

August 2009

DREAMS ARE FOREVER

Have perseverance as one who doth for evermore endure. — *The Voice of the Silence*

How does a person remain an optimist despite having endured repeated setbacks and even outright failure while attempting to realize his or her innermost dreams? Once the vibrancy of youth begins to fade and the years pass one by, how does one maintain the enthusiasm and drive needed to pursue one's goals despite the obstacles and endless distractions?

For the Theosophist, who views life from a much wider perspective than the average person, all such failures are only temporary. He or she sees this lifetime as one of many, and the important thing is to keep striving, to continue working toward the realization of one's highest potential. In particular, the knowledge of reincarnation provides the basis whereby our unfulfilled dreams and aspirations will have yet another opportunity to reach fruition. "Each sincere attempt wins its reward in time," says *The Voice of the Silence*.

The amateur writer who never quite finished her first novel has nevertheless laid the foundation for future lives when the creative impulse will surface once again. The aspiring concert pianist whose technique was not quite up to Carnegie Hall standards has nevertheless nurtured a powerful desire to express himself through music, and the momentum of that effort is not lost when his present life draws to a close. Spiritual aspirants who struggle daily with the limitations of their personal nature may at times succumb to materialism or egotism, but from the standpoint of the immortal Self, such regressions are only temporary setbacks on the long path to eventual Self-realization.

Blavatsky's *Voice of the Silence* provides some poignant words of encouragement for all sincere aspirants: "If thou hast tried and failed, O dauntless fighter, yet lose not courage; fight on and to the charge return again, and yet again." If we lived only one brief lifetime on this earth, such fine sounding words would be of limited value. However, an understanding of reincarnation allows us to take such words of encouragement to heart, and to enter life's busy arena once more with renewed optimism, confidence, and vigor.

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