, the one eternal and Absolute Reality and Truth, all the rest being illusion.
- 51 ¶115 From *Shin-Sien's* Doctrine, who teaches that the human mind is like a mirror which attracts and reflects every atom of dust, and has to be, like that mirror, watched over and dusted every day. *Shin-Sien* was the sixth Patriarch of North China who taught the esoteric doctrine of Bodhidharma.
- 52 ¶116 The reincarnating EGO is called by the Northern Buddhists the "true man," who becomes in union with his Higher-Self — a Buddha.
- 53 ¶116 "Buddha" means "Enlightened."
- 54 ¶119 See No. 46 [No. 1 in 1889 ed.]. The *exoteric* Buddhism of the masses.
- 55 ¶119 The usual formula that precedes the Buddhist Scriptures, meaning, that that which follows is what has been recorded by direct and oral tradition from Buddha and the Arhats.
- 56 ¶124 Rathapâla the great Arhat thus addresses his father in the legend called *Rathapâla Sûtrasanne*. But as all such legends are allegorical (*e.g.* Rathapâla's father has a mansion with *seven doors*) hence the reproof, to those who accept them *literally*.
- 57 ¶133 The "Higher Self" the "seventh" principle.

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\* [Inserted for clarity, Peking ed.]



- 58 ¶133 Our physical bodies are called “Shadows” in the mystic schools.
- 59 ¶134 A hermit who retires to the jungles and lives in a forest, when becoming a Yogi.
- 60 ¶134 *Julai*\* the Chinese name for Tathâgata, a title applied to every Buddha.
- 61 ¶134 All the Northern and Southern traditions agree in showing Buddha quitting his solitude as soon as he had resolved the problem of life — *i.e.*, received the inner enlightenment — and teaching mankind publicly.
- 62 ¶137 Every spiritual EGO is a ray of a “Planetary Spirit” according to esoteric teaching.
- 63 ¶138 “Personalities” or *physical bodies* called “shadows” are evanescent.
- 64 ¶138 *Mind (Manas)* the thinking Principle or EGO in man, is referred to “Knowledge” itself, because the human *Egos* are called *Manasa-putras* the sons of (universal) Mind.
- 65 ¶140 *Vide* Part III Glossary, paragraph 117 [par. 34, in 1889 ed.] *et seq.*
- 66 ¶141 *Ibid.*
- 67 ¶142 The *Shangna* robe, from Shangnavesu of Rajagriha the third great Arhat or “Patriarch” as the Orientalists call the hierarchy of the 33 Arhats who spread Buddhism. “Shangna robe” means metaphorically, the acquirement of Wisdom with which the Nirvâna of destruction (of *personality*) is entered. Literally, the “initiation robe” of the Neophytes. Edkins states that this “grass cloth” was brought to China from Tibet in the Tong Dynasty. “When an Arhan is born this plant is found growing in a clean spot” says the Chinese as also the Tibetan legend.
- 68 ¶144 To “practice the Paramita Path” means to become a Yogi with a view of becoming an ascetic.
- 69 ¶147 “To-morrow” means the following rebirth or reincarnation.
- 70 ¶148 “Great Journey” or the whole complete cycle of existences, in one “Round.”
- 71 ¶157 *Nyima*, the Sun in Tibetan Astrology. *Migmar*<sup>†</sup> or Mars is symbolized by an “Eye,” and *Shagpa* or Mercury by a “Hand.”<sup>‡</sup>
- 72 ¶159 *Srôtâpatti*<sup>§</sup> or “he who enters in the stream” of Nirvâna, unless he reaches the goal owing to some exceptional reasons, can rarely attain Nirvâna in one birth. Usually a Chela is said to begin the ascending effort in one life and end or reach it only in his seventh succeeding birth.
- 73 ¶170 Meaning the personal lower “Self.”

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\* [*Julai*, in Jubilee ed.]

† [Compound of *Mig* (Eye) and the first syllable of *Mar-po* (Red), Peking ed.]

‡ [Hand is *Lagpa* (without an *h*), Peking ed.]

§ [Entrance into the river (leading to Nirvâna); *Srôtâpanna* is one who has entered such river, *Sanskrit-English Dictionary*.]



- 74 ¶171 *Tirthikas* are the Brahmanical Sectarrians “beyond” the Himalayas called “infidels” by the Buddhists in the *sacred land*, Tibet, and *vice versa*.
- 75 ¶172 Boundless Vision or psychic, superhuman sight. An Arhan is credited with “seeing” and knowing all at a distance as well as on the spot.
- 76 ¶172 *Vide supra* 67 [par. 22, in 1889 ed.]: Shangna plant.
- 77 ¶173 The “living” is the immortal Higher Ego, and the “dead” — the lower *personal* Ego.
- 78 ¶177 *Vide infra* Part III par. 117. [par. 34, in 1889 ed.]
- 79 ¶178 The “Secret Life” is life as a *Nirmānakāya*.
- 80 ¶180 The “Open” and the “Secret Path” — or the one taught to the layman, the exoteric and the generally accepted, and the other the Secret Path — the nature of which is explained at initiation.
- 81 ¶184 Men ignorant of the Esoteric truths and Wisdom are called “the living Dead.”
- 82 ¶186 *Vide infra*, Part III 117. [par 34, in 1889 ed.]
- 83 ¶191 *Pratyēka*\* *Buddhas* are those Bōdhisattvas who strive after and often reach the Dharmakāya robe after a series of lives. Caring nothing for the woes of mankind or to help it, but only for their own *bliss*, they enter *Nirvāna* and — disappear from the sight and the hearts of men. In Northern Buddhism, a “Pratyēka Buddha” is a synonym of spiritual Selfishness.



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\* [Pratyēka Buddha is one who lives in seclusion and obtains emancipation for himself only (as opposed to those Buddhas who liberate others also), *Sanskrit-English Dictionary*.]



## Glossary to Part III

[Annotation numbers continue from Part II. Corresponding paragraphs are indicated by ¶.]

- 84 ¶196 *Upādya* is a spiritual preceptor, a Guru. The Northern Buddhists choose these generally among the “*Narjol*,” saintly men, learned in *gôtrabhû-gnyâna* and *gnyâna-dassana-suddhi* teachers of the Secret Wisdom.
- 85 ¶196 *Yâna* — vehicle: thus *Mahayâna* is the “Great Vehicle,” and *Hinayâna*, the “Lesser Vehicle,” the names for the two schools of religious and philosophical learning in Northern Buddhism.
- 86 ¶197 *Srāvaka* — a listener, or student who attends to the religious instructions. From the root “*Sru*.” When from theory they go into practice or performance of asceticism, they become *Sramanas*, “exercisers,” from *Srama*, action. As Hardy shows, the two appellations answer to the words *ακουστικοί* and *ασκηται* of the Greeks.
- 87 ¶198 *Samtan* (Tibetan), the same as the Sanskrit *Dhyâna*, or the state of meditation, of which there are four degrees.
- 88 ¶198 *Paramitas*, the six transcendental virtues; for the priests there are *ten*.
- 89 ¶201 *Srôtâpatti*\* — (lit.) “he who has entered the stream” that leads to the Nirvânic ocean. This name indicates the *first* Path. The name of the *second* is the Path of *Sakridagamîna*, “he who will receive birth (only) once more.” The *third* is called *Anagâmin*, “he who will be reincarnated no more,” unless he so desires in order to help mankind. The *fourth* Path is known as that of *Rahat* or *Arhat*. This is the highest. An Arhat sees Nirvana during his life. For him it is no post-mortem state, but *Samâdhi*, during which he experiences all Nirvânic bliss.♦
- 90 ¶206 “Arrival at the shore” is with the Northern Buddhists synonymous with reaching Nirvana through the exercise of the six and ten *Paramitas* (virtues).
- 91 ¶221 The “MASTER-SOUL” is Alaya, the Universal Soul or Atman, each man having a ray of it in him and being supposed to be able to identify himself with and to merge himself into it.
- 92 ¶222 *Antaskarana* is the lower *Manas*, the Path of communication or communion between the personality and the higher *Manas* or human Soul. At death it is destroyed as a Path or medium of communication, and its remains survive in a form as the *Kamarupa* — the “shell.”
- 93 ¶225 The Northern Buddhists, and all Chinamen, in fact, find in the deep roar of some of the great and sacred rivers the key-note of Nature. Hence the sim-

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\* [Entrance into the river (leading to Nirvâna); Srôtâpanna is one who has entered such river, *Sanskrit-English Dictionary*.]

♦ How little one can rely upon the Orientalists for the exact words and meaning, is instanced in the case of three “alleged” authorities. Thus the four names just explained are given by R. Spence Hardy as: 1. Sowân; 2. Sakradâgâmi; 3. Anâgâmi, and 4. Arya. By the Rev. J. Edkins they are given as: 1. Srôtâpanna; 2. Sagardagam; 3. Anâgâmin, and 4. Arhan. Schlagintweit again spells them differently, each, moreover, giving another and a new variation in the meaning of the terms.



ile. It is a well-known fact in Physical Science, as well as in Occultism, that the aggregate sound of Nature — such as heard in the roar of great rivers, the noise produced by the waving tops of trees in large forests, or that of a city heard at a distance — is a definite single tone of quite an appreciable pitch. This is shown by physicists and musicians. Thus Prof. Rice (*Chinese Music*)\* shows that the Chinese recognised the fact thousands of years ago by saying that “the waters of the Hoang-ho rushing by, intoned the *kung*” called “the great tone” in Chinese music; and he shows this tone corresponding with the F, “considered by modern physicists to be the actual tonic of Nature.” Professor B. Silliman mentions it, too, in his *Principles of Physics*, saying that “this tone is held to be the middle F of the piano; which may, therefore, be considered the key-note of Nature.”

- 94 ¶227 The *Bhons* or *Duggas*, the sect of the “Red Caps,” are regarded as the most versed in sorcery. They inhabit Western and Little Tibet and Bhutan. They are all Tantrikas. It is quite ridiculous to find Orientalists who have visited the borderlands of Tibet, such as Schlagintweit and others, confusing the rites and disgusting practices of these with the religious beliefs of the Eastern Lamas, the “Yellow Caps,” and their *Narjols* or holy men. The following is an instance.
- 95 ¶237 *Dorje* is the Sanskrit *Vajra*, a weapon or instrument in the hands of some gods (the Tibetan *Dragshed*, the *Devas* who protect men), and is regarded as having the same occult power of repelling evil influences by purifying the air as Ozone in chemistry. It is also a *Mudra*, a gesture and posture used in sitting for meditation. It is, in short, a symbol of power over invisible evil influences, whether as a posture or a talisman. The *Bhons* or *Duggas*, however, having appropriated the symbol, misuse it for purposes of Black Magic. With the “Yellow Caps,” or *Geluggas*, it is a symbol of power, as the Cross is with the Christians, while it is in no way more “superstitious.” With the *Duggas*, it is like the *double triangle reversed*, the sign of sorcery.
- 96 ¶237 *Virāga* is that feeling of absolute indifference to the objective universe, to pleasure and to pain. “Disgust” does not express its meaning, yet it is akin to it.
- 97 ¶245 *Ahankara* — the “I” or feeling of one’s personality, the “I-am-ness.”
- 98 ¶247 “One who walks in the steps of his predecessors” or “those who came before him,” is the true meaning of the name *Tathāgata*.
- 99 ¶249 *Samvriti* is that one of the two truths which demonstrates the illusive character or emptiness of all things. It is *relative* truth in this case. The *Ma-hayāna* school teaches the difference between these two truths — *Pa-ramārthasatya* and *Samvritisatya* (Satya “truth”). This is the bone of contention between the *Madhyāmikas* and the *Yogācharyas*, the former denying and the latter affirming that every object exists owing to a previous cause or by a concatenation. The *Madhyāmikas* are the great Nihilists and Deniers, for

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\* [Cf. Rice I.L. *What is Music?* New York: D. Appleton & Co, 549 & 551 Broadway, 1875; p. 9 & fn. Full text in our Down to Earth Series.]



whom everything is *parikalpita*, an illusion and an error in the world of thought and the subjective, as much as in the objective universe. The *Yogâcharyas* are the great spiritualists. *Samvriti*, therefore, as only relative truth, is the origin of all\* illusion.

- 100 ¶251 *Lhamayin* are elementals and evil spirits adverse to men, and their enemies.
- 101 ¶261 *Dhyân-Mârga* is the “Path of *Dhyâna*,” literally; or the *Path of pure knowledge*, of *Paramârtha* or (Sanskrit) *Svasamvedana* “the self-evident or self-analysing reflection.”
- 102 ¶262 *Vide* Glossary of Part II, Number 49† “Diamond-Soul” or *Vajradhâra* presides over the *Dhyani-Buddhas*.
- 103 ¶274 This is an allusion to a well known belief in the East (as in the West, too, for the matter of that) that every additional Buddha or Saint is a new soldier in the army of those who work for the liberation or salvation of mankind. In Northern Buddhist countries, where the doctrine of *Nirmânakâyas* — those *Bôdhisattvas* who renounce well-earned Nirvâna or the *Dharmakâya* vesture (both of which shut them out for ever from the world of men) in order to invisibly assist mankind and lead it finally to Parinirvâna‡ — is taught, every new *Bôdhisattva* or initiated great Adept is called the “liberator of mankind.” The statement made by Schlagintweit in his “*Buddhism in Tibet*” to the effect that *Prulpai Ku* or “*Nirmânakâya*” is “the *body* in which the Buddhas or *Bôdhisattvas* appear upon earth to teach men” — is absurdly inaccurate and explains nothing.
- 104 ¶274 A reference to human passions and sins which are slaughtered during the trials of the novitiate, and serve as well-fertilized soil in which “holy germs” or seeds of transcendental virtues may germinate. Pre-existing or *innate* virtues, talents or gifts are regarded as having been acquired in a previous birth. Genius is without exception a talent or aptitude brought from another birth.
- 105 ¶279 *Titiksha* is the fifth state of *Raja Yoga* — one of supreme indifference; submission, if necessary, to what is called “pleasures and pains for all,” but deriving neither pleasure nor pain from such submission — in short, the becoming physically, mentally, and morally indifferent and insensible to either pleasure or pain.
- 106 ¶281 *Sowanee* is one who practises *Sowan*, the first path in *Dhyâna*, a *Srôtâpatti*.
- 107 ¶281 “Day” means here a whole *Manvantara*, a period of incalculable duration.
- 108 ¶286 Mount Meru, the sacred mountain of the Gods.

\* [an, in BdZ ed.]

† [See ¶114 note, in Jubilee ed.; No (4), in BdZ & Peking eds.]

‡ [Corrected from Parinirvâna.]



- 109 ¶288 In the Northern Buddhist symbology, *Amitabha* or “Boundless Space” (*Parabrahm*) is said to have in his paradise two *Bôdhisattvas* — Kwan-shi-yin and Tashishi\* — who ever radiate light over the three worlds where they lived, including our own (vide 110 — par. 27, in 1889 ed.), in order to help with this light (of knowledge) in the instruction of Yogis, who will, in their turn, save men. Their exalted position in *Amitabha*’s realm is due to deeds of mercy performed by the two, as such Yogis, when on earth, says the allegory.
- 110 ¶288 These three worlds are the three planes of being, the terrestrial, astral and the spiritual.
- 111 ¶293 The “Guardian Wall” or the “Wall of Protection.” It is taught that the accumulated efforts of long generations of Yogis, Saints and Adepts, especially of the *Nirmânakâyas* — have created, so to say, a wall of protection around mankind, which wall shields mankind invisibly from still worse evils.
- 112 ¶300 *Klesha* is the love of pleasure or of worldly enjoyment, evil or good.
- 113 ¶300 *Tanha*, the will to live, that which causes rebirth.
- 114 ¶301 This “compassion” must not be regarded in the same light as “God, the divine love” of the Theists. Compassion stands here as an abstract, impersonal law whose nature, being absolute Harmony, is thrown into confusion by discord, suffering and sin.
- 115 ¶305 In the Northern Buddhist phraseology all the great Arhats, Adepts and Saints are called Buddhas.
- 116 ¶306 A *Bôdhisattva* is, in the hierarchy, less than a “perfect Buddha.” In the exoteric parlance these two are very much confused. Yet the innate and right popular perception, owing to that self-sacrifice, has placed a *Bôdhisattva* higher in its reverence than a Buddha.
- 117 ¶306 This same popular reverence calls “Buddhas of Compassion” those *Bôdhisattvas* who, having reached the rank of an Arhat (*i.e.*, have completed the *fourth* or *seventh* Path), refuse to pass into the Nirvânic state or “don the *Dharmakâya* robe and cross to the other shore,” as it would then become beyond their power to assist men even so little as Karma permits. They prefer to remain invisibly (in Spirit, so to speak) in the world, and contribute toward man’s salvation by influencing them to follow the Good Law, *i.e.*, lead them on the Path of Righteousness. It is part of the exoteric Northern Buddhism to honour all such great characters as Saints, and to offer even prayers to them, as the Greeks and the Catholics do to their Saints and Patrons; on the other hand, the esoteric teachings countenance no such thing. There is a great difference between the two teachings. The exoteric layman hardly knows the real meaning of the word *Nirmânakâya* — hence the confusion and inadequate explanations of the Orientalists. For example Schlagintweit believes that *Nir-*

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\* [Chinese, Da-shi-zhi in modern transliteration. One of eight Great Bodhisattvas, “Mighty as an Elephant,” better known as Vajrapani or Mahasthamaprapta Bodhisattva. Da-shi-zhi is Vajrasat-tva in Sanskrit, Dorjesempa in Tibetan. Kuan-shih-yin, also Chinese, is Vajradhara in Sanskrit, Dorjechang in Tibetan. The latter is First Logos, “Endless Intelligence; the former, Second Logos, “Supreme Intelligence.” The two are One, yet two, the two Avalokiteshvaras of Compassion. See Diagram in our Secret Doctrine’s First Proposition Series.]



*mânakâya* — body, means the physical form assumed by the Buddhas when they incarnate on earth — “the least sublime of their earthly encumbrances” (vide “Buddhism in Tibet”) — and he proceeds to give an entirely false view on the subject. The real teaching is, however, this: —

The three Buddhist bodies or forms are styled: —

1. *Nirmânakâya*.
2. *Sambhogakâya*.
3. *Dharmakâya*.

This first is that ethereal form which one would assume when leaving his physical he would appear in his astral body — having in addition all the knowledge of an Adept. The *Bôdhisattva* develops it in himself as he proceeds on the Path. Having reached the goal and refused its fruition, he remains on Earth, as an Adept; and when he dies, instead of going into *Nirvâna*, he remains in that glorious body he has woven for himself, *invisible* to uninitiated mankind, to watch over and protect it.

*Sambhogakâya* is the same, but with the additional lustre of “three perfections,” one of which is entire obliteration of all earthly concerns.

The *Dharmakâya* body is that of a complete Buddha, *i.e.*, no body at all, but an ideal breath: Consciousness merged in the Universal Consciousness, or Soul devoid of every attribute. Once a *Dharmakâya*, an Adept or Buddha leaves behind every possible relation with, or thought for this earth. Thus, to be enabled to help humanity, an Adept who has won the right to *Nirvâna*, “renounces the *Dharmakâya* body” in mystic parlance; keeps, of the *Sambhogakâya*, only the great and complete knowledge, and remains in his *Nirmânakâya* body. The esoteric school teaches that Gautama Buddha with several of his Arhats is such a *Nirmânakâya*, higher than whom, on account of the great renunciation and sacrifice to mankind there is none known.

- 118 ¶313 *Myalba* is our earth — pertinently called “Hell,” and the greatest of all Hells, by the esoteric school. The esoteric doctrine knows of no hell or place of punishment other than on a man-bearing planet or earth. *Avitchi* is a state and not a locality.
- 119 ¶315 Meaning that a new and additional Saviour of mankind is born, who will lead men to final *Nirvâna i.e.*, after the end of the life-cycle.
- 120 ¶316 This is one of the variations of the formula that invariably follows every treatise, invocation or Instruction. “Peace to all beings,” “Blessings on all that Lives,” &c., &c.



## Tributes of esteem

*The Voice of The Silence*, though it does not claim to be the utterance of a Buddha, is nevertheless akin to the *sutra* rather to the *sastra* group of texts. . . . It seeks more to inspire than to instruct, appeals to the heart rather than to the head. To make use of De Quincey's classification, it belongs not to the literature of information, the purpose of which is to augment knowledge, but to the literature of power, the aim of which is to move. So important is a clear understanding of the difference not merely between the kinds of effect they are calculated to produce and the organs upon which they are intended to act, that, according to *The Voice of The Silence* itself, the disciple at the very outset of his quest is admonished, "Learn above all to separate Head-learning from Soul-wisdom, the 'Eye' from the 'Heart doctrine' . . .

— Bhikshu Sangarakshita

All being desire liberation from misery.  
Seek, therefore, for the causes of misery and expunge them.  
By entering on the path, liberation from misery is attained.  
Exhort, then, all beings to enter the path.

— IX<sup>th</sup> Panchen Lama  
Endorsing the 1927 Peking ed.

Madame Blavatsky had a profound knowledge of Buddhist philosophy, and the doctrines she promulgated were those of many great teachers. This book is like a call to men to forsake desire, dispel every evil thought, and enter the true Path.

— BT Chang

The only true exposition in English of the Heart Doctrine of the Mahayāna and its noble ideal of self-sacrifice for humanity.

— Alice Leighton Cleather and Basil Crump

Here is the real Mahayāna Buddhism.

— DT Suzuki

It gave us a blazing vision of the immensity of Mahayāna Buddhism when our knowledge so far was exclusively of the Theravada, excepting HPB's *Voice of The Silence*.

— Christmas Humphreys  
On Suzuki's *Essays in Zen Buddhism*.



There is a verge of the mind which these things haunt; and whispers therefrom mingle with the operations of our understanding, even as the waters of the infinite ocean send their waves to break among the pebbles that lie upon our shores. . . . We recognize the passwords to the mystical region as we hear them, but we cannot use them ourselves; it alone has the keeping of ‘the password primeval.’

— William James

. . . . [having] bathed in these I marvelled what I could have done to merit birth in an age wherein such wisdom was on offer to all who could beg, borrow or steal a copy of those works.

— George W Russell

On the great series by HP Blavatsky, *i.e.*, *The Secret Doctrine*, *The Voice of The Silence*, *The Key to Theosophy*, etc. . . .

I believe that this book has strongly influenced many sincere seekers and aspirants to the wisdom and compassion of the Bôdhisattva Path.

— XIV<sup>th</sup> Dalai Lama

Endorsing the 1989 Peking ed.

This is a work intended for the aspirant after true, or self, knowledge, aiming to play a significant part in helping mankind along its arduous evolutionary path to ultimate self-redemption and liberation.

— Geoffrey A Farthing

It is also one of her (HP Blavatsky’s) most important writings, being a guide-book for those dedicated to achieving enlightenment through altruistic service to humanity.

— Boris de Zirkoff

Never will I seek nor perceive private individual salvation;  
never will I enter into final peace alone;  
but forever and everywhere will I live and strive  
for the redemption of every creature throughout the world.

— Sylvia Cranston

“Pledge of Kwan Yin,” the Buddhist Goddess of Mercy.



## “Thus have I heard”

From *Compassion: the Spirit of Truth* (2009), pp. 42-45.

### Two courses of conduct

When, by contemplation upon the TRUTH of TRUTHS and self-denial, a soul sets about identifying with its spiritual counterpart, it can be said that its repatriation journey has begun in earnest. Two entirely different motives impel minds to action through either of two antithetical courses of conduct: the Eye Doctrine and the Heart Doctrine.

**Eye Doctrine** Appalled and depressed by the hopelessness of life, *hoi polloi*<sup>1</sup> seek freedom from the despotism of the flesh by exchanging fleeting enjoyments and thrills with everlasting joy and peace. They set about a process that is commonly known as the (Open) Path of Liberation or Yoga. The aim is to bask in the Unconsciousness of Nirvana by evading the responsibilities of Self-Consciousness on Earth. The motive is selfish, not materially but spiritually.

**Heart Doctrine** *The Voice* proposes an alternative to the well-trodden solitary path of oblivion from our world, the Path of Compassion or Secret Path that the Elect of Humanity pursue to a conclusion out of boundless pity for the world of mortals.<sup>2</sup>

### Three golden precepts

**The Voice of the Silence** (First Fragment) is an overview of the Heart Doctrine or Path of Compassion. At a certain stage of inner development a “still small voice”<sup>3</sup> may be heard by those who are intellectually and ethically fit to hear it and follow its behests. As it will be shown in chapter 7, *That Voice* is not *any* voice. It is the Voice of our planet’s Highest Chohan. It is Divine Thought universally manifested and diffused, Logos. It is Sound Eternal, Vach. It is our Divine Consciousness, our Inner God that speaks *audibly* to the heart. It comes from *That Wondrous Being*<sup>4</sup> who, having renounced Its own rest and peace, remains on Earth shielding “mankind invisibly from still worse evils”<sup>5</sup> by Its quintessence and occult influence.

**The Two Paths** (Middle Fragment) is the focus of this moving text, where Personal Liberation is compared to Sublime Renunciation. By stepping to the rugged Path of the fourfold dhyana with false learning and pride, the crowd plans to escape from the world and abandon those still ensnared by it to their fate. On the other Path, the

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<sup>1</sup> Οἱ πολλοί, the many; *i.e.*, the masses, the rabble, the vulgar.

<sup>2</sup> *Cf.* The Doctrine of Raja-Yoga and its preferred “Path” to spiritual ascension, in *Blavatsky Collected Writings*, (A FEW MORE MISCONCEPTIONS CORRECTED) XIV pp. 439-40. For examples of “Paths of action, renunciation, and their endless variants” in science, philosophy, and religion, see Appendix B, p. 339. *Note to Students*: Because the Heart Doctrine is the central theme of the book, no further elaborations will be made here as an essay on the subject will have to be written upon completion of the course.

<sup>3</sup> *Cf.* 1 Kings xix, 12, KJV

<sup>4</sup> Corresponds to the “Seven Dhyani-Buddhas.” See Ch. 6, Hierarchy of Compassion Drawing, note callout 5.

<sup>5</sup> *Voice of the Silence*, frag. III note 111 (to *vs.* 293 p. 68); p. 94 in glos. of Chinese & Centenary eds.



steeper Path of Virtue, "the Few" or the Elect of our Race, humbled<sup>1</sup> by true knowledge, rise up to the Paramita Heights. Upon reaching the summit of intellectual and moral excellence, they renounce personal rest and bliss so that they can be of service to the world, unthanked and unperceived,

Humble because of knowledge; mighty by sacrifice.<sup>2</sup>

For,

Compassion and humility meet in Love.<sup>3</sup>

Slaying the personal mind is a prerequisite for stepping over either Path. But menticide is a relatively minor sacrifice: it only frees the soul from the roll of births and deaths. *The Voice* directs disciples towards a much greater course of action, the Path of Woe and Self-immolation which commands a second sacrifice immediately after the fruition of the first: the *renunciation of the liberty itself*. That is the overriding aim of *The Voice of the Silence*, and that is why this little book is so precious.<sup>4</sup>

**The Seven Portals** (Third Fragment) contrasts the Arya Path with the Blissful Path of yogins that leads to the "heaven" of nirvana. This is one of the most stirring invocations of Compassion for our world, humanity and all, and its worsening afflictions. The anxiety of its divine author to bring out Humaneness and Mercy is touching, almost palpable. By sacrificing "individuality" at the altar of Humanity and by bitter duty to Nature and all living beings can animal Man come of age and reclaim his long-forgotten divinity. As Theosophy's purpose and application are inextricably related, so is *The Voice's* Cause when galvanised by Compassion: it lights up the "Secret Path" and brings Universal Brotherhood on Earth, Its noble end and living fruition.

Here is how BP Wadia counterpoints "The Two Paths":

Just as Fohat is related to the One Life metaphysically, so the central teaching of this real Wisdom of the Great Sages is related to the doctrine of Universal Brotherhood. That central teaching is called the Path of Great Renunciation and is distinct and different from the Path of Liberation or Emancipation. This path of Great Renunciation is *not* the one ordinarily known among Eastern yogis and sannyasis, swamis and fakirs. That Path of Renunciation (*Tyaga* and *Sannyasa Margas*) is walked in the hope, for the purpose, and with the motive of gaining Liberation or Moksha. The Path of Great Renunciation taught in Esoteric Philosophy is *not* the means and the channel for liberation of the human spirit, but leads to the conscious and deliberate Renunciation of that liberation — "Nirvanas, gained and lost from boundless pity and compassion for the world of deluded mortals." The path of renunciation of actions, and of fruits of actions which leads to Liberation is called in Esoteric Philosophy the Open Path; the

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<sup>1</sup> Cf. ". . . With the Pythagoreans . . . humility was no virtue, though in modern times it is considered to be the greatest of the virtues. With Aristotle likewise it is no virtue: for in his *Nicomachean Ethics* he says, "that all humble men are flatterers, and all flatterers are humble." Iamblichus: *Life of Pythagoras*, p. 280 fn.

<sup>2</sup> Rudyard Kipling: *The Islanders*

<sup>3</sup> *Science of the Emotions*, p. 90

<sup>4</sup> The objectives and key features of the "open eye" versus the "secret heart" are compared in Appendix C: "At the threshold of the two paths," pp. 341-42.



Path of Great Renunciation leads the Mukta and Nirvanee “to don the miseries of ‘Secret life,’” and produces “mental woe unspeakable; woe for the living Dead and helpless pity for the men of karmic sorrow.” This is called the Secret Path.<sup>1</sup>

Altruism is the key to Theosophy. And Theosophists are those philanthropists who strive to help all that lives through thick and thin. Not those who, blinded by Spiritual Selfishness, forsake their own kin by crossing “to the other shore”<sup>2</sup> or nirvana<sup>3</sup>

. . . which is oblivion of the World and men for ever.<sup>4</sup>

Altruism or “other-interest” is a synthetic word. It implies impersonal, unconditional love of other-self, brotherly love, vivre pour l’autrui. Altruism is the antonym of egoism or “self-interest.” It is as if Auguste Comte coined it to coincide with the launch of the Theosophical Society in 1875, just as great music was often composed for special occasions.<sup>5</sup>

Continues Shri Wadia:

Without hesitation it can be asserted that the teachings contained in *The Secret Doctrine* will not be thoroughly understood by one who is not actively altruistic. It will remain a sealed book in spite of higher understanding and intuitive perceptions, unless these two are made use of on the plane of action. What distinguishes a Theosophist from a student of Theosophy is this altruism. In *The Key to Theosophy* it is said, “Theosophist is, who Theosophy does” — not thinks, not studies, not feels, but *does*. Speaking of the pledged member of her esoteric school, H.P.B. said that he “has to become a thorough altruist” (*Key*, p. 20) . . . “The only palliative to the evils of life is union and harmony — a Brotherhood IN ACTU, and *altruism* not simply in name.”<sup>6</sup>

WQ Judge in his analysis of the second chapter of the *Bhagavad-Gita* reflects upon the reasons for the secrecy surrounding the First School of Initiation:

It is secret, because, founded in nature and having only real Hierophants at the head, its privacy cannot be invaded without the real key. And that key, in each degree, is the *aspirant himself*. Until that aspirant has become in fact the sign and the key, he cannot enter the degree above him. As a whole then, and in each degree, it is self-protective.<sup>7</sup>

*The Voice of the Silence* sheds light on the path of self-immolation. It is Krishna in His song of life. It is Narada in His exaltation of Devotional Love. It is the real Christ of the Churches. It is *The Voice of Mercy*, the hidden author of the *Book of the Golden*

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<sup>1</sup> *Studies in the SD*, Bk. II (2<sup>nd</sup> Series) iii p. 46

<sup>2</sup> Cf. *Voice of the Silence*, frag. III vs. 206 p. 47 & vs. 251 p. 58

<sup>3</sup> Personal nirvana is atyantika, i.e., one of four kinds of pralaya: “*Atyantika*, does not concern the Worlds or the Universe, but only the individualities of some people; it is thus individual pralaya or NIRVANA; after having reached which, there is no more future existence possible, no rebirth till after the *Maha-Pralaya*.” *Secret Doctrine*, I p. 371

<sup>4</sup> Cf. *Voice of the Silence*, frag. II vs. 186 p. 42

<sup>5</sup> Independent enquirers may wish to look at our Theosophy and Theosophists Series.

<sup>6</sup> *Studies in the SD*, Bk. I (2<sup>nd</sup> Series) iv p. 78; [quoting *Secret Doctrine*, I p. 644.]

<sup>7</sup> *Blavatsky Collected Writings*, (PRACTICAL OCCULTISM) IX p. 162 fn. [Boris de Zirkoff quoting *The Path*, II (11), February 1888, p. 330, where W.Q. Judge analyses the Second Chapter of the *Gita*.]



*Precepts* that speaks. When the last soul has returned home safely, It will finally resume Its “Mercy Seat on the Throne.” And who knows? Some of those who have listened to It, and acted upon Its promptings, might be destined to keep the torch of Truth alight in another planet, watching over and protecting another “orphan” at some future kalpa. And “the last shall be the greatest.”<sup>1</sup>



Manjusri Bodhisattva

<sup>1</sup> *Voice of the Silence*, frag. II vs. 188 p. 42



## Theosophists described

From *Compassion: the Spirit of Truth* (2009), Appendix A, p. 339.

### Metaphysically

He who would be an occultist must not separate either himself or anything else from the rest of creation or *non-creation*. For, the moment he distinguishes himself from even a vessel of dishonour, he will not be able to join himself to any vessel of honour. He must think of himself as an infinitesimal something, not even as an individual atom, but as a part of the world-atoms as a whole, or become an illusion, a nobody, and vanish like a breath, leaving no trace behind. As illusions, we are separate distinct bodies, living in masks furnished by Maya. Can we claim one single atom in our body as distinctly our own? Everything, from spirit to the tiniest particle, is part of the whole, at best a link. Break a single link and all passes into annihilation; but this is impossible. There is a series of vehicles becoming more and more gross, from spirit to the densest matter, so that with each step downward and outward we get more and more the sense of separateness developed in us. Yet this is illusory, for if there were a real and complete separation between any two human beings, they could not communicate with, or understand each other in any way.<sup>1</sup>

### Ethically

He who does not practise altruism;

He who is not prepared to share his last morsel with a weaker or a poorer than himself;

He who neglects to help his brother man, of whatever race, nation, or creed, whenever and wherever he meets suffering, and who turns a deaf ear to the cry of human misery;

He who hears an innocent person slandered, whether a brother Theosophist or not, and does not undertake his defence as he would undertake his own;

[He] is no Theosophist.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *Blavatsky Collected Writings*, (TRANSACTIONS OF THE BLAVATSKY LODGE) X p. 395. [Commentary on Stanza IV.1: — LISTEN, YE SONS OF THE EARTH, TO YOUR INSTRUCTORS — THE SONS OF THE FIRE. LEARN, THERE IS NEITHER FIRST NOR LAST; FOR ALL IS ONE NUMBER, ISSUED FROM NO-NUMBER.]

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.* (THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY) X p. 69; [quoting Émile Burnouf's quotation of an editorial in *Lucifer*, Vol. I, November 1887 p. 169.]



## At the threshold of the Two Paths

From *Compassion: the Spirit of Truth* (2009), Appendix C, pp. 343-44.

Modified after *The Voice of the Silence*, Golden Jubilee edition, pp. 92-95.

Superscripted numbers correspond to the paragraph numbering of that edition.

1	2
<sup>182</sup> First path	Second path <sup>183</sup>
<sup>111, 119, 127, 147</sup> Eye Doctrine	Heart Doctrine <sup>111, 119, 120, 128, 147</sup>
<sup>143, 180, 181, 186</sup> Open path	Secret path <sup>143, 146, 147, 180, 184, 187</sup>
<sup>106, 111, 113, 115</sup> Head [mind] learning	Soul [heart] wisdom <sup>106, 111, 113, 115</sup>
<sup>119, 122</sup> False learning	True knowledge <sup>122</sup>
<sup>119</sup> Behold I know	Thus have I heard <sup>119</sup>
<sup>298</sup> Dhyana path	Arahatta path <sup>299</sup>
<sup>199</sup> Rugged path	Steeper path <sup>200</sup>
<sup>198, 199</sup> Fourfold Dhyana	Paramita Heights <sup>200</sup>
<sup>143, 194</sup> Path of bliss	Path of woe <sup>183, 184, 194</sup>
<sup>128</sup> External, non existing [fleeting]	Permanent, everlasting <sup>128</sup>
<sup>222</sup> Personal	Impersonal <sup>222</sup>
<sup>143, 191</sup> Selfish bliss	Self-immolation <sup>180</sup>
<sup>179</sup> Bliss immediate	Bliss deferred <sup>179</sup>
<sup>298</sup> Haven of the yogins	Arya path <sup>302, 307</sup>
<sup>142</sup> Destruction	Compassion <sup>142, 191, 301</sup>
[Personal Buddha]	Buddha of Perfection <sup>146, 302</sup>
[Solitary Buddha]	Buddha of Compassion <sup>143, 306</sup>
<sup>191</sup> Pratyeka Buddha	Samyak Sambuddha <sup>188</sup>
<sup>119</sup> Pride	Humbleness <sup>119</sup>

[Continued overleaf.]



THE VOICE OF THE SILENCE  
AT THE THRESHOLD OF THE TWO PATHS

1

<sup>119</sup> The crowd

[Hoi Polloi]

[Escape from the world]

<sup>190</sup> Sweet rest

<sup>186</sup> Oblivion of the world of men

<sup>142, 186, 306</sup> Sana (Dharmakaya) Robe

<sup>296-298, 306</sup> Srotapanna

<sup>305</sup> Nirvana Dharma

<sup>182, 190</sup> Liberation

<sup>142</sup> Selves sacrificed to self

<sup>142</sup> Sacrifice mankind to self

[Open Eye]

2

The Elect <sup>119</sup>

The Few

Save the world <sup>193</sup>

Bitter duty <sup>190</sup>

Pity for the world of mortals <sup>187</sup>

Nirmanakaya Robe <sup>145, 306</sup>

Bodhisattva <sup>306, 307</sup>

Arhan [Buddha] Dharma <sup>314, 315</sup>

Renunciation [of Liberation] <sup>145, 183, 190, 192</sup>

Self sacrificed to selves <sup>146</sup>

Live to benefit mankind <sup>144</sup>

Secret Heart <sup>143</sup>

