

The Mahatma Letters

THEIR CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER

As Arranged by

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INTRODUCTION

Soon after the book, *The Mahatma Letters*, was published, I was at Adyar classifying and filing the archives of the Theosophical Society. The book was an invaluable aid to this work, but there was a certain difficulty in using it: the letters were sometimes insufficiently dated or not dated at all, H.P.B. having the casual habit of writing, "Thursday" or "The 3rd," with no month and year attached.

I decided to try to place the letters in their chronological order, and devoted my leisure hours for many months to this task. When *The Letters of H. P. Blavatsky to A. P. Sinnett* came from the press a year or two later, the same was true of them, and the work of correctly dating had to be continued. Some clue, such as the title of an article about to appear in the current *Theosophist* or a reference to a subject mentioned in the immediately previous letter, often led (though through mazes of search) to the fitting of that particular letter into its proper niche.

After much cross reference and intensive study of letters, magazines and books, I sent the result of my labors to Mr. Trevor Barker, editor of the two volumes. He replied that the books had been block-printed, consequently it would be impossible to change the order of the letters in any future edition.

He sent my lists to Miss Beatrice Hastings, as a possible aid to her studies of the career of Madame Blavatsky, in her noble effort to have the Hodgson Report to the Society for Psychical Research, branding H.P.B. a charlatan, expunged from the records of that Society. Miss Hastings wrote me very appreciatively, and suggested that we collaborate on a certain few letters which she had dated differently. I should gladly have done so but for the fact that I was at the time traveling about Australia lecturing, and the necessary files of letters, literary material, reference books, etc. were not available to me.

When I arrived in the United States of America in 1937, I offered the lists to Mr. Sidney A. Cook for publication; and as there seems now to be a demand for the correct chronological ordering of the contents of these two famous books, he has consented to place my lists at the disposal of admirers of H. P. Blavatsky and her work. I trust they will prove useful to many.

The dates enclosed in brackets are the dates I have supplied or corrected.

It is wise to add a few words of caution against the too literal acceptance of the letters of the Mahatmas as Their very own personal opinions and statements. Dr. Annie Besant disapproved of publication of these letters without such a warning. I give it herewith, not in my own words but in the words of the Master Koot Hoomi, H. P. Blavatsky and Colonel Olcott.

"When the publication of some of these letters was permitted for the OCCULT WORLD, it was hoped that among your readers some may be able, like yourself, to put all the different pieces together and evolve out of them the skeleton, or a shadow of our system, which, although not exactly the original—this would be an impossibility—would be as near an approach to it as could be made by a non-initiate. But the results have proved quasi-disastrous! We had tried an experiment and sadly failed! Now we see that none but those who have passed at least their third initiation are able to write upon those subjects comprehensively."

Master Koot Hoomi, "THE MAHATMA LETTERS," 356,357.

"Our mystic terms in their clumsy re-translation from the Sanskrit into English are as confusing to us as they are to you—especially to 'M'; unless in writing to you one of us takes his pen AS AN ADEPT and uses it from the first word to the last in this capacity, he is quite as liable to 'slips' as any other man." *Ibid.*, 84.

"There are hundreds of things missing or incomplete in THE OCCULT WORLD. The teachings were given by Mahatma K. H., a few letters written by himself, others precipitated by his chelas. The mistakes made, whether through the fault of the 'precipitators' or by others, have been and will be gradually explained and corrected."

H. P. B. in a letter to an intimate friend in 1885, published in THE THEOSOPHIST, February, 1908.

"Has Mahatma K. H. written himself all HIS letters? How many chelas have been precipitating and writing them . . . heaven only knows."

H. P. B. in a letter to Mr. Sinnett, Jan. 6, 1886,
published in THE MAHATMA LETTERS, 480.

"It is very rarely that Mahatma K. H. dictated verbatim; and when He did, there remained the few sublime passages found in Mr. Sinnett's letters from Him. The rest, He would say, write so and so, and the chela wrote, often without knowing a word of English, as I am now made to write Hebrew and Greek and Latin, etc. . . . Two or three times, perhaps more, letters were precipitated IN MY PRESENCE, by chelas who could not speak English, and who took ideas and expressions out of my head."

H. P. B. in a letter to Mrs. Gebhard, Jan. 24, 1886,
published in THE EARLY TEACHINGS OF THE MASTERS,
See INTRODUCTION by C. Jinarajadasa.

"How many a time was I (no Mahatma) shocked and startled, burning with shame when shown notes written in Their (two) handwritings (a form of writing adopted for the T. S. and used by chelas, only NEVER WITHOUT THEIR SPECIAL PERMISSION OR ORDER to that effect) exhibiting mistakes in science, grammar and thoughts, expressed in such language that it perverted entirely the meaning originally intended." Ibid.

"Probably no one has ever received a line in English from a Master in his own normal handwriting, and written by him in the usual way, unless possibly we except the note which K. H. formed in my own hand when he visited me in his physical body, one night in my tent at Lahore, in 1883. I should not care to dogmatise even about that, as I did not see him write it, and he may have created the letter then and there through the H. P. B. aura that went everywhere with me."

H. S. Olcott in OLD DIARY LEAVES, vol. I, 262.

THE MAHATMA LETTERS

Chrono- logical No.	Text No.	Page	Writer	Date
1880				
1	I	1	K.H.	About Oct. 15
2	II	6	"	Oct. 19
3	III	10	"	Oct. 20
4	CXLIII	488	"	[Oct.]
5	IV	11	"	Oct. 29
6	CXXVI	454	"	Oct. 29
7	CVI	443	"	After Oct. 29
8	XCIX	435	Hume	Nov. 20
9	XCVIII	434	K.H.	[Nov.]
10	V	17	"	[Nov.]
11	LXXVIII	207	"	[After Nov. 20]

12	VI	22	K.H.	[About Dec. 10]
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1881

13	VII	25	"	Jan. 30
14	VCII	444	"	[Feb. 11 to 18]
15	CXLII-A	486	Damodar	[Before Feb. 20]
16	VIII	26	K.H.	Feb. 20
17	XXXI	240	"	March 26
18	IX	38	"	July 8
19	CXXI	452	"	[July]
20	XLIX	280	"	Aug. 5
21	LXXV	375	"	
22	XXVII	204	"	Autumn
23	CIV	440	"	[End of Sept.]
24	LXXI	374	M.	[Sept.]
25	XXVI	203	"	Autumn
26	LXXIII	375	"	[Oct.]
27	CII	439	"	Oct.
28	LXXIV	375	"	[Oct.]
29	CI	439	"	Oct.
30	XXIX	217	"	[Oct.]
31	CXXXIV	461	H.P.B.	[Nov.] 4
32	XL	254	M.	[Before Nov. 14]
33	XCIV	449	"	[Nov. 14]
34	CX	412	Oxon.	Nov. 26
35	XXXVIII	250	M.	[After Dec. 6]
36	XXXIX	253	"	[After Dec. 10]
37	XLI	256	"	[Dec. not Feb.]

1882

38	XXXVI	248	"	Jan.
39	CVIII	444	"	
40	XXXVII	248	D.K.	Jan. 10
41	CXV	449	M.	[Before Jan. 12]
42	CIX	444	M.	[About Jan. 14]
43	XIII	70	"	Jan. 28
44	XLIII	258	"	[Jan. or Feb.]

45	XLIII	258	M	Feb.
46	XII	66	"	[Feb.]
47	XLVII	271	"	March 3
48	XLIV	263	"	Feb.
49	XLV	264	K.H.	Feb.
50	XLVIII	273	"	March 3
51	CIII	440	"	[Before March 11]
52	LXXXVIII	410	"	March 11
53	CXX	452	"	[March 11-16]
54	CXLIV	488	"	March 14
55	CXXXVI	464	H.P.B.	March 17
56	XXXV	246	K.H.	March 18
57	LXXXIX	410	"	March 24
58	C	438	"	March 25
59	CXXII	452	"	April 27
60	XCIV	429	"	[May]
61	CXXX	457	S. Row	May 7
62	CXXXII	459	"	June 3
63	LXXVI	376	K.H.	June 3
64	XVII	117	"	June
65	XVIII	119	"	June
66	CXXXI	458	S. Row	June 26
67	XVI	99	K.H.	June [29]
68	LXIX	373	"	[After 29th]
69	XI	59	"	June 30
70	XIV	78	"	July 9
71	XV	88	"	July 10
72	XX-B	125	A.P.S.	July 25
73	XXI	134	"	Aug. 12
74	XIX	122	K.H.	Aug. 12
75	XX-A	123	A. Hume	Aug. 12
76	XX-C	127	K.H.	[After 12th]
77	XXIV-A	178	"	[After 12th]
78	CXXVII	455	"	Aug. 13
79	CXVI	450	"	[Aug.]
80	L	286	"	Aug.
81	CXVIII	448	"	[Before 18]

82	XXX	228	K.H.	[Aug. 18]
83	LIII	294	"	[Aug. 19]
84	CXVIII	450	"	
85	LI	287	"	Aug. 22
86	LII	288	"	[Aug.]
87	XXXII	242	"	[After 26th]
88	CXXV	453	"	[End of Aug.]
89	XCI	446	"	[Sept.]
90	XXIV-B	180	"	
91	CXII	447	"	
92	XXXIV	245	"	
93	X	52	"	Sept. 28
94	XLVI	268	M.	[Sept. or Oct.]
95	XXII	137	"	[Sept.]
96	CX	445	K.H.	[Before Oct. 8th]
97	LIV	302	"	[After Oct. 8th]
98	XXIII	144	"	Oct.
99	CXVII	450	"	[Oct.]
100	LXXII	374	"	[Oct.]
101	XCII	419	"	Nov. 23
102	LXX	373	"	[Dec. after 7th]
103	CV	441	"	[Dec.]
104	LXXVIII	378	"	[Dec.]
105	LXXIX	382	"	[Dec.]

1883

106	LVII	327	"	Jan. 6
107	LVI	325	"	Jan.
108	XCI-A	415	"	Jan. 8
109	XCI-B	416	"	Jan. 8
110	LXXX	383	"	[Jan.-Feb.]
111	XXV	191	"	Feb. 2
112	LXXVII	377	"	March
113	LVIII	336	"	March
114	CXIX	451	"	[March]
115	LXVII	371	"	May 26
116	LIX	338	"	July

117	LXXXI	383	K.H.	July
118	LXXXII	387	"	[Aug.]
119	LXXXIII	393	"	Sept. 11
120	CXXVIII	456	H.S.O.	Nov. 25
121	CXXIX	456	H.P.B.	Nov. 25
122	XCIII	420	K.H.	[Nov.-Dec.]
123	LXXXVI	403	"	Dec. 7
124	LXXXV	398	"	Dec. 7
125	XCVI	431	M.	[After 15th]

1884

126	LXXXIV	397	K.H.	[Jan.]
127	LXXXVII	406	"	[Jan.]
128	LXVIII	372	"	[April 7th]
129	LXI	349	M.	[After Apr. 15th]
130	CXXXIII	460	H.P.B.	[July]
131	LXII	351	K.H.	July 18
132	LXIII	356	"	Summer
133	LXIV	358	"	Summer
134	LX	349	M.	[End Sept.]
135	LV	322	K.H.	[Oct. 2]
136	LXVI	366	"	Oct. 10
137	CXXXV	464	H.P.B.	[Oct.]
138	CXXXVII	467	"	[Nov.] 8

1885

139	CXXXVIII	468	"	March 17
140	LXV	362	K.H.	[March 27]
141	XCIV	429	"	[About May]
142	CXVII	433	M.	[Sept.-Oct.]
143	CXLV	488	K.H.	[Sept.-Oct.]
144	CXL	478	H.P.B.	Jan. 6
145	CXLI	482	"	March 17
146	CXXXIX	475	"	March 19
147	CXXIV	453	K.H.	Date Unknown
148	CXXIII	453	"	Date Unknown
149	XXXIII	244	"	Date Unknown