

Vach. Now Vach is an occult power of speech which only a few choice spirits here and there have ever possessed. It is acquired by speaking the truth for twelve years. That is all you have to do. Of course, it would be a great deal for some people to accomplish. There are those who would probably fall dead if they were to speak the truth for twelve minutes. They would die from what physicians call shock, and when one passes away from shock, he is just as dead as if he had succumbed to St. Vitus' dance or the ravages of pantod. The acquirement of Vach is one of the first steps toward becoming a mahatma, who, in addition to being a saint, is a trained occultist, and wields spiritual forces as naturally and readily as the rest of us carry in wood."

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I KNOW several people who would join the Theosophical Society if I asked them. There are quite a number in many places just waiting for an invitation. If these friends could recognize that the whole path of initiation or occult development depends on their own efforts, they would see that the first step of self-reliant action taken in identifying themselves with a body of earnest workers means a definite advance in evolution, and that to deprive them of the opportunity of exercising their free-will and independence is most undesirable. What a man does of himself augments his strength. What he does for another loses its value to the extent of his dependence upon the supposed authority followed. The only authority is within. Men choose to deceive themselves and think they may evade responsibility by accepting at the hands of another that which they really choose themselves. Be honest with yourself and you will grow strong.

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"CAN I be an atheist and a theosophist at the same time?" "Can I be a Roman Catholic and a theosophist?" "Can I belong to the Salvation Army and be a theosophist?" These are samples of questions continually being fired at theosophical students by people who cannot realize that theosophists never attempt to dictate to others what

they should or should not do. The Theosophical Society makes no enquiry of its members as to what other society they may belong to. It is satisfied to leave to themselves the regulation of their own conduct. So long as people accord that tolerance to others which they hope for themselves the Society has nothing to say. In this the Theosophical Society differs from many religious bodies. Its practice follows that of scientific bodies. The Geographical Societies do not expel those of their fellows who may have joined themselves to some of the Geological or Archæological organizations. It is true that in medicine the allopaths look upon the homeopaths as heretics and *vice versa*, but there are a few medical men who have studied both systems and avail themselves of the superior methods of each. This represents the theosophical attitude. Many will be able to realize what a bitter pill it is to swallow to admit that the other party has any good points at all. As Truth is higher than any form of religion so Madame Blavatsky wrote: "Any person . . . of pure, unselfish life, who finds more joy in helping his neighbour than in receiving help himself; one who is ever ready to sacrifice his own pleasure for the sake of other people; and who loves Truth, Goodness and Wisdom for their own sake, not for the benefit they may confer—is a Theosophist." In spite of the opinions of some constitutional souls there are large numbers of theosophists who have not applied for a certificate.

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FOUND AND MADE A NOTE OF.

IT is possible to "advance" in a circle.

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IT is possible to be so careful that our neighbour does his duty, that we neglect our own.

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IF we want to know how "advanced" we are, read I Corinthians xiii. 1-15, and then let conscience decide.

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THE grass grows under the feet of the man (or woman) who stops to criticize comrades.

C. L. A.