

FOREWORD

Ever since *The Mahatma Letters to A. P. Sinnett* was first published in 1923, the book has stirred an enormous amount of curiosity. Who are the Mahatmas, and what do they do? How can they be Mahatmas when they can be so blunt and say things that the stereotypical saint would never say?

In her introduction to *Reflections on an Ageless Wisdom*, Joy Mills clearly and succinctly sets the letters and their authors in their proper light. She first makes it clear that the letters are not a text book; rather, they are in answer to specific questions posed by A. P. Sinnett. Then, quoting H. P. Blavatsky, she points out that the Mahatmas “are living men, not spirits.”

Many have read the letters, but because they are just that—letters—much contained in them pertains to events and people at the time they were written. Even a serious student will have some difficulty sorting through what is now irrelevant and what is timeless wisdom. Joy goes through each letter and highlights what is relevant today. In addition, she consistently asks readers to consider their own attitudes and behavior. “What would we do?” is a question often asked. In this way Joy makes the letters come alive. She makes us think about our own way of life and how it might affect others. She gives us an opportunity to consider the Mahatma’s advice as if he were speaking directly to us.

Readers of the letters know that one often goes through pages of comments that were important at the time but have no relevance to us now. By quoting and commenting on only what might help us to better understand ourselves and the contemporary world, Joy has dug out the pearls and spared us the tedious work of finding them for ourselves. In the spirit of a true Theosophist, Joy does not attempt to give us final answers. She asks questions of herself and suggests that we might ask ourselves the same questions.

Reflections on an Ageless Wisdom will be treasured by all students of the Mahatma Letters, those familiar with them as well as those who have never read them. Readers who ponder the statements quoted and the questions asked will find something that is likely to have a transformative effect on their lives. That, of course, has always been a principle aim of the Mahatmas, and it is clearly the central theme of *Reflections on an Ageless Wisdom*.

—Edward Abdill
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