

THE CHAFF AND THE GRAIN

The superstition and dogmatism fostered by the priests in every country and in every creed corrupt not only the mind but also the morals of the people. Students of Theosophy should try not only to understand but also to apply what is implicit in the closing clause of our Declaration: "The true Theosophist belongs to no cult or sect, yet belongs to each and all." The student of Occultism must belong to no exclusive creed or sect, yet he is bound to show outward respect to every creed and faith if he would become an Adept of the Good Law. He must not be bound by the prejudiced and sectarian opinions of anyone; he has to form his own opinions and to come to his own conclusions in accordance with the rules of evidence furnished to him by the Science to which he is devoted. Thus, if the student of Occultism is, as an illustration, a Christian, then while regarding Jesus Christ as a grand Adept he will regard Gautama Buddha also as a grand Adept, an incarnation of unselfish love, boundless charity and moral goodness; and so with other Prophet-Philanthropists. The student of the Esoteric Philosophy must abstain from observing the rites, ceremonies and customs of the creed into which his body was born; he should study these rites, ceremonies and customs, rejecting what is chaff and using what is grain; but he has a similar duty towards the rites, ceremonies and customs of all other religious creeds.