

[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 [Mars], as in his crimson veils his eye sweeps over slumbering Earth. Behold the fiery aura of the hand of Lhagpa [Mercury] extended in protecting love over the heads of his ascetics. Both are now servants to Nyima [the Sun], left in his absence silent watchers in the night. Yet both in *kalpas* past were bright *nyimas*, and may in future days 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.

[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 [Buddha], becomes a *srotapatti* 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 eyesight of the mountain eagle, the hearing of the timid doe.

[160] Tell him, O aspirant, that true devotion may bring him back the knowledge, that knowledge which was his in former births. The deva-sight and deva-hearing are not obtained in one short birth.

B. COMMENT.

The “they” and “them” of verse 150 are those referred to in verse 149 who form with “thee” a karmic band, each of whose karma influences the others of the band. The members of such a band have a collective or “distributive” karma, as HPB calls it in *The Key to Theosophy*, in which the actions of each member of the band affect all its other members.

This concept of our karmic connection with one another within a group is a curious mirror reflection of the evolutionary principle of individualization. In evolution, consciousness moves from a group soul, one soul that manifests in a number of physical bodies simultaneously (as, for example, all the bees in a hive are expressions of a single life rather than