

# Serpents

## Bringing out Compassion

**L**ET me give you an illustration out of real life. When the notorious Madame Cou-lomb came to me in Bombay, with her husband, to ask for bread and shelter, though I had met her in Cairo, and knew her to be a treacherous, wicked, and lying woman, nevertheless I gave her all she needed, because such was my duty. But when, in course of time, I saw she hated me, envied my position and influence, and slandered me to my friends while flattering me to my face, my human nature revolted. We were very poor then, poorer even in fact than we are now, both the Society and ourselves, and to keep two enemies at our expense seemed hard. Then I applied to my Guru and Master, who was then at three days' distance from Bombay, and submitted to his decision whether it was right and theosophical to keep *two such Serpents* in the house; for she, at any rate, if not her husband, threatened the whole Society. Would you know the answer I received? These are the words *verbatim*, the reply beginning with an aphorism from the Book of Precepts:

*“If thou findest a hungry Serpent creeping into thy house, seeking for food, and, out of fear it should bite thee, instead of offering it milk thou turnest it out to suffer and starve, thou turnest away from the Path of Compassion. Thus acteth the fainthearted and the selfish.’ You know,” went on the message, “that you are PERSONALLY threatened; you have still to learn that SO LONG AS THERE ARE THREE MEN WORTHY OF OUR LORD’S BLESSING IN THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY — IT CAN NEVER BE DESTROYED. . . .Your two Karmas [her’s and mine] run in two opposite directions. Shall you, out of abject fear of that which may come, blend the two [Karmas] and become as she is? . . .They are homeless and hungry; shelter and feed them, then, if you would not become participant in her Karma.”<sup>1</sup>*



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<sup>1</sup> Blavatsky Collected Writings, (E.S. INSTRUCTION No. III) XII pp. 587-88

