

*Ingratitude is a vice in society  
and a crime in Occultism*



# Philosophical reflections

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<sup>1</sup> Frontispiece: Quiet Moment of Gratitude, by Christi Belcourt.



## Masters M and KH on Madame Blavatsky

Perish the Theosophical Society rather than be ungrateful to H.P.B.<sup>1</sup>

But until that day of final triumph someone has to be sacrificed — though we accept but voluntary victims. The ungrateful task did lay her low and desolate in the ruins of misery, misapprehension, and isolation: but she will have her reward in the hereafter for we never were ungrateful.<sup>2</sup>

## Master KH

We never were yet ungrateful for services rendered.<sup>3</sup>

Ingratitude is not among our vices . . .<sup>4</sup>

## Madame Blavatsky

Ingratitude *is a crime on Occultism.*<sup>5</sup>

## William Shakespeare

Blow, blow, thou winter wind!  
Thou art not so unkind as man's ingratitude.<sup>6</sup>

How sharper than a serpent's tooth it is  
To have a thankless child!<sup>7</sup>

I tax not you, you elements, with unkindness.<sup>8</sup>

Ingratitude, thou marble-hearted fiend!<sup>9</sup>



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<sup>1</sup> Master M. to H.S. Olcott, LMW2

<sup>2</sup> Mahātma Letter 9 (18), p. 51; 3<sup>rd</sup> Combined ed.

<sup>3</sup> *ibid.*, 62 (126), p. 350; 3<sup>rd</sup> Combined ed.

<sup>4</sup> *ibid.*, 2 (2), p. 9; 3<sup>rd</sup> Combined ed.

<sup>5</sup> *Blavatsky Collected Writings*, (E.S. INSTRUCTION No. III) XII p. 593

<sup>6</sup> *As You Like It*, Act II, scene 7

<sup>7</sup> *King Lear*, Act I, scene 4

<sup>8</sup> *ibid.*, Act III, scene 2

<sup>9</sup> *ibid.*, Act I, scene 4

## Et alii<sup>1</sup>

Nothing more detestable does the earth produce than an ungrateful man.

— *Decimus Magnus Ausonius*<sup>2</sup>

You say well, my friend, . . . the unpardonable sin is ingratitude. . . . It is the curse of this age; for he who forgets or refuses to remember the kindness done to him by others sets himself apart, and worships his miserable self, and he makes an idol of himself, saying, “I am of more importance than my fellows in the world, and it is meet and right that they should give and that I should receive.” Ingratitude is selfishness, and selfishness is the worship of oneself, the setting of oneself higher than man and goodness and God.

— *Francis Marion Crawford*<sup>3</sup>

Do you know what is more hard to bear than the reverses of fortune?  
It is the baseness, the hideous ingratitude, of man.

— *Napoleon Bonaparte*<sup>4</sup>

Do not torment me. If there be a crime  
Of deeper dye than all the guilty train  
Of human vices, — ’tis ingratitude.

— *Henry Brooke*<sup>5</sup>

He that forgets his friend is ungrateful to him;  
But he that forgets his Saviour is unmerciful to himself.

— *John Bunyan*<sup>6</sup>

Ingratitude is always a kind of weakness.  
I have never seen that clever men have been ungrateful.

If anyone meets us who owes us a debt of gratitude, it immediately crosses our mind.  
How often can we meet some one to whom we owe gratitude, without thinking of it!

— *Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe*<sup>7</sup>

We fancy we suffer from ingratitude, while in reality we suffer from self-love. Passion weeps while she says, “I did not deserve this from him”; Reason, while she says it, smoothens her brow at the clear fountain of the heart.

— *Walter Savage Landor*<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Cf. § “Charity is a debt of honour,” in: *Compassion the Spirit of Truth*, Ch. 8, pp. 303-4

<sup>2</sup> *Epigramata de Diversis Rebus*, CXL

<sup>3</sup> *Mr Isaacs: A Tale of Modern India*. London: MacMillan & Co., 1882; p. 144

<sup>4</sup> *Recollections of Caulincourt, Duke of Vicenza* (1838), Vol. I, p. 98; tr. Eilleaux.

<sup>5</sup> *The Earl of Warwick* (1792), Act IV, scene 1

<sup>6</sup> *The Pilgrim’s Progress* (1808), Pt. II, p. 37

<sup>7</sup> *The Maxims and Reflections of Goethe*, “Life and Character,” III #152, V #283; tr. Saunders. Full text in our Living the Life Series. — ED. PHIL.

THE MASTERS SPEAK SERIES  
INGRATITUDE, THOU MARBLE-HEARTED FIEND!

. . . you may rest upon this as Proposition of an eternal, unfailing Truth; that there neither is, nor never was, any person remarkably ungrateful, who was not also insufferably proud. . . . In a word, Ingratitude is too base to return a Kindness, too proud to regard it; much like the Tops of Mountains, barren indeed, but yet lofty; they produce nothing; they feed nobody; they clothe nobody; yet are high and stately, and look down upon the World about them.

— *Bishop Robert South*<sup>2</sup>



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<sup>1</sup> *Imaginary Conversations and Poems* (1824), “Epicurus, Leontion, and Ternissa”

<sup>2</sup> *Twelve Sermons preached upon several occasions*, Vol. I (6<sup>th</sup> ed., 1727), Sermon preached at Christ-Church, Oxon, pp. 444, 445

## Suggested reading for students.



### From The Masters Speak Series.

- EARLY FRAGMENTS OF ESOTERIC COSMOGONY
- MAHA CHOCHAN'S VIEW ON THE TS
- MAHATMA LETTER NO. 10
- MAHATMAS AND THEIR BODIES
- MASTER KH DEFENDS MADAME BLAVATSKY
- MASTER KH ON HIGHER METAPHYSICS
- MASTER KH ON THE DIVINE SELF SEEN BY SELF
- MASTER KH ON THE PANORAMIC VISION AT DEATH
- MASTER M ON ATMAN AND BRAVE SOLDIERS
- MASTER M ON THE MUSIC OF THE SPHERES
- ON DEATH AND RECOLLECTION OF OUR PREVIOUS LIVES
- PEARLS OF WISDOM FROM A MASTER OF WISDOM
- THE EUROPEAN HISTORY IS ENTIRELY AT SEA
- THE INFLUENCE OF GEOMAGNETISM ON WEATHER AND MAN
- THE MIGHTY POTENCY AND NOBLE AIM OF THE PROGRESSIVE MIND
- THE OLDEST ARMENIAN MONASTERY

